

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 28, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING**

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

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 remote hybrid meeting having been provided to the Borough's two official newspapers and also published on the Borough's website. Instructions for accessing the remote public meeting are found on the Borough's website next to the agendas. Documentation pertaining to the remote meeting can be found electronically on the Borough's website.

The roll call was administered by Amy Antonides as follows:

COUNCIL	Present	Absent	Late
Councilman Bengivenga	X		
Councilwoman Faustini	X		
Councilwoman Mott	X		
Councilman Smith	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	

Mayor Anesh reviewed some basic rules for conducting this virtual hybrid meeting this evening. All lines will be muted until such time that the floor is open for public comment. Each phone call or virtual hand raise will be taken one at a time. To unmute the microphone, just click on the red microphone picture that has a line through it. It will then turn green indicating you have been unmuted and may begin to speak. Callers may dial 1-646-922-2010 followed by the access code of 126 663 1990 #. Using the *6 button will mute and unmute the voice feature for any phone callers.

Mayor Anesh led the flag salute and the invocation by performed by Councilwoman Faustini.

**RESOLUTION 21-209
AUTHORIZING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Anesh opened the floor to Mr. Cullen who provided a brief summary of this evening's budget amendment. Mr. Cullen advised that this amendment reflects a \$166,120.00 increase from introduction. The increase is being driven by \$140,000.00 in grants plus an increase in Capital. The grant expense increases are offset by grant revenues. Therefore, the budget is up \$1,431,204 above prior year figures. The municipal tax levy was reduced by \$22,234,744 vs. \$21,619,992 in 2020. The Library portion of the tax bill is up by \$19,984.00. Municipal & Library taxes for the average home assessed at \$123,287.00 will total \$1,893.11 in 2021 vs. \$1,852.18 in 2020 (a \$40.93 difference). To conclude, Mr. Cullen advised that the Borough's ratable base is up \$8,931,828.00 which has resulted in \$140,676 in additional revenues in 2020. This is also the 6th consecutive year of a ratable base increase. With no further comments, Mayor Anesh set the public hearing for the 2021 Municipal Budget Amendment for July 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

2021 Municipal Budget Amendment			
BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021			
Revenue and Appropriation Summaries			
Summary of Revenues - Current Fund		2021	
		Anticipated From	Anticipated To
1. Surplus Anticipated		\$1,990,000.00	\$1,970,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues		\$6,842,476.07	\$7,595,996.80
4. Local Tax for Municipal Purposes		\$22,802,145.06	\$22,234,744.28

Total General Revenues			\$32,519,621.13	\$32,685,741.08
Summary of Appropriations - Current Fund			Anticipated From	Anticipated To
1. Operating Expenses:	Salaries & Wages		\$12,916,260.00	\$12,922,260.00
	Other Expenses		\$12,486,091.10	\$12,735,211.05
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			\$3,346,670.64	\$3,301,670.64
3. Capital Improvements			\$101,000.00	\$162,000.00
4. Debt Service			\$1,949,599.39	\$1,844,599.39
Total General Appropriations			\$32,519,621.13	\$32,685,741.08
Summary of Revenues - Sewer Utility Fund			2021	
			Anticipated From	Anticipated To
1. Operating Surplus			\$210,000.00	\$240,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues			\$215,000.00	\$160,000.00
Total Sewer Utility Revenues			\$6,738,026.00	\$6,713,026.00
Summary of Appropriations - Sewer Utility Fund			Anticipated From	Anticipated To
1. Operating Expenses:				
	Other Expenses		\$5,818,280.00	\$5,808,280.00
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00
Total Sewer Utility Appropriations			\$6,738,026.00	\$6,713,026.00
Summary of Revenues - Pool Utility Fund			2021	
			Anticipated From	Anticipated To
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues			\$219,725.00	\$293,725.00
3. Deficit (General budget)			\$194,000.00	\$149,000.00
Total Pool Utility Revenues			\$413,725.00	\$442,725.00
Summary of Appropriations - Pool Utility Fund			Anticipated From	Anticipated To
1. Operating Expenses:				
	Other Expenses		\$50,881.58	\$78,381.58
2. Capital Improvements			\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00
Total Pool Utility Appropriations			\$413,725.00	\$442,725.00

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

RESOLUTION 2021-210

**AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM QUESTION TO BE PLACED ON
THE NOVEMBER 2021 BALLOT SEEKING VOTER
SENTIMENT ON THE REVISION OF THE BOROUGH
LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, it has been requested of the Borough Council that the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield, Chapter 52, Article III entitled "Fire Department - Length of Service Award Program ("LOSAP") be amended to update the cap on contributions and provide for increases in the award based upon the Consumer Price Index as calculated by the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, LOSAP has not been revised since 2005, and the Borough Council believes review and amendment may be appropriate to continue to enhance the ability of the South Plainfield Fire Department and the South Plainfield Rescue Squad to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and first aid organization members; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's LOSAP was created by referendum in 2000, and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-187, a LOSAP established by a local government unit may only be amended in the same manner as it was created, therefore, requiring submission of the question to a vote of the electors; and

WHEREAS, submission of the question to the electors requires a resolution requesting that the County Clerk print on the official ballots to be used at the next general election a proposition as indicated in the proposed Ordinance amending the Borough's LOSAP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield request that the Middlesex County Clerk print upon the official ballot to be used at the November 2, 2021 general election the following proposition:

To vote upon the public question printed below:

If you are in favor - press the button next to the word yes.

If you are opposed - press the button next to the word no.

Shall the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield adopt an ordinance amending the Borough's Length of Service Award Program to increase the maximum contributions to \$1,787.00 per volunteer, and provide for an annual cost of living increase to such contributions, the estimated cost of the program for regular annual services excluding administration not to exceed \$100,000.00.

The following interpretive statement shall accompany the aforesaid proposition:

The proposed ordinance would amend Chapter 52, Article III of the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield entitled Fire Department - Length of Service Award Program to increase the contributions to a maximum of \$1,787.00 per volunteer and to provide for automatic Consumer Price Index adjustments, which adjustments shall be calculated on an annual basis by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

The estimated cost of the program for regular services excluding administration has been calculated not to exceed \$100,000.00.

A yes vote on the above question means that you do want the Borough to amend its Code to provide for a maximum increase in contributions of \$1,787.00 per volunteer and allow for annual cost of living adjustments at a maximum cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

A no vote on the above question means that you do not want the Borough to amend its Code to provide for a maximum increase in contributions of \$1,787.00 per volunteer and allow for annual cost of living adjustments at a maximum cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

The South Plainfield Borough Clerk is authorized and directed to submit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Middlesex County Clerk and request that the public question and interpretive statement be placed on the November 2, 2021 general election ballot.

If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph of the Resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, or otherwise invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.

COUNCIL	MOTION	2 ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Councilman Bengivenga			X				
Councilwoman Faustini			X				
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith			X				
Councilman Wolak		x	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 comment reiterating the aforementioned directions for making remote public comments. Without any comments from the public, Mayor Anesh closed the floor.

ADJOURN AGENDA MEETING: With no further comments, Mayor Anesh asked for a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting. Council President White made a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting at 7:04 p.m., seconded by Councilman Bengivenga and unanimously carried by an all-in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC/CMR