

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, June 28, 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 Agenda Conference (virtual) of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **June 28, 2021** at 7:32 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
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk
Stephanie Sherwood, RMC, CMR, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Phoenix 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."

Council members Corzo, McIntyre, and Given presented the following Council Proclamation:

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield cherishes the value and dignity of each person and appreciates the importance of equality and freedom; and

WHEREAS, all are welcome in North Plainfield to live, work, and play, and every family, in any definition, deserves a place to call home where they are safe, happy, and supported by friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month began in June of 1970 on the one year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City after LGBTQ+ and allied friends rose up and fought against the constant police harassment and discriminatory laws; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of North Plainfield denounces prejudice and unfair discrimination based on age, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical attributes; and

WHEREAS, North Plainfield appreciates the cultural, civic, and economic contributions of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) community which strengthens our social welfare; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Pride Month raises awareness and provides support and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community, and is an opportunity to become educated, engage in dialogue, strengthen alliances and build understanding; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that young people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers and their community; and

WHEREAS, despite being marginalized, LGBTQ+ people continue to celebrate authenticity, acceptance and love.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It PROCLAIMED, that we the Council members of the Borough of North Plainfield do hereby declare June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month and urge residents to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ+ community and to actively promote the principles of equality, liberty and justice this month and always.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Golda Harris, 450 West End Ave., Apt. 27, North Plainfield, introduced herself as a new resident and thanked the Council for their Proclamation recognizing June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Frank D'Amore, 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, commented on the short-term rental ordinance, inquiring after enforcement of same. Voicing his concerns with the property located at 54 Myrtle Avenue, he reported that it has been vacant for more than five years, but is not listed on the vacant property registration list. Mayor La Ronde offered to look into the matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Short-term Rentals Ordinance** – W.W.S. Ms. Schaefer explained that Mr. Capobianco approached the topic after receiving several inquiries regarding the registration process for short-term rentals. It was determined that the Borough’s infrastructure and logistics were not conducive to short term rentals. This ordinance would prohibit a dwelling from being rented and/or leased and/or traded for a term of less than sixty (60) days. Ms. Corzo indicated her concerns with prohibiting a homeowner from renting out their home to the purchaser as often happens with real estate transactions. Mr. George proposed tabling the ordinance and introducing it at the next meeting in order to amend it.

2. **Public Meeting Decorum Ordinance** – F.S.S. Council President Stabile explained that this ordinance clarifies public comment during meetings of all public bodies.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Ms. Corzo reported on the Planning Board’s June 23 meeting which included a review of Ordinance No. 21-05 and subsequent approval.

Mr. Merrill reported on the recent opening on the Board of Education created by the resignation of Ms. Soto. The Councilman happily reported that the Recreation Summer Camp program is at full capacity. The Mayor’s Summer Concert Series will start in July on Wednesday evenings and the fireworks will be held July 10.

Mr. McIntyre inquired after the Sustainable New Jersey certification for the Borough, offering to work on the project.

Ms. Given recognized the collegiality enjoyed during the crafting of the Council Proclamation.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Corzo and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President