

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **March 11, 2024** at 8:15 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President (absent – excused)
 Suzette Given
 Steven McIntyre
 Everett Merrill
 Keiona R. Miller
 Wendy Schaefer
 Frank “Skip” Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor
 David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
 Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
 Michele Irby-Garry, Acting Borough Clerk

Ms. Garry read the following Notice of Compliance:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by transmitting notice to the official newspapers of the Borough, The Courier News, the Alternative Press and also to the Star Ledger on December 11, 2023 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the Memorial Library reserved for such purpose.”

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Council President called for a roll call on the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of February 26, 2024:

Aye: Given, McIntyre, Miller, Schaefer
Abstain: Merrill, Stabile

HEARING:

Council President Stabile opened the floor to public comment on the following:

2024 Community Development Block Grant Project

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-02 BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 21-13 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON OCTOBER 12, 2021 TO AMEND AND RESTATE SECTION 3 THEREIN

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Given and on roll call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

Ms. Schaefer presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-01 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-02 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-03 BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-14 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 TO AMEND AND RESTATE SECTION 3 THEREIN

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

Ms. Given presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-02 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-03 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-04 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AMBULANCE, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; REAPPROPRIATING \$234,989.91 IN EXCESS BOND PROCEEDS FROM VARIOUS BOND ORDINANCES, NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE, TO FINANCE PART OR ALL OF THE COST THEREOF

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

Ms. Miller presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-03 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-04 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-05 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 22 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT" MORE SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE VIII, ENTITLED "ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT", AND MORE PARTICULARLY § 22-101, ENTITLED "WATER RUN-OFF CONTROL, "MOST NOTABLY BY AMENDING, REVISING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 22-101.2, ENTITLED "REGULATION" BY DELETING PARAGRAPH (f) THEREOF, ENTITLED "STORMWATER CONTROL" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ENACTING A NEW PARAGRAPH (f), ENTITLED "STORMWATER CONTROL"

The Acting Clerk read the ordinance by its title.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Motion to close public comment by Mr. McIntyre, seconded by Ms. Miller and on roll call carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION:

Mr. McIntyre presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-04 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an Ordinance numbered 24-05 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on roll call carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Garry stated that all matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Mr. Merrill presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-05 BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

03-11-24-05 a, b, c, d, e

having been placed on the Consent Agenda and there having been no objection thereto, the same are hereby approved.

Seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on roll call carried unanimously.

APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-05a A RESOLUTION ADVISING THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MUNICIPAL PARTICIATION IN THE UPDATE OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the current Somerset County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) includes a Jurisdictional Annex for the Borough of North Plainfield through which the municipality is eligible for potential pre- and post-hazard mitigation planning and mitigation funding; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to reduce hazard risks, strengthen community resiliency, and remain eligible for potential FEMA funding, the Borough of North Plainfield hereby commits to participating in the development of second update of the Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the project, when FEMA deems the updated plan approvable, the Borough of North Plainfield is required to pass a resolution formally adopting the final updated Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will include an updated municipal annex. This resolution will be provided immediately to the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management for submittal to FEMA, who requires the resolution on file.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 11th day of March, 2024, by the governing body of the Borough of North Plainfield that:

1. Borough of North Plainfield agrees to participate in the update of the Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. The following two municipal representatives, James DiPaolo and Michael Ceccato are hereby authorized to serve on the Multi-Jurisdictional HMP Planning Committee; actively participate as requested throughout the process, and lead a Municipal Hazard Mitigation Planning (HMP) Committee tasked with carrying out local participation requirements.
3. The following additional members are hereby named to the Municipal HMP Committee: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor, David Testa, Municipal Engineer and Acting Director of Public Works and David E. Hollod, Borough Administrator.
4. BE IT FUTRHER RESOLVED that an electronic copy of this Resolution will be provided to the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-05b BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that, pursuant to N.P.R.G.O. 4-1 et seq., it does hereby authorize the issuance of licenses for the owner/operation of (1) limousine to the following for one year in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Tanveer Akhtar
106 Jennings Lane
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-05c A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL AND REFUND TAXES

WHEREAS, the owner of 95 Harrison Avenue, also known as Block 114 Lot 4 was deemed a 100% Disabled Veteran and is now exempt from property taxes per the Assessor and;

WHEREAS, the property taxes were billed on the aforementioned parcel for 2024 1st and 2nd quarters:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield of Somerset County, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel taxes and refund overpayments on this parcel:

Refund Overpayments to:

Peterson, Wayne T.	\$ 3,655.38
95 Harrison Avenue	
North Plainfield, NJ 07060	

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-05d RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOSEPH ASPROCOLAS AND JENNIFER BARTHOLOMEW AS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS TO THE NORTH PLAINFIELD OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, The North Plainfield Office of Emergency Management has a need for qualified individuals to fill administrative roles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, upon nomination by the Mayor, with consent of this Council, Joseph Asprocolas and Jennifer Bartholomew, be and hereby are appointed as Administrative Assistants to the North Plainfield Office of Emergency Management for a term of one (1) year retroactive to January 8, 2024, through December 31, 2024 and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-11-24-05e BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that the attached bills of the accounts named and for the amounts stated, having been duly audited and found to be correct as of this 11th day of March 2024 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

REPORTS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

NJDEP Office of Local Government Service Assistance	Weekly Newsletter
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	Newsletter
NJ American Water	Public Hearing
ELS Environmental, LLC.	Public Hearing
Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services	Free Aging Well Expo

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:


Mayor La Ronde announced an additional bulk pickup to be held in June. The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, March 16 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m. and the Fire Department will hold their annual St. Baldrick’s Day event on Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 p.m.

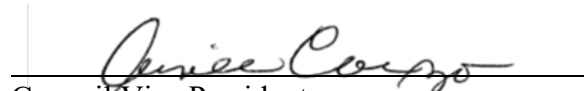
Ms. Given announced that the Municipal Alliance Committee would conduct a Zoom presentation about vaping, cannabis and alcohol. In honor of Women's History Month, she offered her recognition of her fellow councilwomen.

Ms. Miller joined Ms. Given in her recognition of Women's History Month, saluting North Plainfield for its female majority council. The councilwoman requested a look into ways to recycle the reusable bags required by grocery stores.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Given and on voice vote carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.


Acting Borough Clerk


Council Vice President