

## Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – August 18, 2020

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. The meeting began at 6:31pm via teleconference.

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 Alessi, Council President Santomauro, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Rees and Councilman Tilton. Councilman Astorino joined the meeting for the Executive Session and second part of the public meeting.

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

Mayor Alessi asked Kevin O'Sullivan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alessi offered an online complaint form for any Altice service issues experience by North Caldwell residents. He noted that the submission of the form would expedite service through a dedicated customer service representative. Mayor Alessi announced the closure of Borough offices in observance of Labor Day. He announced the on-site NJ Motor Vehicles Commission mobile unit scheduled for September 11, 2020 at Borough Hall.

Mayor Alessi announced that the General Election would primarily be conducted by vote-by-mail as per Governor Murphy's recent Executive Order. He announced COVID testing offered by Essex County in neighboring municipalities.

Mayor Alessi provided a summary of damage sustained during Tropical Isaias and the status of recovery efforts. He provided guidelines for storm debris collection. He thanked PSEG partners Caryn Freyer and Tim Fagan. He welcomed Ms. Freyer to the meeting.

Ms. Freyer expressed her gratitude for the partnership with the Borough. She credited PSE&G's routine tree trimming for helping to prevent more damage. She noted that her team is reviewing substations and interconnections which may lead to additions to the North Caldwell network. Ms. Freyer thanked the crews from other states who helped the New Jersey crews. She thanked the residents for the patience and committed to continued upgrades to the infrastructure in North Caldwell.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

Mr. O'Sullivan unmuted all participants on the teleconference to allow for public comment. One caller asked Mayor Alessi to repeat the rules for storm debris collection.

### **Items for Discussion**

#### **Walker's Pond Sediment Removal Project Bid Results**

Mr. O'Sullivan announced the results of the bid opening held on August 13, 2020 during which 13 bids were received. He noted that the bids were reviewed by the design engineer and by the Borough Attorney and found to be in order. He stated that a resolution was prepared for later in the meeting that would award a contract to the lowest bidder. He added that a pre-construction meeting would be held with mobilization by early October.

#### **NCFD Reimbursement for Hazardous Material Spills, Leaks and Fires**

Councilman Chiaia stated that an ordinance is in effect that allows for reimbursements to the North Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department for costs incurred in response to emergencies. He noted that a contract has been proposed with a third party that would assume responsibility for the billing. Chief Peterson added that the third party, Conveyance Solutions, processes claims and retain 25% of the claim as their fee. He stated that he would further research the nature of the agreement and any legal liability that may be associated with releasing details of the incident reports. Chief Peterson added that structure and/or vehicle fires and spills would be included in such claims. Councilman Chiaia asked Mr. Semeraro to research the contract prior to entering into an agreement.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Conference and Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of July 21, 2020 and the Special Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of July 27, 2020 were moved by Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

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### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legal and Ordinance**

Resolution R-128-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Bid and Awarding Contract for Walker's Pond Sediment Removal Request for Proposals was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Councilman Chiaia added that the pond restoration would allow for greater recreation opportunity in town. He noted that the lowest bid was lower than anticipated. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Resolution R-129-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract Between the Borough of North Caldwell and Ferriero Engineering, Inc. for Contract Management and LSRP Oversight Services for the Walker's Pond Sediment Removal/Dredging Project was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Rees. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Resolution R-130-2020 A Resolution Regarding the June 16, 2020 Water Bill for 37 Oak Place was tabled until after Executive Session discussion was delayed until later in the meeting after Executive Session.

#### Consent Agenda:

The following resolutions were read and moved by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-131-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Inclusion in the Essex County Urban County Community Development Program for Program Years 2021-2023
- Resolution R-133-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Return the Tenant's Security Deposit for 137 Gould Avenue

#### **Personnel and Administration**

Councilman Tilton made a motion to add Resolution R-141-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2020 Summer Camp Season – Instructor to the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

#### Consent Agenda:

The following resolutions were read and moved by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-134-2020 A Resolution Appointing Michael Jose Arango as Volunteer Fire Department Member
- Resolution R-139-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2020 Pool Season
- Resolution R-141-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2020 Summer Camp Season – Instructor

#### **Finance**

Councilman Rees made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for July 2020, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Resolution R-132-2020 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

#### **Public Safety**

Councilman Chiaia reviewed a post-storm meeting held to identify faster responses to power, phone, water, etc. outages. He announced that areas of improvement and success were discussed, especially the teamwork of employees and partnerships with outside entities. He noted the efforts currently underway to improve cell phone service

Councilman Chiaia offered Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for July 2020. He highlighted 933 calls made to Dispatch and 22 medical assists.

Councilman Chiaia offered the Fire Department Public Safety Report for July 2020 which included 49 calls including training sessions and mutual aid provided to Cedar Grove and Fairfield. He reminded residents to keep generators away from their homes.

The following resolutions were read and reviewed by Councilman Chiaia for roll call later in the meeting.

- Resolution R-135-2020 A Resolution Extending the Grant Year for the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse 2019-2020 Fiscal Grant Cycle to September 30, 2020

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- Resolution R-136-2020 A Resolution Amending the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for Fiscal Grant Year 2020-2021

**Public Works**

Councilman Rees offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for July 2020 during which 59 permits were issued with revenue of \$43,595.00.

Solid Waste Collection Report for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020 was not yet available.

**Recreation**

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Director's Report for August/September 2020. He noted that tennis membership is up to 174 members which represents over a 90% increase from last year. He announced the end of the Summer Fun Camp program and thanked the staff, families and to the Recreation Director and Program Director for ensuring COVID protocols were in place. He was proud to announce that no COVID cases were reported during the camp or among campers and/or staff.

Councilman Kessler stated that the safety protocols continue to be maintained at the town pool. He announced the expansion of Seniors hours and the new Aquacise program. He stated that soccer and multi-sport camps were starting that week and the upcoming start of the fall soccer and tennis seasons. Councilman Kessler announced the possibility of a Senior meeting and luncheon in the fall as well as the postponement of the annual Town Picnic and Soccerfest.

The following resolutions were read and reviewed by Councilman Kessler for roll call later in the meeting.

- Resolution R-137-2020 A Resolution Fixing Fees for Recreation Programs
- Resolution R-138-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipends for Two Summer Fund Camp Instructors

**Consent Agenda:**

The following resolutions were moved by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-135-2020 A Resolution Extending the Grant Year for the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse 2019-2020 Fiscal Grant Cycle to September 30, 2020
- Resolution R-136-2020 A Resolution Amending the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse for Fiscal Grant Year 2020-2021
- Resolution R-137-2020 A Resolution Fixing Fees for Recreation Programs
- Resolution R-138-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipends for Two Summer Fund Camp Instructors

**Executive Session**

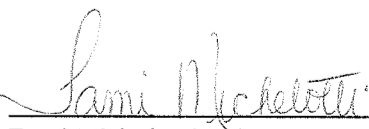
Mr. Semeraro asked for a motion to add to the Executive Session resolution the Potential Litigation – Pulte Homes. Council President Santomauro moved Resolution R-140-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes : A. Personnel – (1) Municipal Court; B. Contract Negotiations – (1) Lindsley Heights; C. Settlement Negotiations – (1) Water Consumption re: Oak Place, Hamilton Drive East with the addition of Potential Litigation – Pulte Homes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chiaia. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 7:55p.m.

Resolution R-130-2020 A Resolution Regarding the June 16, 2020 Water Bill for 37 Oak Place was read. A motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. The motion was carried unanimously with six 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 the Council that this meeting be adjourned at 7:58 pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Tami Michelotti  
Borough Clerk