

Budget Meeting February 23, 2016

The Special Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 5:32pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Council Members: Council President Cynthia Santomauro, Councilman Frank Astorino, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Joshua Raymond, Councilman Arthur Rees

Councilman Chiaia arrived at 5:45pm

Also, present were David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Chief Mark Deuer, and Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk, Richard Mondelli, CFO.

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

Mayor Alessi asked Richard Mondelli, CFO to lead those present in the salute to the American flag.

Citizens to Be Heard

Mayor Alessi opened the floor to the public. No one came forward

Items for Discussion

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming in early for this meeting and to discuss the 2016 Budget.

2016 Operating Budget – Richard Mondelli spoke regarding the Operating Budget –

Mr. Mondelli explained that there is a 2.5% Salary and Wages increase for Police Officers and the DPW workers due to their collective bargaining agreement and a 2% increase for the full time Borough Hall employees.

Pool Utility – Mr. Mondelli stated that the pool had a good year compared to recent years. Revenue was about \$3,000 over what was anticipated. Bill Maranz, the Recreation Director has submitted what he feels is needed for the operating budget for next year. There is \$8,270 for capital outlay for improvements. Every year there is a purchase of chairs and umbrellas to replace the old ones.

Water Utility – The water utility had a very good year in 2015, there was a increase in the revenue by \$221,479 but fell short in the water purchase by \$75,000.00 due to the dry summer and fall. The water rate in 2015 was increased to \$5.70 from \$5.45 to keep up with the 4% increase from Essex Fells and Passaic Valley. There was discussion as to whether or not to increase the water again in 2016 since there is a 4% increase to North Caldwell from Essex Fells and Passaic Valley. It was decided to increase the water by 20 cents to \$5.90 for 2016.

General budget –

Mr. Mondelli explained that as the proposed 2016 budget stands, there is an increase of eleven tax points (2.86% rate increase), which on an average assessment of \$679,722 would be a tax increase of \$74.77. Every \$15,917 in budget appropriation = one tax point=\$6.80 in taxes on an average assessment. This budget is under the State mandated 2% levy cap.

Mr. Mondelli explained that revenues were down in 2015 by \$34,560.00. The Council then discussed the operating budget by department to see where they could cut expenses.

Police Chief Deuer stated that he can cut either the car out of the operating budget or the truck out of the capital budget this year. The Council decided to cut the car out of the operating budget.

Detective Credico explained the monthly IT maintenance plan that Quikteks has presented to the Borough. The plan would cost \$1,350.00 per month. There was discussion regarding the merits of having the company handling the helpdesk for Borough's computer systems. The Council decided to go with the company for this year.

Mr. Mondelli stated that he would put together a memo summarizing the changes that the Council discussed and will have it ready for their approval at the March 8, 2016 meeting.

There was a recess taken at 7:05pm.

The public meeting was re-covered at 7:23pm

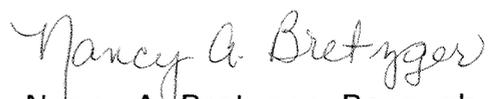
Executive Session

Resolution R-48-16 Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes of Personnel Issues was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. This motion was unanimously carried.

The public meeting was re-opened at 7:31pm.

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 Rees that this meeting be adjourned at 7:32p.m. This motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk