

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – May 25, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. The meeting began at 6:31pm 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.

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. and Irene Kim Asbury, Borough Attorneys; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Councilman Rees to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Alessi announced the next Seniors meeting on June 2. He added that members of the Governing Body would be paying for their attendance at the upcoming annual NJLM. He wished everyone a happy Memorial Day and announced the ceremony details scheduled in West Caldwell.

Citizens to be Heard

No one from the public came forward.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Rees moved to accept the minutes from the following meetings (without release of Executive Session minutes), seconded by Councilman Atlas:

- Special Budget Meeting of April 8, 2021. Councilman Tilton abstained. Said motion was carried with five affirmative votes and one abstention.
- Conference Meeting and Executive Session of April 13, 2021. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session of April 27, 2021. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Ordinance O-11-2021

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-11-2021 An Ordinance Accepting Lindsley Heights Easement. He described the purchase of the easement to allow public access which was appraised and purchased at fair market value.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-11-2021 An Ordinance Accepting Lindsley Heights Easement. The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino. Councilman Tilton voted no. Said motion was carried with five affirmative votes and one nay vote.

Ordinance O-12-2021

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-12-2021 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell. He explained that the ordinance sets the ranges of compensation for employees not included in collective bargaining agreements.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-12-2021 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell. The motion was seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

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Ordinance O-13-2021

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing Ordinance O-13-2021 An Ordinance to Provide for Various Capital Items as Enumerated within for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex and to Provide for the Funding Thereof. He described the funding already available for various capital projects.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and Ordinance O-13-2021 An Ordinance to Provide for Various Capital Items as Enumerated within for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex and to Provide for the Funding Thereof. The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-14-2021

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-14-2021 An Ordinance to Provide for Various Water Capital Items as Enumerated within for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex and to Provide for the Funding Thereof.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-14-2021 An Ordinance to Provide for Various Water Capital Items as Enumerated within for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex and to Provide for the Funding Thereof. The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-15-2021

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-15-2021 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Members of the Department of Public Works for the Years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-15-2021 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Members of the Department of Public Works for the Years 2021, 2022 and 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Bond Ordinance BO-2-2021

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Bond Ordinance BO-2-2021 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$1,731,425 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,302,853 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof, seconded by Council President Astorino.

No one from the public came forward.

Ms. Michelotti noted a non-substantive correction in the description of the dump truck itemized in the ordinance. The corrected ordinance was accepted by the Governing Body.

Councilman Atlas acknowledged the revision and made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Bond Ordinance BO-2-2021 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$1,731,425 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,302,853 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-16-2021

Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-16-2021 Repealing Ordinance O-15-18 Regarding Multi-Way Stop Sign. He announced the public hearing scheduled for June 22, 2021 at 6:30pm

Resolution R-116-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Liquor License #0715-33-001-002 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Personnel and Technology

Councilman Floria-Callori provided an update on strengthening the Borough’s internet presence. He encouraged the Council to maintain remote access to meetings once the Governing Body returns to in-person meetings.

Resolution R-117-2021 A Resolution Approving the 2021-2023 DPW Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 469 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-118-2021 A Resolution Authorizing an Addendum to the Employment Agreement of North Caldwell Police Captain Karl Strodthoff was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-119-2021 Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between the Borough of North Caldwell and Recreation Director William Maranz was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-120-2021 A Resolution Appointing William Stickles as Director, Department of Public Works was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-121-2021 A Resolution Appointing Anthony E. Romano as Certified Public Works Manager for the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Councilman Floria-Callori as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-122-2021 A Resolution Establishing 2021 Employee Salaries
- Resolution R-123-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipends to Certain Borough Employees for Personal Cell Phone Usage for Municipal Purposes for the Year 2020
- Resolution R-124-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipends to Certain Borough Employees for Personal Cell Phone Usage for Municipal Purposes for the Year 2021

Finance

Council President Astorino offered the Tax Collector’s Report for April 2021.

Resolution R-125-2021 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Tilton offered the Volunteer Fire Department Public Safety Report for April 2021 and noted the department’s donations of gear and equipment to fire departments in Alabama affected by recent tornadoes. He welcomed two new members to the department.

Councilman Tilton offered the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for April 2021 which included 685 calls to Dispatch from North Caldwell residents. He reminded all residents to watch their speed while driving.

Resolution R-126-2021 A Resolution Approving the Borough of North Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department Certified LOSAP List for the Year 2020 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Public Works

Councilman Rees offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for April 2021 during which 42 permits were issued which was less than the same time last year. He noted that the \$18,284 year to date revenue which represents a significant increase over last year.

Councilman Rees offered the Animal Control Report for April 2021 which included three (3) calls.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Director’s Report for May and June 2021. He noted the significant increase in tennis membership and extended court hours. He announced the opening of the pool for Memorial Day weekend and provided the weekly schedule.

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Councilman Kessler as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-127-2021 A Resolution Appointing Michelle Inga as Assistant Manager of the Municipal Pool for the 2021 Season
- Resolution R-128-2021 A Resolution Appointing Michele Malfattano as Assistant Manager of the Municipal Pool for the 2021 Season
- Resolution R-129-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Baseball/Softball Umpires
- Resolution R-130-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2021 Municipal Pool Season

Resolution R-131-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Procurement of Concession Services at the Municipal Pool for the 2021 Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-132-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes:

- A. Personnel: (1) Finance Department, (2) SHBP Claims Review;
- B. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Cannabis Legislation, (2) Public Meetings, (3) Facility Reopening;
- C. Anticipated Contract Negotiations: (1) Drainage Repairs, (2) Speed/Traffic Calming Device Installation;
- D. Contract Negotiations: (1) Municipal Pool Concessions, (2) Safety Concerns at Gould and Mountain Avenue Intersection, (3) Triangle at Central Avenue/West Greenbrook Road/Grandview Avenue, (4) Pulte Homes/Hydrogeological Study, (5) Essex Fells Water Supply Agreement, (6) Police Dispatch Agreement, (7) Caldwell Sewer Utility Agreement

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

The meeting was reopened to the public at 9:03pm.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by the Council, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:03 pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk