

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Plainfield City Hall Library, 515 Watchung Avenue**  
**Page 1 of 5**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. at which time he read the following open public meeting statement:

**II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

“The annual schedule of this meeting has been given to The Courier-News and The Star Ledger. In addition, a copy of the notice is posted in the City Clerk’s office, the Planning Division office and the City’s website in accordance to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act, 10:4-6 et seq.  
This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.”

**III. ROLL CALL**

Name	Jan 19 reorg	Feb 2	Feb 16	Mar 1	Mar 15	Apr 5	Apr 19	May 3	May 17	Jun 7	Jun 21	Term Expires
Ken Robertson, Chairman	P	P	P									4 years (12/31/2012)
Ron Scott Bey, Vice Chairman	P	P	P									4 years (12/31/2012)
Horace Baldwin	P	P	P									4 years (12/31/2013)
William Toth	P	P	P									4 years (12/31/2015)
Gordon Fuller	P	P	P									4 years (12/31/2014)
Sidney Jackson	P	P	P									4 years (12/31/2013)
Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs Barbara James (Designee)	P	P	P									Term of Mayor 4 years (12/31/2013)
Sgt. James Abney	-	P	8:20 P									1 year (12/31/2012)
Councilman William Reid	P	8:11p	P									1 year (12/31/2012)
Willie B. Faulks, Jr., Alternate No.1	-	P	E									2 years (12/31/2014)
Sandra Chambers, Alternate No.2	P	E	P									2 years (12/31/2013)
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	9	9	10									

A-Absent; E – Excused; Not appointed yet (-)

**IV. OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Name	Affiliation
Michele Donato, Esq.	Board Attorney
Bill Nierstedt	Staff, Planning Director
Rosalind Miller	Board Secretary

V. **MINUTES** – On a motion by Councilman Reid and seconded by Vice Chairman Scott Bey, the Board accepted the reorganization meeting minutes of January 19, 2012 as presented by voice vote among members eligible to vote.

VI. **RESOLUTION(S) (Memorialization)** - none

VII. **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION(S)** – none

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

- Adoption of the Board’s 2012 By-Laws – Chairman Robertson asked if the board had any questions and/or comments in regards to the 2012 By-Laws. Board Member Baldwin expressed some concern, specifically on rules and responsibilities of the Board Attorney and Board Secretary. Chairman Robertson made recommendations to adopt the 2012 By-Laws. He asked that Board Member Baldwin and Mayor’s Designee James work on further amendments to the By-Laws for re-adoption. After hearing no further concerns, he entertained a motion. On a motion by Board Member Fuller, seconded by Vice Chairman Scott Bey, the Board voted as follows to accept the 2012 By-Laws as written.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Plainfield City Hall Library, 515 Watchung Avenue**  
**Page 2 of 5**

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Memorialization
Ken Robertson, Chairman	X			
Ron Scott Bey, Vice Chairman	X			
James Abney, Sgt.			X	
Horace Baldwin	X			
Gordon Fuller	X			
Sidney Jackson	X			
Barbara James, Mayor's Designee	X			
William Reid, Councilman	X			
William Toth	X			
Willie Faulks, Alternate #1	X			
Sandra Chambers, Alternate #2	X			

Ten in favor. None opposed. One abstained.

1. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – 2012-2017 Amendments for Fire Division to purchase a new Class A Pumper Engineer for fire truck. The Board, Board Attorney Donato, City Planner Nierstedt and Fire Chief Frank Tidwell reviewed council resolution for “Authorization to accept the Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds for Enhancing the ‘Local Fire Departments’ Assistance to Firefighter’s Grant” in the amount of \$350,000. After review of the resolution, the Board acknowledged the changes in the budget and the amount made to the CIP (Capital Improvement Program).
  
