

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2020 7:02 P.M.
PUBLIC MEETING**

***Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting was transmitted virtually via the Webex platform**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Anesh called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mayor Anesh read the sunshine statement and announced that same is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of that Act have been met with adequate notice of this meeting having been provided to the Borough's two official newspapers and also published on the Borough's website.

The roll call was administered by Clerk Antonides as follows:

COUNCIL	Present	Absent	Late
Councilman Bengivenga	X		
Councilwoman Mott	X		
Councilman Smith	X		
Councilman White	X		
Councilman Wolak	X		
Council President Faustini	X		
Mayor Anesh	X		
ALSO PRESENT			
Administrator Cullen	X		
Clerk Antonides	X		
Attorney Paul Rizzo	X		
Engineer Miller	X		

Flag Salute: was led by Mayor Anesh and Councilman White led the invocation.

Public Comment: Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comment on agenda items only. With no comments from the public, Mayor Anesh closed the floor.

Authorizing the Approval of Council Minutes:

April 6, 2020 – Agenda Meeting

April 6, 2020 - Public Meeting

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga			X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith		X	X				
Councilman White	X		X				
Councilman Wolak			X				
Council President Faustini			X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 20-138

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR 2020 SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS the Police Department of the Borough of South Plainfield, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey wishes to apply for a 2020 Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program (Grant 20-1222); and

WHEREAS the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield has reviewed the application and has approved said request for a total grant of \$60,000.00 under subaward number 20-1222, for the subaward period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020 to provide for additional law enforcement personnel to address crime in a focused community oriented manner; and

WHEREAS the total project cost of \$60,000.00 includes the federal amount of \$60,000.00 and the in-kind match of fringe benefits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that

1. The Borough of South Plainfield Police Department is approved to participate in the 2020 Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program.
2. The Borough of South Plainfield accepts the grant funding in the amount of \$60,000.00 for the Police Department’s additional law enforcement project under the Safe and Secure Communities Program.
3. The Mayor and Administrator of the Borough of South Plainfield are hereby authorized and directed to execute such grant documents required for the aforementioned participation.

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga	x		X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman White			X				
Councilman Wolak		x	X				
Council President Faustini			X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

**RESOLUTION 20-139
AUTHORIZING VARIOUS SENIOR CENTER REFUNDS FOR CANCELLED EVENTS
AND SECURITY DEPOSITS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that it hereby authorizes the following refund(s) to senior(s):

Chris Piro
\$100 sec dep for party on 1/7/2020
511 Ritter Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

South Plainfield Ponytail Assoc
PO Box 441
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
\$100
Event 3/22/2020

South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club
PO box 166
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Private Event cancelled due to covid-19 4/25/2020
\$250

Mildred David
311 Edgar Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Private Event 4/19/2020
\$400

Suburban Women’s Club of South Plainfield
2003 Hamilton Blvd.
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
\$100 Sec Dept for 4/26/2020 event

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the Finance Office hereby has approval to release the aforementioned refund(s).

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga	x		X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman White			X				
Councilman Wolak		x	X				
Council President Faustini			X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

**RESOLUTION 20-140
AUTHORIZING A 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET AMENDMENT
OF \$1,050,000.00 IN THE CURRENT FUND**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40a:4-19 Local Budget Act provides that where any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided, and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is prior to the adoption of the FY 2020 Budget, and

WHEREAS, the temporary budget set forth below does not exceed twenty-six and one quarter percent of the total appropriations in the previous year's budget (exclusive of any appropriations made for Debt Service, Capital Improvements Fund and Public Assistance).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that the temporary appropriations are hereby amended to add the following amounts and that a certified copy of this resolution is transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer.

