

A Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Plainsboro was called to order by Mayor Peter A. Cantu on March 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference in the Municipal Center located at 641 Plainsboro Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey.

The Township Clerk certified that the meeting was noticed as a Special Meeting on March 18, 2020. Notices were sent to the Home News/Tribune, Princeton Packet and Trenton Times and were posted at the Municipal Center, Municipal website and Library at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. All requirements of the Sunshine Law were met.

Present were: Mayor Peter A. Cantu, Deputy Mayor Neil Lewis and Committeeperson David Bander and Nuran Nabi were present via teleconference. Committeeperson Ed Yates was absent. Township Attorney Michael Herbert was also present via teleconference. Also present were: Township Administrator Anthony Cancro, Township Clerk Carol J. Torres, Chief of Police Fred Tavener and Lester Varga, Director of Planning and Zoning. There were no citizens and no member of the press present via teleconference.

It was MOVED by LEWIS and seconded by NABI that the following Resolution be approved:

R-20-116 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S-2475 and ASSEMBLY BILL A-3971 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE “CORONAVIRUS RELIEF BONDS” BY MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES

WHEREAS, A-3971, which authorizes the issuance of “coronavirus relief bonds” by municipalities and counties and is sponsored by Assemblyman Dan Benson, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, was approved by the New Jersey General Assembly on May 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Senate companion, S-2475, sponsored by Senators Troy Singleton and Vin Gopal was introduced on May 11 and awaits Senate committee action; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and counties are experiencing unprecedented financial challenges, including significant loss of and unanticipated expenses because of the on-going COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these fiscal consequences of the pandemic and the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency, are likely to continue and further impact Township of Plainsboro; and

WHEREAS, the current public health emergency led to shuttering of businesses, construction, courts, and schools; and

WHEREAS, local governments are experiencing a record decline in revenue from permitting fees, licensing fees, parking revenue, hotel/motel occupancy taxes, and court fines at the same time experiencing income losses due to declining returns on investments with the uncertainty of property tax collection and state aid revenues in the horizon; and

WHEREAS, Township of Plainsboro budget has significant fixed statutory expenses and provides essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing many essential services is likely to increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for an extended period afterwards; and

WHEREAS, A-3971 and S-2475 would allow counties and municipalities to borrow moneys through the issuance of bonds and notes to cover the revenue shortfalls and additional costs that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and pay that money back over a ten year period; and

WHEREAS, the A-3971 and S-2475 would also require a local government to thoroughly investigate and apply for financial assistance that may be available to it from the federal government, the State and other sources due to revenue shortfalls and expenditures because of the pandemic, prior to authorizing the issuance of the “coronavirus relief bonds”; and

WHEREAS, under A-3971 and S-2475 a municipality may use the proceeds from the sale and issuance of the coronavirus relief bonds to address a revenue shortfall experienced by the municipality and cover the cost of unanticipated expenses that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and which occurred within 24 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, A-3971 and S-2475 is not a one size fits all solution that provides the appropriate financial assistance to the Township of Plainsboro to help address all revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, without this legislation, to address the revenue shortfall some municipalities would be required to take extreme measures that would gut local government eliminating critical public service. Local governments need the flexibility that A-3971 and S-2575 provides to limit the impact on property taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Plainsboro:

1. Supports the swift passage and signing into law A-3971 and S-2475 , which will provide flexibility and offer relief to municipalities and counties to address their revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Governor, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Sponsors of the Legislation, the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, our State Legislators, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

VOTE: CANTU, YES; LEWIS, YES; NABI, YES; BANDER, YES; YATES, ABSENT.

It was MOVED by LEWIS and seconded by NABI that the following Resolution be approved:

R-20-117 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE MIDDLESEX COUNTY CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECOMOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Middlesex County is administrating a portion of the federal CARES Act funding to provide financial assist to counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Plainsboro will apply to Middlesex County for such

funding to assist with expenditures related to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for funding assistance, the County requires each municipal to enter in a Reimbursement Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Plainsboro, County of Middlesex, and State of New Jersey authorize the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the County Reimbursement Agreement between the Township of Plainsboro and the County of Middlesex.

(SEE EXHIBIT “A” PAGES 1 OF 9 INCLUSIVE)

VOTE: CANTU, YES; LEWIS, YES; NABI, YES; BANDER, YES; YATES, ABSENT.

It was MOVED by NABI and seconded by CANTU that the bills on the attached list be paid.

(SEE EXHIBIT “B” PAGES 1 OF 14 INCLUSIVE)

VOTE: CANTU, YES; LEWIS, YES; NABI, YES; BANDER, YES; YATES, ABSENT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. to go into the agenda session.

The agenda portion was discussed and reviewed for action at the next regular scheduled meeting of June 10, 2020.

The Township Administrator gave an update on the cancellation of summer recreation camps, county conference call over reimbursement, Bulk Farm design and the workforce.

The Township Committeepersons gave updates on the respective committees that are overseen for the liaison reports.

The Mayor opened the meeting for comments from the public.

There being no comments, it was MOVED by LEWIS and seconded by NABI that the public comment portion of the meeting be closed.

VOTE: CANTU, YES; LEWIS, YES; NABI, YES; BANDER, YES; YATES, ABSENT.

There being no further business, it was MOVED by CANTU and seconded by LEWIS that the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

VOTE: CANTU, YES; LEWIS, YES; NABI, YES; BANDER, YES; YATES, ABSENT.

Carol J. Torres, Township Clerk