

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 13 March 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, **March 13, 2017** at 7:38 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Everett Merrill
Keiona R. Miller (absent – excused)
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. Merrill.

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."

Mayor Giordano read the following Mayoral Proclamation:

Colorectal Cancer Awareness March 2017

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer affects men and women equally it is estimated there will be over 140,000 new cases with a death rate of over 50,000; and

WHEREAS, every 3 minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 10 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, four cancers account for 51.4% of new cancer diagnoses in Somerset County and 45.2% of all deaths, colon cancer accounts for over 10% of all cancer cases and deaths in the county; and

WHEREAS, in Somerset County 30 individuals are diagnosed with cancer each week, ten individuals die of cancer each week and the annual incidence has increased; and

WHEREAS, only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent which is why there are over one million colon cancer survivors in the United States however 5 percent of those diagnosed later will have cancer spread to other organs; and

WHEREAS, if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to 70 percent; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Chronic Disease Coalition along with its partners are encouraging residents to spread the word, get screened for colon cancer and incorporate a healthy diet, including fiber and whole grains, to reduce the risk of developing cancer. They also remind residents to talk to your doctor about getting screened as the vast majority of cancer deaths can be prevented through early detection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Michael Giordano, Mayor of the Borough of North Plainfield, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

and urge all citizens to get regular screenings to help save lives.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, commented on 120 Sycamore Avenue which has been vacant for at least four years, yet is not listed on the vacant properties registration list. Sharing his concerns about the blighting factor of the property, he urged for the town to make the necessary repairs and place a lien against it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion of the 2017 Budget** – D.E.H. (Patrick DeBlasio, C.F.O. to be present). Mr. DeBlasio explained that the Budget would be adopted within the State established timeframe. The surplus at the end of 2016 was \$2,194,000. The tax rate will go up to 1.278 in 2017 and the average house tax will increase moderately. State aid remains unchanged and we continue to benefit from a better than 97% tax collection. Employees now contribute approximately a quarter of the total insurance premium, he concluded.
2. **Revised Canvassing Ordinance (Ordinance No. 17-05)** – M.G. Mayor Giordano advised that minor changes had been made to the ordinance. Mr. Phoenix commented on similarities between 17-04 and 17-05; mainly, the language in 17-05 would allow fees to be set by resolution of the Council.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS:

Mr. Merrill reported that the Board of Education will soon approve the new high school football coach and the high school will perform “Music Man” this week.

Reporting on that evening’s Shade Tree Advisory Board meeting, Mr. Stabile advised of their working with the police department regarding motor vehicle accidents involving trees.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President