

## Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – June 23, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. The meeting began at 7:30pm 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. He provided a statement regarding the conduct of the teleconference which would allow members of the public to participate and be heard during public comment.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Alessi, Council President Santomauro, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Rees and Councilman Tilton.

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

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

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alessi announced the Primary Election was scheduled for July 7, 2020 which would be held primarily by mail-in ballot. He announced the Tire Recycling and Paper Shredding Day held by Essex County. He wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mayor Alessi announced that the Borough is the recipient of an Open Space Grant from Essex County. He provided an overview of the COVID-19 testing held in the Borough by the Smith Center for Infectious Disease. Mayor Alessi provided an update on the Walker's Pond Dredging Project for which permits were received from NJDEP with a bid opening scheduled for July 1, 2020.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

#### **Donna Finnerty – 17 Bloomfield Avenue**

Ms. Finnerty asked for information regarding the Horseneck Tavern's Expansion of Premises application. She stated that she had no issue with the request but stated her concern for the noise level from music and loud voices emanating from the restaurant.

#### **James Faloni – Horseneck Tavern, 11 Bloomfield Avenue**

Mr. Faloni stated that waitress service was planned for the outdoor tables with no live music scheduled. He thanked the Governing Body for approving the service of alcoholic beverages in the outdoor seating area on the front sidewalk. He asked that permission be granted as per Governor Murphy's Executive Order 150 for additional tables in the parking lot.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting held on May 7, 2020, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Councilman Astorino abstained. Said motion was passed unanimously with five affirmative votes and one abstention.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes held on May 12, 2020, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was passed unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes held on May 26, 2020, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was passed unanimously with six affirmative votes.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legal and Ordinance**

##### **Ordinance O-7-2020**

Mr. O'Sullivan provided background on the ordinance to adjust the Borough's annual sewer fees to cover shortfalls from an unanticipated increase in charges from Caldwell sewer. He noted that the sewer fees had not been increased on over ten (10) years.

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Council President Santomauro made a motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance O-7-2020 Amending Chapter 45 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding Sewer Fees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Mr. O'Sullivan provided opportunity for all meeting participants to be heard by unmuting each caller.

Anthony Floria-Callori – 4 Chestnut Hill

Mr. Floria-Callori asked if the fee increase would be imposed annually. Council President stated that an annual increase was not intended.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Council President Santomauro made a motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance O-7-2020 Amending Chapter 45 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding Sewer Fees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Council President Santomauro made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-7-2020 Amending Chapter 45 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding Sewer Fees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

### Ordinance O-8-2020

Council President Santomauro made a motion to introduce open the Ordinance O-8-2020 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell Amending and Supplementing Chapter 107 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell to Establish a New IRO Inclusionary Residential Overlay Zone and to Set Forth the Standards and Criteria Applicable Thereto, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Council President Santomauro announced that the public hearing was scheduled for July 21, 2020.

### Ordinance O-9-2020

Council President Santomauro made a motion to introduce open the Ordinance O-9-2020 An Ordinance to Provide for Various Capital Items, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Council President Santomauro announced that the public hearing was scheduled for July 21, 2020.

### Ordinance O-10-2020

Council President Santomauro made a motion to introduce open the Ordinance O-10-2020 An Ordinance to Provide for Various Water Capital Items, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Council President Santomauro announced that the public hearing was scheduled for July 21, 2020.

### Ordinance O-11-2020

Council President Santomauro made a motion to introduce open the Ordinance O-11-2020 An Ordinance to Amend the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Council President Santomauro announced that the public hearing was scheduled for July 21, 2020.

### Ordinance O-12-2020

Council President Santomauro made a motion to introduce open the Ordinance O-12-2020 An Ordinance Amending Various Provisions of Chapters 71 and Chapter 45 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Concerning Field Use Fees and Scheduling, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Council President Santomauro announced that the public hearing was scheduled for July 21, 2020.

### Bond Ordinance BO-3-2020

Council President Santomauro made a motion to introduce open the Ordinance BO-3-2020 An Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$141,800 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$134,710 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Council President Santomauro announced that the public hearing was scheduled for July 21, 2020.

### Horseneck Tavern COVID-19 Expansion of Premises Application

Council President Santomauro recommended that the same stipulations regarding the day and time limitations of alcoholic beverage service as found in previous expansion of premises permits be maintained and applied to this application. Borough Clerk Tami Michelotti reviewed the process of

permit approval which requires only the endorsement of the Municipal Clerk and Police Chief which allows for the stipulation of conditions.

#### **Personnel and Administration**

Councilman Tilton had no updates at this time.

#### **Finance**

Councilman Astorino made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for May 2020, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-93-2020 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

#### **Public Safety**

Councilman Chiaia presented the Police Department Public Safety Report for May 2020 and noted that 376 calls were placed to Dispatch. He noted that overtime was being managed by Chief Deuer and Captain Strodthoff. He added that he, his son and resident Anthony Perillo helped to distribute food donations with Essex County.

Councilman Chiaia provided an update on Camp Wyanokie memberships and improvements.

#### **Public Works**

Councilman Rees presented the Construction Permit Activity Report for May 2020 and noted a year-to-date revenue of \$106,000. He added that revenues would be monitored for appropriate budgeting.

Councilman Rees presented the Animal Control Report for May 2020 which included seven (7) calls for assistance.

Resolution R-94-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the 2020 Essex County, New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Update was read. Councilman Rees suggested that the public review the document which would be posted to the website. He added that the mitigation strategy is updated every five (5) years to identify risk areas. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-95-2020 A Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application the Execution of a Grant Contract with the NJDOT for Various Roads within the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Council Chiaia. Councilman Rees abstained. Said motion was carried with five votes and one abstention.

#### **Recreation**

Councilman Kessler provided the Recreation Director's Report for May and June 2020. He stated that preparations were being made to provide as many services as possible for Borough residents with a focus on outdoor programs. He noted that refunds for cancelled activities were being processed. Councilman Kessler highlighted the nearly 80% increase in tennis memberships. He announced the opening of Summer Fun Camp and the Municipal Pool and the associated restrictions due to COVID-19.

Councilman Chiaia suggested that the Recreation resolutions be considered as Consent Agenda action. With approval from Borough Attorney Mark Semeraro, the following resolutions were considered:

Resolution R-96-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Refunds of Recreation Program Fees was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Chiaia that the following resolutions be approved as a Consent Agenda. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-97-2020 A Resolution Appointing Manager of the Municipal Pool
- Resolution R-98-2020 A Resolution Appointing Assistant Manager of the Municipal Pool for the 2020 Season
- Resolution R-99-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2020 Municipal Pool Season – Lifeguards, Gate Monitors

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- Resolution R-100-2020 A Resolution Appointing Seasonal Part-Time Lead Instructor for the 2020 Summer Fun Program – Upper Camp
- Resolution R-101-2020 A Resolution Appointing Seasonal Part-Time Lead Instructor for the 2020 Summer Fun Program – Lower Camp
- Resolution R-102-2020 A Resolution Appointing Emergency Medical Technicians for the 2020 Summer Fun Camp Program
- Resolution R-103-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2020 Summer Camp Season – Instructors and Counselors
- Resolution R-104-2020 A Resolution Appointing Social Distancing Ambassadors to Assist with Necessary Social Distancing Requirements

**Executive Session**

Resolution R-105-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes : Personnel was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Council Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:33pm. This motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti  
Borough Clerk