

DRAFT MINUTES

These are the Draft Minutes of the Agenda Conference of the North Plainfield Borough Council held on Monday, 27 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 27, 2017** at 7:35 p.m. at the North Plainfield Council Chambers, 263 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

PRESENT:

Council Members: Everett Merrill (absent – excused)
Keiona R. Miller
Frank Righetti
Wendy Schaefer
Douglas M. Singleterry
Frank “Skip” Stabile
Lawrence La Ronde, Council President

Also Present: David E. Hollod, Business Administrator
Phil George, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Richard K. Phoenix, RMC, Borough Clerk

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ms. Schaefer.

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."

Mr. Hollod read the following Mayoral Proclamation:

The Adult Day Center of Somerset County is a nonprofit agency committed to providing high quality, affordable day care services for disabled and elderly residents of Somerset County; and,

WHEREAS, The mission of the Adult Day Center of New Jersey is to provide extraordinary day care services for the disabled and elderly residents of Somerset County and support for caregiving families; and,

WHEREAS, Each year, many frail, disabled and elderly are institutionalized prematurely or unnecessarily due to the lack of affordable quality care in Somerset County; and,

WHEREAS, The Adult Day Center was started in 1976 in a Bound Brook church basement as a response to this problem; and,

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1976, the Center has grown and its vision has provided the opportunity for the frail, disabled and elderly to live out their lives with dignity and independence; and,

WHEREAS, Thousands of individuals have been able to remain at home with their families and attend the Adult Day Center instead of being institutionalized; and,

WHEREAS, The services provided by the Adult Day Center of Somerset County include, yet are not limited to: therapeutic activities, daily exercise programs, nursing and personal care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, consultant pharmacy, entertainment and outings, and;

WHEREAS, Thousands of caregivers have been supported during their caregiving journey and selfless mission of helping their loved one age in place, and;

WHEREAS, These services are designed to fully engage disabled and elderly residents of Somerset County in the human experience to the furthest extent possible.

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

40th Anniversary of the Adult Day Center of Somerset County

the value the Adult Day Center of Somerset County provides to those they serve, and, via this proclamation, recognize the need to raise awareness of this valuable organization to the residents of the Borough of North Plainfield.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank D'Amore, Sr., 40 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, called to question the legality of 31-33 Myrtle Avenue used as a halfway house. Ms. Schaefer confirmed that it is not allowed.

Jocelyn Soria, representing Soria Taxi, LLC, voiced her displeasure with the newly adopted ordinance in the City of Plainfield which restricts out-of-town cab companies from doing business within city limits. Council President La Ronde questioned the legality of the ordinance. Mr. Stabile advised that a member of the Plainfield Law Department assured that the ordinance is legal. Mr. George added that State law governs town-to-town travel to some degree. Responding to Mr. La Ronde's inquiry, Mr. Stabile explained that out-of-town cab companies may drop fares off in Plainfield, but may not pick up fares within Plainfield. Voicing his concerns with limiting free enterprise, the Council President suggested they consult an attorney.

Blanca Shulca, 14 Linden Avenue, North Plainfield, representing Gray Taxi, advised that she and the owners of Soria Taxi stood united regarding their issues with the City of Plainfield. She explained that Plainfield had fined them and now stands to tow their vehicles if they are stopped in the City. Acknowledging their concerns, Mr. Stabile explained that a change to the North Plainfield ordinance would have no effect on the Plainfield ordinance. Mr. Singleterry suggested that they consult an attorney as laws that restrict competition are generally bad laws.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Verizon – Request for Consent to Install Small Network Nodes – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes Verizon Wireless to use utility poles erected within the public right-of-way to deploy small network nodes which will strengthen communications in an emergency and allow for better wireless coverage.

2. **Shared Services Agreement with Somerset County – Certified Recycling Professional – D.E.H.** Mr. Hollod explained that this resolution authorizes a Somerset County certified recycling professional to sign off on the annual state report.

3. **Taxi Ordinance – L.L.R.** Council President La Ronde detailed the amendments to the taxi ordinance, including a provision to deny applicants that have been convicted of certain crimes within the last five years. The Police Department requested stiffer fines as well as revocations when necessary. Color schemes shall be more consistent as well, he concluded.

4. **Limousine Ordinance – L.L.R.** Council President La Ronde noted that the license fees are not consistent with state statute, and that this had been identified by the Clerk's Office. Mr. George proposed tabling the ordinance until it may be amended. The Council President agreed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Master Plan Ordinance No. 17-01 – L.L.R.** Council President La Ronde explained that due to a delay in the required notification process, the public hearing would be April 10, 2017. Mr. Singleterry confirmed that the Planning Board had recently approved the ordinance.

REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Borough Clerk

Council President