

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 11 July 2022.*

*Every attempt has been made to make these as comprehensive and conclusive as possible. However, as it is a draft document, it is not to be construed as a formal depiction of the official conduct of business and is subject to revision up to and following the Council's actual approval of same. If changes are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.*

**MINUTES** of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **July 11, 2022** at 7:40 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

## **PRESENT:**

Council Members: Aimee Corzo  
Suzette Given  
Steven McIntyre  
Everett Merrill, Council Vice President  
Keiona R. Miller  
Wendy Schaefer  
Frank "Skip" Stabile, Council President

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor  
David E. Hollod, P.E., Business Administrator  
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

Council President Stabile 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, WKMB Radio, WJLP-TV, the Alternative Press and also to the Star Ledger on December 15, 2021 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

Mr. Hollod led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*Moment of Silence for the Men and Women Serving in Our Armed Forces*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Matt Fredericks, Esq., 111 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ, representing “Cloud Nine,” which holds a Class Five (5) License from the State’s Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC).

Mr. George interjected that the firm had contacted the Borough in June, 2022 after obtaining its CRC license in May, 2022. The Borough engineer, David Testa, had certified that zoning for the retail operation would be appropriate. There is a time limit of one hundred twenty (120) days for approval by the CRC. The business would take over the space on westbound Route 22 now occupied by Sheelen’s Fish Market. Mr. Merrill questioned the timeline and Mr. Fredericks advised that they are now thirty (30) days into the time allotted by the CRC, which will have to convert the license. He concluded that they would be ready to go as soon as possible.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **BROOK AVENUE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – (D.E.H.)** Mr. Hollod described a half-mile long project supported in part by a \$310,000.00 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Six bids were received, and Black Rock is the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Testa verified that their low bid was close enough to his estimate and construction will begin before the summer is out. Replying to Ms. Corzo, Mr. Hollod explained that the Borough bonds a greater amount for such a project in advance. Ms. Schaefer asked if Black Rock had paved previously for North Plainfield. Mr. Hollod replied that they are new, and Mr. Testa might look into what they have done previously. Ms. Schaefer was concerned about sub-standard paving jobs in the Borough, particularly some of the work done on Willow Avenue which had begun deteriorating after a snowfall. Mr. Hollod replied that it might have been a paving job done by PSE&G. Mr. Stabile cited a paving job on Westervelt Avenue, saying that a seam was left in the middle of the road, adding that Mr. Testa is very alert, and had been able to have the contractor make good on it. Mr. Hollod retorted that performance and maintenance bonds on these were typically better than a year, so there should be no problem.

2. **JEFFERSON AVENUE SANITARY SEWER PROJECT – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that the lowest responsible bidder on the project was Messercola who have reliably done a great deal of work in town. They were the lowest responsible bid of a total six (6) received and opened. The project is supported in part by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and involves a 600-foot run of sanitary sewer piping.

3. **CONCEALED CARRY ORDINANCE – (L.L.R.)** The Mayor said that the proposed ordinance was meant to provide protection after the most recent Supreme Court ruling. Mr. George interjected that the New York Rifle Case had recently turned over the language on concealed carry. Public buildings and schools can be protected. Weapons can be banned from private individuals but still carried by law enforcement officers. Schools cannot pass legislation like this, but municipalities can. The Mayor offered that it could contain a clause about the maximum number of individuals present. Mr. George suggested that the matter be held until the Council’s August meeting by which time input could be received from the schools. The Mayor agreed.

4. **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTER GRANT - (D.E.H.)** Mr. Hollod commented that the grant would be applied to personal protective gear for the firefighters. Adoption of tonight's resolution will allow the application to move forward on a timely basis since there is a deadline expiring before the Council's August meeting. The Dept. of Community Affairs has confirmed that there is a \$10-million pool supporting the grant. The Borough would be looking for \$96,000.00 as a single applicant. Mr. McIntyre suggested that Green Brook Township also be encouraged to apply, since both towns are involved in mutual aid with each other. Mr. Hollod agreed to encourage our police department to dialogue with Green Brook regarding their own grant application.

5. **BOROUGH CLERK ORDINANCE – (F.S.S.)** Mr. George commented that the ordinance was being considered with the hiring of the new deputy clerk since the local code does not track with the statutory authority from the State.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President