

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
AGENDA 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			Virtually arrived 7:08
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.

Review of Agenda Items: Clerk Antonides reviewed all the items on the agenda. Mayor Anesh asked if the council had any comments regarding the agenda. The council had no comment.

**RESOLUTION 21-231
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 – DPW Mechanic Helper
- Personnel – Police Telecommunicator

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				
Councilwoman Faustini						Arrived 7:08	
Councilwoman Mott			X				
Councilman Smith		X	X				
Councilman Wolak			X				
Council President White	x		X				
		VOTE:	6	0			
Mayor Anesh – TIE ONLY							

Public Hearing– Release of Performance Bonds

- Release of a Performance Bond Posted by Stefan Zaremba for Public Improvements to Block 174, Lot 14 – Mr. Zaremba was present.
- Release of a Performance Bond Posted by Harvard Avenue Minor Subdivision for Stilo for Public Improvements to Block 347, Lots 8.10 & 8.11. Mr. and Mrs. Stilo were both present.

Mayor Anesh asked Clerk Antonides if all is in order for the release of the aforementioned bonds. Clerk Antonides confirmed that everything is in order for the release of both bonds. Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comment on each of bond release and with no comments from the public for either bond, closed the floor and advised that the resolutions authoring the release are on the public meeting portion of the agenda this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: Mayor Anesh opened the floor for public comment reiterating the aforementioned directions for making remote public comments.

Mr. Edward Lefty Grimes, in summary, expressed his support for cannabis, especially as it relates to Veteran's who rely on it for medicinal purposes. Mr. Grimes was insistent that medical marijuana needs to be legal for everyone. Councilman Smith quoted from the ordinance advising that cannabis does not include medical cannabis dispensed or registered to qualifying patients pursuant to the "Jake Honig Compassionate Use Medical Cannabis Act". Mayor Anesh clarified that this governing body does not have the jurisdiction over medical marijuana, and that our ordinance this evening only addresses recreational marijuana. Mr. Rizzo Esq. confirmed that the governing body has no authority to approve or authorize medical marijuana.

At this time Mr. Rizzo Esq. asked everyone to hold off on their questions or comments regarding the cannabis ordinance as it has it's own scheduled public hearing this evening.

ADJOURN AGENDA MEETING: With no further comments, Mayor Anesh asked for a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting. Councilman Wolak made a motion to adjourn from the Agenda Meeting at 7:12 p.m., seconded by Council President White and unanimously carried by an all-in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Antonides, RMC/CMC/CMR