2. Discussion on the FY2011 NJDOT Trust Fund Resurfacing of Watchung Avenue (Phase III) – Presentation by the City Engineer, of Remington & Vernick Jacqueline Foushee, PE. – Ms. Foushee submitted preliminary drawings of the Watchung Avenue project.
  - a. Sidewalk and Aprons - The Board, Board Attorney Donato and City Planner Nierstedt talked about the sidewalk and aprons. Ms. Foushee made recommendation that if there is sidewalk concrete apron should be established. She said if no sidewalk is established she recommends that the material should be extended with the exception of pavers/stones.
  - b. Colonial Circle – Ms. Foushee expressed concern about where the ROW (Right-of-Way) begins because of the inlets. Also, the survey delineates private property is in the ROW. She reported on the poor condition of the inlets and that they are full of debris. In addition, she reported on emergency vehicle will not be able to access the area and there is a planter area in the middle which takes away the accessibility for fire trucks. The Board, Board Attorney Donato and City Planner Nierstedt made comment that anything outside of the ROW is private property, alert the Fire Department and the property owners of these conditions and of this project.
  - c. Proposed Curb – Ms. Foushee reported on the recommendations from the Historic Preservation Commission on consistency in material on both sides of the road. Board Members made comment on the cost should not exceed the grant amount. Ms. Foushee talked about how curbing will help alleviate some of the ponding and slippery surfaces. Board Member Abney asked about Pine Street. Ms Foushee said they are proposing to pave up to the inlets of Pine Street; provide cross walks- a requirement for all DOT funded projects. Also, she reported they are seeking a waiver from DOT for to provide for the grass area where there are no curb sidewalks, but optimistic in getting the waivers granted. Board Member Toth asked about marked areas and if those areas are marked for excavating. Ms. Foushee replied the marked areas are patches of work repaired by utility companies. She said that she took note because the roadway tends to settle and/or deterioration may require additional attention. She reported on an existing curb on Woodland Avenue up to Belvidere Avenue and made recommendations for no removal and no reconstruction. Board Member Fuller asked about stamped pavers. Ms. Foushee replied that stamped paver material is not stable, unless the property owner maintains it. The board asked if there will be any sign markings to caution drivers of the speed limits at the downhill intersection. Ms. Foushee replied that they are proposing signs to slow ahead because it is a hill. The board asked about the total cost of the project and a time frame for the project to go out for bid. Ms. Foushee replied the project total is about \$900,000, \$253,000 funded by 2011 DOT grant, they applied for 2012 DOT grant and anticipate \$250,000 to \$300,000. She said the remaining balance will come from municipal bonds. She said they would like to go out to bid by the end of February 2012 and award a contract sometime in April 2012. Board Members expressed concern if resident want to keep paver/stones. Ms. Foushee said she will knock on doors and leave her contact information. After hearing no further discussion, Chairman Robertson opened the meeting for public comment and/or questions. Hearing none, he entertained motion.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Plainfield City Hall Library, 515 Watchung Avenue**  
**Page 3 of 5**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Scott Bey and seconded by Board Member Baldwin, the board voted as follows recommending council approval for the FY2011 NJDOT Trust Fund Resurfacing of Watchung Avenue (Phase III) as written.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Memorialization
Ken Robertson, Chairman	X			
Ron Scott Bey, Vice Chairman	X			
James Abney, Sgt.	X			
Horace Baldwin	X			
Gordon Fuller	X			
Sidney Jackson	X			
Barbara James, Mayor's Designee	X			
William Reid, Councilman	X			
William Toth	X			
Willie Faulks, Alternate #1	-			
Sandra Chambers, Alternate #2	X			

Ten in favor. None opposed. None abstained.

3. Discussion of Roadways – The board had some discussion about materials used, sealants, roads that need milling and overlay work; utilize public works equipment for cost saving purposes, review list of roads that have not been completed yet and bonding for those remaining roads. In addition, it has been suggested that the Fire Division should be involved with regards to the roads and the affect of emergency vehicles that ride on them. The board asked about the PMR (Pavement Management Report). Ms. Foushee replied that she was asked to provide the PMR on a CD for the Department of Public Works Director still pending. She also said that if the municipalities still have the funds the new roads can be added. Chairman Robertson asked for volunteers for roadway committee. Board Member James and Board Member Fuller will serve on the roadway committee.
4. Continued discussion on the CIP 2012-2017 recommended work to be done with board members and internal staff.
5. A Zoning Ordinance Committee meeting pending scheduling.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Capital Project Review: Plainfield Board of Education: (a) Barlow Elementary School and (b) Woodland Elementary School
  - a. Barlow Elementary School, 2 Farragut Road (Application No. PB-12-03) – Proposal to expand the Cafetorium to seat 225 students for lunch and to seat 450 students in the auditorium. George Jones, Registered Architect, and Albert Franklin of Johnson & Jones Architect Planning Interiors, 4365 Route 1 South, Princeton, N.J. was sworn in to testify on behalf of the Plainfield Board of Education. Mr. Jones explained that the Board of Education is proposing to expand the Cafetorium to seat 225 students for lunch and to seat 450 students in the auditorium. He said the addition will be approximately 9,500 square feet with a full service Kitchen, the new addition will be connected to the existing building, and an existing stage in the multi-purpose room will be removed to expand the gymnasium.
  - Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent of Schools, Gary Ottoman, Business Administrator and Assistant Business Administrator of Schools was sworn in to testify on behalf of the Plainfield Board of Education.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Plainfield City Hall Library, 515 Watchung Avenue**  
**Page 4 of 5**

- The Board had some discussion and questions about lost of parking spaces and increase student population. Mr. Jones explained that there will be no lost of parking spaces, but removal of the paved play area. The board recalls some previous concerns in the long-range facility plan years 2005-2010, specifically reduction in the student population. City Planner Nierstedt read a section of the 2009 Master Plan in regards to the “Community Facility”. Mr. Ottman reported on a 2008 state plan update. Mr. Jones explained that it took the state to 2008 and now the 5-year plan from 2008-2013 due to the funding. Board Member Toth asked if the charter schools will affect the population. Vice Chairman Scott Bey and Board Member Fuller recalled trailers and prefer getting rid of trailers at some of the schools. Board Member Jackson expressed concern of why these two (2) schools were selected and there seem to be problems in other areas. Mr. Ottman reported that there is additional land available at Barlow, Woodland and Stillman elementary schools that accommodate for a kitchen/cafeteria. Board Member Abney expressed concern that the parking lot is not adequate and made recommendation to increase parking lot. Mr. Jones replied that there are no increase in staff & students and said that there available space to the school. Board Member Toth questioned why cafeteria and not additional classrooms.
- Anna Belin Pyles interim superintendant made comment the school serves K through 6 grades, they are maintaining low class sizes, utilizing all classrooms with no space for specialties, need to convert current space to serve functioning for lunch and cafeteria and other activities. In addition, this addition adds enhancement to the area.
- Mr. Jones addressed the floor plans to show existing vs. the proposed of the opening for second corridor and creating outdoor seating. He passed around a color rendering showing proposed additions of brick material to match the existing brick material. Board Member Toth asked about LEED standard energy efficiency and/or solar panels and recommended a roof design structurally to support solar panel in the future. Mr. Jones said that they are considering solar panels, but not as a part of this renovation. He said that both sides of the addition will bring in natural light. The board asked about the cost. Mr. Jones reported the total cost is \$3,350,000.00 paid from the Plainfield Board of Education budget. After hearing no further testimony and no further comments and/or questions. Chairman Robertson opened the hearing to the public. Hearing none, he entertained a motion.
- On a motion by Vice Chairman Scott Bey and seconded by Board Member Fuller, the board voted as follows reviewing a Capital Project for the Plainfield Board of Education for a cafetorium addition to Barlow Elementary School to seat 225 students for lunch and 450 students in the auditorium as stipulated.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Memorialization
Ken Robertson, Chairman	X			
Ron Scott Bey, Vice Chairman	X			
James Abney, Sgt.	X			
Horace Baldwin	X			
Gordon Fuller	X			
Sidney Jackson	X			
Barbara James, Mayor’s Designee	X			
William Reid, Councilman	X			
William Toth	X			
Willie Faulks, Alternate #1	-			
Sandra Chambers, Alternate #2	X			

Ten in favor. None opposed. None abstained.

- b. Woodland Elementary School, 730 Central Street (Application No. PB-12-04) – Proposal to expand the Cafetorium to seat 225 students for lunch and to seat 450 students in the auditorium. George Jones, Registered Architect, and Albert Franklin of Johnson & Jones Architect Planner Interiors, 4365 Route 1 South, Princeton, N.J. was sworn in to testify on behalf of the Plainfield Board of Education.
- Mr. Jones explained that this project is a similar proposal to expand the Cafetorium to seat 225 students for lunch and to seat 450 students in the auditorium. He said the addition will be approximately 9,500 square feet with a full service Kitchen, a new lobby with a new Boys & Girls Toilets that will connect to the existing building. The board asked about the cost for this project. Mr. Jones reported \$2,750,000.00 paid from the Plainfield Board of Education budget.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Plainfield City Hall Library, 515 Watchung Avenue**  
**Page 5 of 5**

- The Board made recommendations to improve school markings for the safety of the school children, new additions and/or new buildings there should be taken into consideration to incorporate LEED standard requirements, the capability of solar panel ready up top roofs and aesthetics.
- After hearing no further testimony and no further comments and/or questions. Chairman Robertson opened the hearing to the public. Hearing none, he entertained a motion.
- On a motion by Board Member Toth and seconded by Councilman Reid, the board voted as follows reviewing a Capital Project for the Plainfield Board of Education for a cafetorium addition to Woodland Elementary School to seat 225 students for lunch and 450 students in the auditorium as stipulated.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Memorialization
Ken Robertson, Chairman	X			
Ron Scott Bey, Vice Chairman	X			
James Abney, Sgt.	X			
Horace Baldwin	X			
Gordon Fuller	X			
Sidney Jackson	X			
Barbara James, Mayor's Designee	X			
William Reid, Councilman	X			
William Toth	X			
Willie Faulks, Alternate #1	-			
Sandra Chambers, Alternate #2	X			

Ten in favor. None opposed. None abstained.

- Van Wyck Brooks Historic District – Proposing Installation of Signage throughout the District in the Public Right-Of-Way - April Stefel made a presentation and addressed the degradation of nine (9) signs, requesting five (5) additional locations, signs to be installed identical to the originals in 1985, meet site triangle regulations and composite type materials used. She said they are prepared to removed the 9 signs, restore and put back in the original locations. Board Member Baldwin asked if the residents will be informed. Ms. Stefel said yes, the residents do not object. After hearing no further questions and/or comments, Chairman Robertson opened the hearing to the public. Hearing none, he entertained a motion. On a motion by Board Member Fuller and seconded by Board Member Toth, the board voted as follows granting Installation of Signage throughout the District in the Public Right-Of-Way as stipulated.

Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Memorialization
Ken Robertson, Chairman	X			
Ron Scott Bey, Vice Chairman	X			
James Abney, Sgt.	X			
Horace Baldwin	X			
Gordon Fuller	X			
Sidney Jackson	X			
Barbara James, Mayor's Designee	X			
William Reid, Councilman	X			
William Toth	X			
Willie Faulks, Alternate #1	-			
Sandra Chambers, Alternate #2	X			

Ten in favor. None opposed. None abstained.

- Ms. Stefel and City Planner Nierstedt shared with the board 2012 calendar of the Van Wyck Brooks Historic District of homes built from the 1880's to early 1900's. Ms. Stefel said that they have about 6 or 7 more of the calendar for \$10.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m. on a motion by Board Member Fuller, seconded by Vice Chairman Scott Bey.

Respectfully submitted,