

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2017, 7:00 P.M.
AGENDA MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Anesh called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Amy Antonides as follows:

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

Review of Agenda Items: Clerk Antonides reviewed all the items on the agenda for this evening. Mayor Anesh asked if the Council had any comments about the agenda this evening. Councilman Vesce said he will not be voting on Ordinance 2075 and Resolutions #17-113A and 17-113B as he received his meeting packet on Saturday and has not had enough time to review the budget related materials and would just like a bit more time to go over the material. Mr. Cullen gave a brief on the status of the pending 2017 budget. Mr. Cullen explained the COLA ordinance and the purpose it serves. Councilman Bengivenga thanked Council President White, Councilman Wolak and Mr. Cullen for all their time and effort into putting together a budget to introduce which totals \$28,507,321.00. This is 23% below 2016's budget. This means the taxes on the average assed home are \$1,675.29 or \$7.56 below last year's municipal taxes. 2017's municipal tax levy is flat if not slightly below 2009's municipal tax levels. The Borough's ratable base is up \$3.8 million dollars. There are no large appropriations in this budget which means it's a very responsible budget. We are very happy our introduced budget is lower than last years. Now we still have some work to do and it is anticipated that it may even be less by the time we adopt the budget. Mr. Cullen said our ratable base is 1.4 million and it has not been at that level in about four years. Additional economic growth has made the pie a little larger from a revenue standpoint. Typically, whatever we earn in surplus we give back to the taxpayers in the municipal budget for tax relief. Today based upon our municipal budget he expects our tax rate to be down. Last year we were the third lowest municipality with taxes in the County. Mayor Anesh said in summary it is a good budget and puts us below last years. Mr. Cullen said we will meet with department heads in April and we anticipate to hold our public hearing and adopt the budget in May. Mr. Cullen said he doesn't recall a time where we introduced a budget where the tax rate was less than the previous years. Mayor Anesh said this is a straight forward budget and everyone should feel comfortable with where we are at. We are in a good position.

**RESOLUTION #17-113
AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION MEETING**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 and P.L. 2001, C. 404, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield wishes to go into a closed Executive Session and is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist which should not be discussed in public, and

WHEREAS the Open Public Meetings Act pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 and N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 permits the Borough Council to discuss certain matter(s) in private, and in this case for the purpose of the Borough Council to discuss the below matters all of which requires attorney-client privilege:

- Personnel – Part Timers

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that it will go into an Executive Session for the purpose of Borough Council to discuss the aforementioned matters all of which requires attorney-client privilege in this regard;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of such discussion may be revealed at such time as the matter(s) are resolved and/or a contract(s) is signed and/or the negotiations are formally settled. Interested parties may contact the Borough Clerk anytime during normal business hours for periodic updates as to the availability in this regard.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comments. With no public comments made, Mayor Anesh closed the floor from public comments.

ADJOURN AGENDA MEETING: With no further comments, Mayor Anesh asked for a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting. Councilman Bengivenga made a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting at 7:16 p.m., seconded by Councilman White and unanimously carried by an all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC/CMR