

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, April 12, 2021.*

*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 Governing Body's actual approval of same. If changes  
are necessary, revised minutes will be posted to the website.*

**MINUTES** of the Regular (virtual) Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **April 12, 2021** at 8:22 p.m. via Zoom.

**PRESENT:**

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

Also Present: Lawrence La Ronde, Mayor  
David Hollod, Business Administrator  
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney  
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney  
Patrick DeBlasio, Chief Financial Officer  
Kathleen Intravartolo, CTC, QPA, Treasurer  
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk  
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

Council President Stabile read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This virtual 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 28, 2020 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 Clerk had submitted copies of the minutes of the Agenda Conference and Regular Meeting of March 22, 2021.

The Council President called for a Roll Call on the minutes: All in favor.

Mayor La Ronde recognized the following appointment:

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS REQUIRING COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Unexpired three-year term:

James DiPaolo

Coordinator

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-01 REMEMBERING COUNCILMAN WILLIAM L.“BILL” MILLER FOR HIS YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD**

WHEREAS, WILLIAM L.“BILL”MILLER was born in Plainfield in 1933 and was a graduate of the 1951 class of Plainfield High School. He joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed at Pensacola, Florida. On a weekend leave, he met his bunkmate’s sister, Barbara Ann Waldrop. Barbara and Bill were married in July 1955; and

WHEREAS, BILL worked tirelessly over the years for New Jersey Bell and Bell Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, BILL spent his life married to and in love with Barbara for sixty-five years. He also assisted Barbara with her Pine Cone Antiques business. They were blessed with sons Stephan M. and his wife Sue; Daniel L., James E. and his wife Judith; David as well as Thomas R. and his wife Mara along with nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, BILL was active in and supported the North Plainfield community in many ways. He served on the Borough Council from 1981 to 1984 where he was also liaison to the Board of Education; he served on the North Plainfield Planning Board, the Senior Citizens’ Picnic Committee and the Central Jersey Fourth of July Parade Committee, where he became respected, well-liked and well-known in the region; and

WHEREAS, COUNCILMAN MILLER, served the Borough in multiple capacities – on the Green Acres Commission; headed the Recreation Department; coached Recreational Baseball and Washington Rock Pop Warner Football for many years. Bill completed four marathons as an avid runner; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, BILL and BARBARA received the William Augustus Muhlenberg Award for their distinguished support of the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of North Plainfield does hereby honor the memory of our friend COUNCILMAN BILL MILLER for his selfless dedication to the Borough and its residents in countless capacities over the years of service to this, his “hometown.” On behalf of all the people of this community, this Governing Body does spread upon its permanent records the deepest of sympathies to his wife, Barbara, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for the gift of Bill and his many years of dedicated service to the Borough of North Plainfield. We loved Bill, but you loved him best!

Seconded by Ms. Schaefer and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

**HEARING:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-01** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT ORDINANCE NO. 20-10 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 22 OF NORTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED ‘WATER RUN-OFF CONTROL,’” MOST NOTABLY PARAGRAPH F OF SECTION 22-101.2, ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL” AS TO CHAPTER 22 OF THE NORTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “WATER RUN-OFF CONTROL,” MOST NOTABLY PARAGRAPH F OF SECTION 22-101.2, ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL”

The 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 all seven voting aye.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-02** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that an ordinance numbered 21-01 be adopted and advertised as required by statute.

Seconded by Mr. Merrill and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Stabile 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.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that resolutions numbered

04-12-21-03 a, b, c, d, e, f, g

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

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all seven voting aye.

**APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03a** Resolution Supporting the 2021 UDrive. UText. UPay. Distracted Driving Crackdown April 1 - 30, 2021

Whereas, distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice that is preventable; and

Whereas, distracted driving can result in injuries and deaths to all road users (motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists); and

Whereas, distracted driving occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the task of driving to focus on another activity instead; and

Whereas, in 2018 alone distracted driving-related crashes resulted in 2,841 deaths and 400,000 injuries on our nation's roads; and

Whereas, in New Jersey distracted driving was listed as a contributing circumstance in 50-percent of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018; and

Whereas, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide Distracted Driving 2021 Crackdown from April 1 - 30, 2021 in an effort to raise awareness and decrease driver distraction through a combination of enforcement and education; and

