

# ***DRAFT MINUTES***

*These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference  
of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 23 January 2017.*

*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 of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield held on Monday, **January 23, 2017** at 7:35 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

**PRESENT:**

Council Members:   Everett Merrill  
                          Keiona R. Miller  
                          Frank Righetti  
                          Wendy Schaefer  
                          Douglas M. Singleterry  
                          Frank "Skip" Stabile  
                          Lawrence La Ronde, Council President

Also Present:       Michael Giordano, Jr., Mayor  
                          David E. Hollod, Business Administrator  
                          Eric M. Bernstein, Esq., Borough Attorney  
                          Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mr. Righetti.

Council President La Ronde requested a moment of silence for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

The Council President read the following Notice of Compliance:

"This is an Agenda Meeting of the Council of the Borough of North Plainfield, scheduled by resolution of the Council adopted on November 28, 2016. Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.* by transmitting said notice to the *Courier News*, *The Star-Ledger*, *The Alternative Press* and *WKMB* Radio on November 29, 2016, by publication of the announcement in the *Courier News* on December 1, 2016 and by posting a copy of this notice on the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and Memorial Library reserved for such purpose."

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, shared his disappointment with the lack of support for Congressman Lance's North Plainfield zip code bill.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Stigma Free Zone** – L.L.R. Council President La Ronde introduced Mark Williams, 7 Hurley Avenue, North Plainfield. Mr. Williams spoke in favor of adopting a sigma-free zone resolution. He shared numerous mental health facts, explaining that fear and shame often keep people from seeking the help they need.

Responding to Mr. Merrill, Mr. Williams proposed that the Council support the Somerset County Freeholders and the Somerset County Board of Health. He urged for the inclusion of mental health information on the Borough website. All Council members agreed to move forward with the resolution.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Master Plan Ordinances** – D.M.S. Mr. Singleterry advised that he would like to move forward with the proposed ordinance. The Council President called for a February 14 introduction with second reading on March 27. Mr. Bernstein reminded of the need for the Planning Board to review the ordinances.

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

Mr. Merrill reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee will consider expanding upon Clean Communities Day. He announced that the Board of Education does not favor the expansion of the Charter School on Westervelt Avenue which was the former St. Joseph's School. A new app called "stop it" has been introduced for students to report incidents of bullying to authorities. On another topic, over one hundred high school students have received instant acceptance to college, he concluded.

Mr. Righetti advised that the Planning Board will discuss the requested expansion of the Charter school at their next meeting.

Mr. Singleterry announced that the Mayor's Special Events Committee met for the first time and Mr. Stabile will serve as the recording secretary.

Mr. Stabile reported on the recent Economic Development Committee meeting which included discussions on the anticipated May opening of Arooga's next to Texas Roadhouse. AAA will occupy the other half of the Tile Shop and Petco will open its doors sometime this year as well.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Council President