CURRENT FUND			AMOUNT
0-01-20-100-000-101	Boro Administration	S&W	25,000
0-01-20-120-000-101	Boro Clerk	S&W	35,000
0-01-20-130-000-101	Financial Administration	S&W	15,000
0-01-20-140-000-204	Computers	O&E	5,000
0-01-20-145-000-102	Taxes	S&W	5,000
0-01-20-145-000-255	Taxes	O&E	3,000
0-01-22-195-001-101	Code Enforcement	S&W	30,000
0-01-23-220-000-601	Health Benefits	O&E	100,000
0-01-25-240-001-101	Police	S&W	503,000
0-01-25-240-001-475	Police	O&E	10,000
0-01-25-240-003-241	Crossing Guards	O&E	15,000
0-01-25-250-000-102	911	S&W	50,000
0-01-25-252-000-101	OEM	S&W	3,000
0-01-25-265-001-201	Fire Department	O&E	30,000
0-01-25-265-002-101	Fire Official	S&W	35,000
0-01-25-265-003-581	Fire Service Charges	O&E	20,000
0-01-26-290-002-101	Road Repairs & Maintenance	S&W	25,000
0-01-26-305-003-101	Recycling	S&W	10,000
0-01-26-305-003-235	Recycling	O&E	25,000
0-01-26-310-000-101	Public Buildings & Grounds	S&W	25,000
0-01-26-310-000-415	Public Buildings & Grounds	O&E	5,000
0-01-26-315-000-101	Vehicle Maintenance	S&W	5,000
0-01-27-330-001-101	Board of Health	S&W	5,000
0-01-27-330-001-403	Board of Health	O&E	5,000
0-01-27-330-002-101	Youth Aid	S&W	3,000
0-01-28-370-001-101	Recreation	S&W	2,000
0-01-28-370-002-101	Office on Aging	S&W	5,500
0-01-28-370-003-101	Cultural Arts	S&W	500
0-01-30-410-001-403	Municipal Support	O&E	1,000
0-01-31-440-001-541	Telephone	O&E	25,000
0-01-36-472-000-675	SSI	Statutory	19,000
0-01-43-490-000-101	Court	S&W	5,000
Total CURRENT FUND			1,050,000

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga	x		X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman White		x	X				
Councilman Wolak			X				
Council President Faustini			X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

RESOLUTION 2020-141
ENDORING THE SUBMISSION OF THE 2019 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

- WHEREAS,** The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L.1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and
- WHEREAS,** It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and
- WHEREAS,** The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and
- WHEREAS,** The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and
- WHEREAS,** A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the **2019 Recycling Tonnage Grant** will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of the Mayor and Council to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and
- WHEREAS,** Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the Borough of South Plainfield hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Alice S. Tempel, C.R.P. to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga	x		X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman White		x	X				
Councilman Wolak			X				
Council President Faustini			X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

RESOLUTION 2020-142

ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO HONOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND #LIGHTTHEFIGHT

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus (aka, SARS-CoV-2) causes the disease COVID-19, which has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of every resident of the State of New Jersey, as well as the Borough of South Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, Coronavirus is highly contagious, and can be deadly. Approximately 20 percent of those infected with Coronavirus require hospitalization, and five percent require critical care according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, frontline healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, paramedics, EMT’s, and support staff, put themselves at risk to care for Coronavirus patients; and

WHEREAS, shortages of healthcare workers to care for patients in this unprecedented crisis demands that many work extra shifts, in difficult conditions, away from their families, at all times of the day and night and on holidays; and

WHEREAS, this service, all for the selfless benefit of the community, can place healthcare workers in harm’s way and at personal risk; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the enormity of the day-to-day sacrifices and heroism of our healthcare workers in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, urgent care sites, ambulances, and testing centers; and

WHEREAS, many residents and businesses in the Borough of South Plainfield would like to shine a light on the tireless dedications, bravery, and service of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, communities across the State of New Jersey are encouraging residents and business to “Light The Fight” where all of our communities can celebrate the heroism of our healthcare workers by hanging a string of lights, or placing bright lanterns or flameless candles in front of their homes or places of business; and

WHEREAS, the lights reflect the appreciation we feel towards our heroic healthcare workers by letting them know how grateful we are for their dedication to the health can well-being of our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of South Plainfield recognize all frontline healthcare workers as “Healthcare Heroes” for their dedicated heroism and bravery and for going to work to fight Coronavirus and COVID-19;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all residents and businesses in the Borough of South Plainfield are encouraged to hang a strip of lights, or place bright lanterns or flameless candles in front of their property, in their window, or elsewhere on their property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all residents and businesses are encouraged to take photos of their lights and post them to social media with the hash tag “LightTheFight” to let our Healthcare Heroes know that we are standing behind them;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of South Plainfield shall display lights on the Municipal Building for the duration of the State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency declared pursuant to Governor Phil Murphy’s Executive Orders 103 and 119.

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga	x		X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman White			X				
Councilman Wolak		x	X				
Council President Faustini			X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CORRESPONDENCE:

- Board of Health Monthly Report – March 2020
- Environmental Commission Monthly Report – March 2020
- Recommendation Letter – Preserve Longwood as Open Space
- Finance Report – Ban Rollover

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga	x		X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman White		x	X				
Councilman Wolak			X				
Council President Faustini			X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Current Fund	19-01	0.00
Current Fund	20-01	183,212.41
Pool Utility	20-26	0.00
Pool Utility	19-26	0.00
Sewer Utility	20-07	158.45
Sewer Utility	19-07	0.00
Sewer Utility Capital	C-08	0.00
General Capital	C-04	265,329.74
Pool Capital	C-27	0.00
Election Account	E-18	0.00
Grant Fund	G-02	654.00
Dog Trust	T-12	57.60
Treasurers Trust	T-13	742.27
Recreation Trust	T-14	0.00
Senior Citizen Trust	T-16	0.00
TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$450,154.47

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga			X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman White	x		X				
Councilman Wolak			X				
Council President Faustini		x	X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Borough Attorney Paul Rizzo – reported progress.

Administrator Cullen – noted that under correspondence the Borough rolled over it's ban which received at 2.04% interest rate from TD Bank. We're very pleased with that rate. The Borough continues to function will all offices open though with some modifications. We are suffering from some significant financial restraints. We are starting to furlough some employees in different departments. This year, we will be issuing estimated tax bills sometime in June. Mr. Cullen went on to thank all the residents, Mayor, Council, Board of Education and all the department heads for all their help during this difficult time and wished everyone to stay safe.

Engineer Miller – reported that the first road project of the year is taking place and went on to report progress.

Clerk Antonides – reported progress.

Councilman Wolak – told everyone to think positive and we will all get through these challenging times.

Councilman White – thanked the community at large and all who are working tirelessly and then went on to report progress.

Councilman Smith – thanked Dr. Tempel for all the work on submitting application to preserve Longwood Estates. Councilman Smith then went on to thank all the first responders and front lines during this pandemic and wished all resident to please stay safe.

Councilwoman Mott – thanked Alice Tempel and the environmental commission for their efforts in preserving the Longwood Estates and went on to report progress.

Councilman Bengivenga – wished everyone well and sends prayers to all who are serving on the front lines and then went on to report progress.

Council President Faustini – reported that the Recreation Department remains in a holding pattern for now. The Senior Center has been working hard and are making masks for the seniors. Our Library is now offering virtual programming for everyone. To conclude, Council President Faustini said she misses everyone very much and wished everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Mayor Anesh – thanked all first responders during this process. There is still a lot of business taking place. The Building Department, Clerk's Office and Finance are all remaining very active. The best way to stay in touch with what is happening in our Borough is to visit the Borough's website for updates. We hope to phase in additional opening in the coming days. Mayor Anesh concluded by reminding everyone to adhere to the social distancing guidelines and hygiene; wash hands, and don't touch your face. We continue to look toward the County to be able to provide more reporting information.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comment.

Debbie Boyle of Van Fleet advised that the Taste of South Plainfield has been rescheduled for October 26, 2020.

Mr. Cullen thanked the number of volunteers who have donated items throughout this pandemic. Also, a special thank you to former Councilman Ray Rusnak who has been volunteering his time to help with the Meals on Wheels deliveries every day.

Without any further comment from the public, Mayor Anesh closed the floor.

ADJOURNMENT

Without further comment and no more action necessary for this evening Mayor Anesh called for a motion to adjourn. Councilman White made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m., seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By:

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk