

Minutes from the March 5, 2012 Public Meeting of the South Plainfield Mayor and Council

The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by Mayor Matthew Anesh in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, with adequate notice of this meeting of the Borough Council being provided to the borough's two official newspapers and also published on the Borough's website.

Clerk Graf called the roll. Those present were Council Members Barletta, Bengivenga, Frank, McConville, Rusnak and White.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was offered by Councilman White.

Mr. Barletta made a motion to accept the minutes of February 21, 2012, Agenda and Public meetings; seconded by Mr. Bengivenga.

YES: Barletta, Bengivenga, Frank, McConville, White and Rusnak Motion Carried

Mayor Anesh opened the meeting to the Public for comments on Agenda items only.

Frank Mikorski of Regency Place asked that someone help him understand how a person can overpay their taxes. Mr. Cullen and Mr. Rizzo each offered possible situations such as home sale or refinancing that would create an overpayment to occur. Mr. Mikorski also asked for clarification on Resolution # 12-049,

Mayor Anesh closed the public portion and called for a motion on Resolutions #12-045 through 12-055.

Mr. White made a motion to approve Resolutions #12-045 through 12-055, seconded by Mr. McConville, all of which begin with **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

#12-045

WHEREAS, Kon Brothers LLC has applied for a release of a performance bond posted for public improvements to Block 101, Lots 1.01 (Park avenue Diner); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has certified all required public improvements to the property have been installed; and

WHEREAS, the requirements and conditions of Borough Ordinance # 762 have been complied with as to filing and serving of notice; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has recommended that the performance bond in the form of a Check in the amount of \$7,240.00 be released upon the posting of a two year maintenance bond in the amount of \$1,086.00 and the payment of any outstanding engineering escrow fees or COAH fees; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body held a public hearing on Monday, March 5, 2012 and there were no objections filed against the release of said bond.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the above stated performance bond be released.

#12-046

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector advises that the following taxpayers and/or their agents have overpaid their taxes and have requested refunds:

**Cheryl Paskowitz, 6 Delekas Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Block 12; Lot 28
\$943.22**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue a check(s) in the amount(s) as mentioned above.

#12-047

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield wishes to apply to Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Agency for discretionary aid; and

WHEREAS, the Borough’s Citizen Advisory Committee met to discuss possible uses of the 2012 CDBG funding; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield held a public hearing on February 6, 2012 to elicit input from borough residents on the best uses for the 2012 CDBG;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield do hereby make application to Middlesex County Housing and Community Development for discretionary aid to be used for the following proposed uses:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Senior Citizen Coordinator salary | \$12,500 |
| Senior Citizen Auditorium lighting upgrade | \$15,000 |
| Continue ADA Ramp installation program | \$18,823 |
| Upgrade the front entrance of Borough Hall to ADA accessible | <u>\$15,000</u> |
| TOTAL | \$61,323 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Agency.

#12-048

Authorization is hereby granted for T & M Associates to provide engineering services related to the preparation of the necessary NJDEP Freshwater Wetlands General Permit No. 26 in order for the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission to provide stream restoration downstream of Spring Lake; at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

#12-049

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 2009 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 years 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 be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer.

#12-050

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists within the South Plainfield Department of Public Works for the position of Foreman due to the retirement of Richard Richie; and

WHEREAS, Leo Appolloni is currently employed by the Borough of South Plainfield and qualifies for promotion to Foreman; and

WHEREAS, DPW General Supervising Foreman has recommended that Leo Appolloni be promoted to the position of Foreman

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield hereby authorizes the promotion of Leo Appolloni to the position of Foreman, effective March 5, 2012, at the salary set forth in the borough’s DPW Labor Agreement.

#12-051

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists within the South Plainfield Department of Public Works for the position of Heavy Equipment Operator due to the promotion of Leo Appolloni; and

WHEREAS, Leon Mielnikiewicz is currently employed by the Borough of South Plainfield and qualifies for promotion to Heavy Equipment Operator; and

WHEREAS, DPW General Supervising Foreman Capparelli has recommended that Leon Mielnikiewicz be promoted to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator;

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield hereby authorizes the promotion of Leon Mielnikiewicz to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator, effective March 5, 2012, at the salary set forth in the borough's DPW Labor Agreement.

#12-052

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists within the South Plainfield Department of Public Works for the position of Class A Mechanic; and

WHEREAS, Scott Smith is currently employed by the Borough of South Plainfield and qualifies for promotion to Class A Mechanic; and

WHEREAS, DPW General Supervising Foreman Capparelli has recommended that Scott Smith be promoted to the position of Class A Mechanic;

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of the Borough of South Plainfield hereby authorizes the promotion of Scott Smith to the position of Class A Mechanic, effective March 5, 2012, at the salary set forth in the borough's DPW Labor Agreement.

#12-053

WHEREAS, property known as Lot 14, in Township Block 535, more commonly known as 100 West End Avenue in South Plainfield, NJ is owned by Scott Delvecchio;

WHEREAS, a demolition occurred at this property, causing the Tax Assessor to reduce the assessed value from \$98,000 to \$36,700; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Bill for Calendar Year 2012 was generated from the 2011 Assessor's Tax Lists, as required under regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services in The Department of Community Affairs pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-64, thus presenting this property owner with a tax bill based on the original assessment prior to the demolition, while the assessment has since been reduced;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector be, and she hereby is, authorized and directed to reduce the 2nd quarter in the amount of **\$783.73** and adjust taxes for the remainder of 2012 to reflect the reduced assessment on the property known and designated as Lot 14, in Township Block 535;

#12-054

David Jaipersaud is hereby appointed as a member of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Committee, effective March 5, 2012 for a three year term, said term to expire on 12/31/2014.

#12-055

Authorization is hereby approved for the purchase of a 2012 Ford Expedition SSV from Winner Ford for the Fire Dept., utilizing the Cranford Coop Contract # 11-314, at a cost not to exceed \$29,839.00 from funds available in Borough Account # C-04-55-924-002-902

YES: Barletta, Bengivenga, Frank, McConville, White and Rusnak Motion Carried

Mr. Bengivenga made a motion to accept the Correspondence as listed below, seconded by Mr. Rusnak:

1. Planning Board Minutes – January 24, 2012
2. Letter from J. Graf re: request re-appointment as Clerk
3. Environmental Commission Minutes - January 11, 2012
4. Comcast Letter re: Notice of package and channel changes
5. Middlesex County Tax Administrator – Copy of Preliminary Tax Equalization Table
6. PARSA Monthly Report & Flow Chart – January 2012
7. Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes – Feb. 7, 2012
8. Recycling Dept. Report – January 2012
9. Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes – Feb. 7, 2012

YES: Barletta, Bengivenga, Frank, McConville, White and Rusnak Motion Carried

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Bills List as summarized below, seconded by Mr. McConville.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Current Fund 1-01 | \$ 2,292.66 |
| Current Fund 2-01 | \$185,388.89 |
| Sewer Utility Operating Fund | \$ 4,299.97 |
| General Capital | \$ 86,095.26 |
| Grant Fund | \$ 1,573.00 |
| Treasurers Trust | \$ 7,066.80 |
| TOTAL ALL FUNDS | \$286,716.58 |

YES: Barletta, Bengivenga, Frank, McConville, White and Rusnak Motion Carried

REPORTS:

Mr. Cullen reported that Severson Environmental Services has requested permission to store two trailers (60' x 12') at the dead end of Hamilton Blvd. next to the Knights of Columbus Hall, one on the street and one on the sidewalk. Mr. Barletta asked that he contact Traffic Safety, Fire Dept. and Knights of Columbus to get their views before making a decision. He also asked if this location was in addition to their request to use DPW yard for storage. Mr. cullen said that this site would replace the DPW request.

Ms. Graf advised that the 2012 Financial Disclosure Statements have been distributed to all required officials and board members. They are due back to the Clerk's office by April 27th.

Mr. Frank congratulated the Girl Scout Organization for their anniversary and complimented them on their accomplishments.

Mr. Barletta expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all the public safety unit personnel involved in the Stockhoff fire fighting and rescue effort. He commended them for their efforts. He also announced that to date, over \$25,000 had been collected for the families. He reported that the Jefferson family is overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. Mr. Barletta also congratulated Anthony Ashnault and Scott DelVecchio for winning the State Wrestling Championship titles this past weekend and to the team for earning the 1st Place state ranking a for a second straight year. Mr. Barletta also thanked the elementary school staff for sponsoring Read Across America Day.

Mr. Bengivenga reported that repairs were made to damaged NJ Transit bus shelters around town. He also advised that the Fire Dept. responded to three mutual aid calls for Plainfield.

Mr. McConville reported progress.

Mr. White expressed his appreciation to the borough's First Responders for their tremendous efforts with the Clinton Avenue fire. He commented on a ribbon cutting at the Central Learning Career Center, the Read Across America Day program and the Riley School Father Daughter Dance. Mr. White announced that Cultural Arts will hold its Annual Talent Showcase on March 25, 2012 at Wesley Methodist Church at 2:30pm. Also, there will be a Pink Socks Cancer Fundraiser on March 10th in Kenilworth.

Mr. Rusnak announced that the CY2012 Municipal Budget would be introduced at the March 19th Council meeting. He also announced that there will be an Open House on Tuesday, March 6th at the Senior Center to meet the new Board of Education Superintendent. Mr. Rusnak also commented on his Read Across America Day experience.

Mayor Anesh also offered his observations on Read Across America Day, having read at 4 different schools. In addition, he and Councilman White also read at the Library on the Weds. before. He thanked the Administration, PTOs and children for a great event. The Mayor also congratulated the SPHS Wrestling team for attaining another 1st Place finish as the #1 team in NJ. He also recognized State Wrestling Champs Anthony Ashnault and Scott DeVecchio for their first place finishes and Tyler Hunt and Troy Heilman for placing 2nd in the state.

Mayor Anesh opened the meeting for public comment.

Susanne Lepore announced that the auditions for the Cultural Arts Talent Show went really well and this show has 12 very talented performances planned. She stated that the show will be on March 25th at Wesley Methodist Church at 2:30pm.

Robert Richkus addressed the Council on the exceptional job done by all the emergency units on the Clinton Ave fire. He thanked the Mayor and council for their support for the Read Across America Day program in our local schools. Regarding Severson's request to place trailers next to Knights of Columbus Hall, Mr. Richkus saw a possible safety issue. In addition, the Knights rent the hall on weekends and the trailers could cause a problem with parking.

Frank Mikorski spoke to the Council about the Board of Education budget which was introduced this evening and calls for a 2% increase. He questioned the decision and urged someone to draw the line on their spending.

Mr. Rusnak interjected that he viewed a video that showed an inspection of the school roofs and it confirmed the inspectors finding that the roofs are in need of repair but do not need to be replaced as originally suggested.

Mayor Anesh also mentioned that Eagle Scout Matthew Manning was honored this weekend in a special ceremony that he attended.

Mayor Anesh closed the public portion of the meeting and the Council moved into Executive Session to discuss one personnel matter and one legal matter.

On the Council's return from Executive session, Mayor Anesh announced that no further action was required and he called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. White made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rusnak at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joann L. Graf, RMC
Municipal Clerk