Whereas, the national slogan for the campaign is UDrive. UText. UPay; and

Whereas, a reduction in distracted driving in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Borough of North Plainfield declares its support for the Distracted Driving 2021 Crackdown both locally and nationally from April 1 - 30, 2021 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03b** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that upon nomination by the Mayor and with the advice and consent of this Council, JAMES DIPAOLO be and hereby is appointed as Coordinator to the OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT to serve for the balance of an unexpired term retroactive back to April 1, 2021, expiring at 12:00 noon on January 1, 2023 and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03c** BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, that the Treasurer is authorized to cancel the following outstanding checks:

	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unity # 770005932	1187	2019	\$ 2004.13 Escrow
	1189	2019	3178.06

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03d** WHEREAS, the following applicant has filed application for a coin-operated amusement devices license for calendar year 2021 and has submitted the required fee; and

WHEREAS, review of the application with accompanying sketch and investigations of the site by appropriate Borough officials disclosed that the granting of this application would be in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a coin-operated amusement devices license be granted to the following applicant for calendar year 2021 in accordance with the filed application, subject to all conditions and requirements set forth in N.P.R.G.O. 4-2:

Tesoro Salvadoreño Restaurant  
64 Somerset Street  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03e** BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield that it does hereby authorize the issuance of a license to drive a taxicab for two years, pursuant to N.P.R.G.O. 4-1 et seq., to the following in accordance with the applications heretofore submitted:

Cesar Espin  
401 Route 22 West, Apt. 39D  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03f** Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020-June 2025

#### FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Somerset;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the North Plainfield Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of:
  - DEDR           \$ 7,342.38
  - Cash Match   \$ 1,835.60
  - In-Kind       \$ 5,506.79
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.
3. The Borough Council accepts subsequent award of this grant.

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-12-21-03g** 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021 the same be paid; and that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to sign and deliver warrants for the same.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

NJ State League of Municipalities Trenton, NJ	Newsletters & Advisories
County of Somerset, Somerville, NJ	Newsletters & Communications
Plainfield Area Humane Society Plainfield, NJ	Report and Invoicing
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Middlesex, NJ	Minutes and Agenda
NJ American Water, Voorhees, NJ	Newsdrop Newsletter
Antea Group, Cherry Hill, NJ	Getty Station Environmental Report
Somerset Co. Business Partnership	Newsletters
Sustainable Jersey, Ewing, NJ	Summit Registration Open
NJ State Treasurer, Trenton	Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Distribution
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Middlesex, NJ	Meeting Minutes & Agenda
Comcast, Union, NJ	Newsletter

### **REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Schaefer requested discussion of an Airbnb ordinance. Council President Stabile proposed looking into a recreational marijuana ordinance. Mr. Bernstein indicated the need for an Executive Session at the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mark Romanoski, 121 Norwood Avenue, North Plainfield, shared his concerns with the amount of speeding on Norwood Avenue. Confirming that speeding remains an issue throughout the Borough, Mr. Hollod advised that he would ask the Chief of Police to look into it.

Aziel James, 111 Myrtle Avenue, North Plainfield, inquired after any traffic calming measures for Myrtle Avenue. Sharing concerns with the loud music in Green Brook Park, the resident also noted the need for parking enforcement along Myrtle Avenue and West End Avenue as park goers illegally park in the area. Mr. Hollod assured the concerns would be shared with Chief Parenti of the North Plainfield Police Department.

### **COMMENTS BY MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor La Ronde announced that the Borough was awarded \$100,000 in CDBG funds for the Rockview Avenue Sewer Replacement project and \$237,663 in CDBG Covid-19 Relief grant monies for improvements at the library, Vermeule Mansion, and the Community Center. The grant requires that the funds be used for improvements that would minimize exposure and spread of coronavirus. The Somerset Streetscape project begins this week which was funded in large part by a New Jersey Department of Transportation grant in the amount of \$329,000. The CDBG Rental Assistance program information is posted on the website. The Dennis Passe Field Dedication will be held May 2 at 12pm. The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual North Plainfield Fishing Derby will be held on April 24 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Green Acres Park. The Girl Scouts will be there to collect non-perishable food donations for the Food Pantry. Lastly, our Clean Community Day event will be held May 1 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Ms. Given remarked on the Covid shots given to seniors at the Community Center, sharing the positive feedback she had received. Recognizing National Poetry Month, the Councilwoman urged everyone to read poetry. Ms. Schaefer urged those looking for the Covid shot to contact Somerset County as they assist folks with appointments. Ms. Corzo passed along condolences to the Miller family. Mr. Merrill thanked his colleagues for delving into the Budget, noting this as a first in his Council tenure.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President