

MINUTES of the Agenda Conference of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **November 13, 2023** at 7:40 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Aimee Corzo, Council Vice President
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, CMR, Acting 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 12, 2022 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and the Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. McIntyre followed by a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joy Anderson-Manning, 333 West End Avenue, North Plainfield, requested an ordinance to prohibit the chaining of bicycles to utility poles. Mr. George offered to research the matter.

Francine Gargano, 57 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, reminded that the Yeshiva school strung wires from utility poles around their property.

Cynthia Harris, 477 Mountainview Drive, North Plainfield, requested confirmation as to how many boarders may rent rooms in a single family home. Mr. George explained that a room may be rented from a single family home contingent upon the renter having access to the kitchen and bathroom facilities. He further noted that short-term rentals such as Airbnb are prohibited.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Change Order//Final Payment/Project Closeout of Brook Avenue Improvements Project for Black Rock Enterprises, LLC – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that

this resolution approves final payment to Black Rock Enterprises, LLC in the amount of \$8,263.37 and closes out the contract and the release of retainage for the 2021 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program Brook Avenue Improvements Project.

2. **Authorize Agreement for Professional Engineering Services of Klein Traffic Consulting, LLC for Traffic Safety Improvements** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes the acceptance of a proposal from Klein Traffic Consulting, LLC to evaluate traffic controls, signing, striping, and pavement markings at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue with Willow Avenue and the intersection of Rockview Avenue with Rockview Terrace. Ms. Schaefer recommended stronger parking enforcement by the police department which would create safer intersections without the cost of a traffic study. Mr. McIntyre spoke in favor of implementing a safe haven for pedestrians at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Willow Avenue. Ms. Corzo proposed a study of various other dangerous intersections as well.

3. **Authorize Agreement with North Plainfield BOE for use of Vermeule Community Center and Memorial Library as Emergency Evacuation Centers** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod stated that this resolution authorizes the execution of an agreement with the North Plainfield Board of Education for the use of Borough facilities at the North Plainfield Memorial Library and the Vermeule Community Center for North Plainfield Board of Education safety drills and emergencies.

4. **Discussion of Annual DCA Best Practices Questionnaire** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod described the annual survey mandated by the Department of Community Affairs which qualifies the borough for state aid. He indicated that no further action would be required by the Council.

5. **Resolution to Participate in ARRIVE Police Department Program** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod indicated that this resolution authorizes the Borough to provide mental health screening services for the police department under the ARRIVE Together Pilot Program. We anticipate the program will improve the outcomes in law enforcement's response to emergency behavioral health crisis calls and divert individuals in crisis from unnecessary entry into the criminal justice system. Mr. Merrill commented on the success and impact of this program in Newark with their Police Department and the New Jersey TRANSIT Police.

6. **Resolution to apply for American Rescue Plan** – D.E.H. Mr. Hollod stated that this resolution authorizes the filing of a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for American Rescue Plan funding assistance to provide the fire department with alternative oxygen equipment.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:

Ms. Given announced that the high school athletic field is now open.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President

11/13/23

Michel Sley Gary