

Conference Meeting April 25, 2017

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 5:40pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Council Members: Council President Santomauro, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Raymond, Councilman Rees

Also, present were David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, and Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk

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 Chief Deuer to lead those present in the salute to the American flag.

### **Citizens to Be Heard**

There were no citizens to be heard.

### **Items for Discussion**

Dog Park – Councilman Chiaia explained that the Council has decided to spend a great amount of money on improvements to the fields which is great for a portion of the community. He stated that he would like to do something for another portion of the community and see if a dog park can be placed on the piece of property by Mountain Field (corner of Arbor and Mountain Ave.). He explained that there are state requirements if there is to be a dog park. The state requires the communities to have 2 parks, 1 for dogs 20lbs or less and one for dogs over 20lbs.

Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer stated that the piece of property that Councilman Chiaia would like to use is a retention basin. He stated that he has researched this and that other towns have used retention basins for this purpose and have not had any problems. The entrance to the park would need to be off of Arbor. Mr. Zichelli suggested that the Borough demolish the house owned by the Borough on Gould Ave and place the dog park there.

There was discussion amongst the Council about where to place the dog park. The Council asked Mr. Zichelli to work on an estimated cost of the dog park for the next meeting.

Naming of Pulte Development – Mayor Alessi asked the Council what they would like to name the new development. There was discussion amongst the Council. The Reserve at North Caldwell is the choice of the Council.

Resolutions from NJ Highlands Coalition – Council President Santomauro stated that the gentleman that came before the Council at last month's meeting asked for the draft resolutions to be adopted by the Governing Body. There was discussion and the Council decided not to adopt the resolutions.

Councilman Astorino arrived at 6:34pm.

Pool Improvements –Cell Phone Chargers at the Pool – Mayor Alessi stated that he feels that this would be a nice improvement to the pool for this season. Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer suggested that a strip of USB ports be installed under the Manager's office window. The Council discussed this and was in agreement with that suggestion along with a sign that states the Borough is not responsible for lost or stolen phones.

Project Updates – Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer gave updates on the following projects:

- (1) West Greenbrook Road Traffic Signal – Mr. Zichelli stated that the County received 6 bids for the installation of the traffic signal on West Greenbrook Road and the entrance to West Essex High School. The earliest time they will be awarding the bid will be on May 3, 2017. The cost of the project came in at \$298,800.80.
- (2) Walker Property
  - (a) Mr. Zichelli stated that the house is dated and needs work. His recommendation is to demolish the house. He explained that the department is working on removing the pool. The Council discussed demolishing the house and it was decided to table the decision at this time.
  - (b) Mr. Zichelli stated that the Engineer working on the subdivision of the property came up with larger lot sizes.
  - (c) Mr. Zichelli stated that the Green Acres Funding grant application has been made. This allows us to get the information that is needed in order to apply for the 75% grant. We will not get funding until the environmental issues are completed.
  - (d) Environmental Issues – Mr. Zichelli stated that the environmental issues are still being working on.
- (3) Hilltop Water – Mr. Zichelli stated that an application was made to the state for the water main to the 62 new homes and affordable housing. He explained that someone in the DEP seems to now understand the Hilltop water system and that she is sending a letter to Verona and Essex Fells. Mr. Zichelli said that hopefully sometime in May we will have a permit.
- (4) Willow Brook Drive Pavement Overlay – Mr. Zichelli, Borough Engineer stated that this is the DOT project from last year and that it is supposed to start within the next week.

Municipal Land Use Proposed Legislation - Council President Santomauro stated that she spoke with Asmeret Ghebremicael our County liason regarding this legislation and the County would like the opinion of the Council. Council President stated that she is not in favor of this legislation. She explained that this would take away a lot of our land use power. This proposed legislation would take alot of the decisions away from the towns. There was discussion amongst the Council regarding this legislation and the consensus was that they are not in favor of it. Council President

Santomauro stated that she would call Ms. Ghebremicael back and let her know that they were not in favor of the legislation.

Plaque for Fireman's Field – Councilman Kessler explained that the Rotary Club would like to have a plaque to thank the Recreation Foundation for the improvements that they are making to the fields. The Council agreed that a plaque would be nice on the dugout at Fireman's Field. Councilman Kessler said that he will ask for a recommendation on the size and wording before it is completed for the Council approval.

Policy for Advertising Banners on Borough Property – Councilman Kessler stated that this is for organizations for selling advertising banners to be placed on Fireman's Field. Councilman Kessler stated that the proposed policy states who can apply and that it has to be an organization benefiting the citizens of North Caldwell. Council President Santomauro feels that the policy should state that the organization needs to apply for a permit every year. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney will make the changes to the Policy as requested by the Council.

Gas Powered Leaf Blowers- Councilman Chiaia explained that a resident asked for quiet time from landscapers for family enjoyment. Councilman Chiaia is suggesting an ordinance for no gas powered leaf blowers after 6:00pm during the week, from 9:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays and banned on Sunday's. He has also suggested to have landscapers register and receive a permit to work within the Borough. The Council discussed this proposal and was in agreement to prohibit gas powered leaf blowers during certain times. They will be allowed between 7:00am to 6:00pm Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm, Saturday and never on a Sunday. It was asked of the Borough Attorney to prepare an ordinance for these changes as well as registering landscapers.

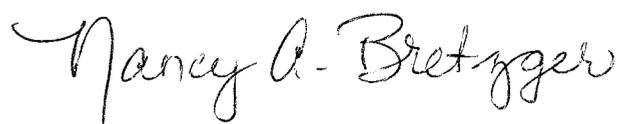
### **Executive Session**

Resolution R-93-17 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Litigation (1) COAH Declaratory Judgment; B. Contract Negotiations – (1) Caldwell Sewer Utility (2) Traffic Signal Cost Sharing Agreement; C. Personnel (1) Court (2) Recreation was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Re-opened to Public Meeting at 7:25pm

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 Astorino that this meeting be adjourned at 7:27pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk