

## Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – May 11 2021

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The meeting began at 6:30pm via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Alessi called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Joseph H. Alessi, Council President Francis Astorino, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Anthony Floria-Callori, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees and Councilman Kenneth Tilton.

Also present were: Kevin O’Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Semeraro, Esq., Borough Attorney; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; Paul Ferriero, Borough Engineer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Councilman Floria-Callori to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Alessi announced the anticipation of COVID-19 vaccination distribution to children ages 12+.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

#### **Anthony Rainone - 5 Aspen Drive**

Mr. Rainone presented results from a survey conducted by the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation regarding recreation facilities, offerings, fees, future projects and communications.

#### **Bunny Jenkins – 73 Mountain Avenue**

Ms. Jenkins asked about the distribution of the NCRF survey as she did not receive it.

### **Items for Discussion**

#### **Walker’s Conservancy Recommendations and Concept Plan Presentation**

John Chiaia, former Councilman and Chairman of the Walker’s Pond Conservancy, presented recommendations to the Governing Body on behalf of the Conservancy Members. He introduced the members and recommended that the site be officially named as “Walker’s Pond – North Caldwell”. He reviewed a concept plan prepared by Borough Engineer Paul Ferriero. Mr. Chiaia anticipated a ribbon cutting ceremony at the pond on May 31, 2021 and provided an overview of future amenities, required NJDEP permits and events to come. Mr. Ferriero reviewed the tree planting requirement imposed by the DEP for riparian zone mitigation.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act Funding – Budget Adoption Timeline**

Mr. Mondelli communicated the recommendation of the Municipal Accountant, Joseph Faccone, that the Governing Body proceed with budget adoption despite anticipated guidelines from the State regarding funding from the American Rescue Plan. Mr. O’Sullivan stated that 50% of the funding awarded to North Caldwell would be provided in 2021 and the remaining 50% would be provided in 2022.

#### **Community Project Request Update**

Mr. O’Sullivan stated that Congresswoman Sherrill’s office did not select North Caldwell’s submission for the Community Project grant. The Council asked for the list of grant recipients.

#### **Municipal Court Electronic Payments**

Mr. O’Sullivan stated that Municipal Court Administrator Ashley McMillion was preparing to implement the ability to pay court fines via ACH and credit cards, continuing the Borough’s effort to expand electronic accessibility to each department through the website.

#### **Clean Community Signage**

Mayor Alessi reviewed a request from a resident to erect Clean Community signs sponsored by private businesses. The Council would further consider the request in accordance with the current Sign Ordinance.

#### **Building Improvements Projects**

Councilman Rees expressed appreciation to the Department of Public Works staff for the dedication to undertaking recent building improvements. He detailed the projects completed and those in progress. Mr. O’Sullivan noted potential functionality to streamline the DPW work requests through a portal offered by CivicPlus.

**Community Pool and Tennis Court Repairs**

Councilman Kessler provided an update on repairs made to the municipal pool decking and pool house.

**Community Pool Concession Stand**

Councilman Kessler reviewed the repairs made to the concession stand by the DPW employees. He noted that concessionaire services were still being contemplated. He presented an opportunity for order fulfillment and delivery through Sunrise Caterers.

**Pool Staff – Assistant Manager Contracts, Lifeguards/Gate Monitors**

Councilman Kessler presented candidates for the two assistant manager positions at the municipal pool and additional lifeguard and gate monitor candidates.

**Action to be Taken**

**2021 Municipal Budget**

Resolution R-108-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Reading of the 2021 Municipal Budget by Title was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Council President Astorino made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Floria-Callori noted that the budget reflected an unprecedented year and commended all for their efforts to work within the budget cap. Council President Astorino looked forward new opportunities and thanked Mr. Mondelli for his work on preparing the budget.

Council President Astorino made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-109-2021 A Resolution Adopting the 2021 Municipal Budget was read. Borough Clerk Tami Michelotti offered a summary of the budget. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-115-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of One New Plenary Retail Distribution License within the Borough of North Caldwell Pursuant to the Public Bid Option Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 33:1-19.3. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The following resolutions were read by and moved by Councilman Atlas as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Kessler:

- Resolution R-110-2021 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-111-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Seasonal Employees – Baseball/Softball Umpires
- Resolution R-112-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2021 Municipal Pool Season
- Resolution R-113-2021 A Resolution Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs – Cal Ripken All-Star Tournament

Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

**Executive Session**

Resolution R-114-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes:

- A. Contract Negotiations: (1) Essex Fells Water Supply Agreement, (2) Police Dispatch Agreement, (3) Cell Tower Improvement;
- B. Attorney/Client Privilege – (1) Tax Abatement Response, (2) Affordable Housing Review, (3) PILOT Sewer Billing

was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

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The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:16pm.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by the Council, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:16 pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tami Michelotti".

Tami Michelotti  
Borough Clerk