

Conference Meeting May 9, 2017

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 7:30pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Absent: Councilman Astorino, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Rees

Also, present were David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Richard Mondelli, CFO, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk and Tami Michelotti, Deputy 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 Mrs. Michelotti to lead those present in the salute to the American flag.

Citizens to Be Heard

Wendy Brosse – 58 Beachmont Terrace – Mrs. Brosse stated that she came to the meeting tonight because she is interested in the discussion on the dog park as well as that she feels that the Mayor and Council needs to be more involved with what is going on with the schools. Mrs. Brosse stated that her children no longer attend the North Caldwell Schools, but this will affect her taxes. She stated that she is not against the school's improvements, but she feels that the Mayor and Council need to look at it wisely and see what needs to be done.

Mayor Alessi explained that there is communication with the Board of Education and that he and a few of the Council members would be meeting with the Superintendent and Board of Education President next week. He also stated that Council members do attend the Board of Education meetings when there is no scheduling conflict.

Mrs. Brosse stated that she feels Gould Avenue should be a one way street when school is in session, especially when the children are being dropped off at school and picked up from school.

Councilman Raymond explained that the Council members have met with the Board of Education and there is plenty of communication with the Board. Mr. Raymond suggested that Mrs. Brosse should attend the Board of Education meetings.

Mrs. Brosse suggested that the dog park be located behind Fireman's baseball field where it would be natural trails and the dogs can go without a leash. She said that she is very happy that the Borough is looking into a dog park for their residents.

John Rapkin – 35 Willowbrook Drive – Mr. Rapkin stated that he wanted to make the Mayor & Council aware that the Recreation Foundation had just paid to have improvements done to Fireman's Field. When the fields were closed over the weekend due to the weather, someone apparently tried to use the field and did damage to it. He stated that it was not a fix that could be easily remedied. Mr. Rapkin stated that he is here to ask the Mayor & Council to have a policy as to how to prevent this from happening again in the future.

David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney suggested that an ordinance be adopted to enforce that no one is allowed on the field when it is closed. It was also suggested to have CLOSED Signs posted when the fields are not usable and that the Police are made aware so they can monitor the fields.

Mr. Rapkin also asked what was the protocol for the Recreation Foundation to make a donation to the Summer Fun program as well as pool for the summer. Mr. Paris stated that the Foundation should send a letter via email stating what they would like to donate and a resolution would be done for the next meeting to accept those donations.

Items for Discussion

Update on Demolition of Municipal Buildings – Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer explained that at the last meeting there was discussion as to demolition of two (2) municipal buildings. He explained the costs to demolish the 2 buildings. Council President Santomauro thinks that the cost is very high. Councilman Chiaia feels that the Borough should not be spending money at this time, since we are in the middle of several other projects. The Council decided to have another discussion further in the year.

Dog Park Estimated Cost – Mr. Zichelli, Borough Engineer, stated that as asked at the last meeting he did some research as to an estimated cost to build a dog park. He explained that there are common recommendations that need to be done. The dog park needs to be between ½ acre to 1 acre in size. Mr. Zichelli explained the cost of each line item. Councilman Chiaia questioned that if grass was used instead of gravel at this time, and not add the shade area, the cost of the installation would be far less. Mr. Zichelli said to take out those items, it would bring the cost down to approximately \$75,000 from the \$170,000.00 that has been estimated.

Motor Fuel Bid – Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer stated that there will be a bid on May 18, 2017 regarding the fuel for the Borough vehicles. He explained that the Borough usually does not receive any bids, a second bid will be done at that time. If no one bids then the Borough is able to negotiate with a fuel supplier. Mr. Zichelli stated that the Borough currently uses Sunoco on Passaic Avenue in Fairfield and the Exxon Station on Bloomfield Avenue in North Caldwell. Councilman Raymond asked if the Quick Check was located within the 3 mile radius that is required. It was determined that it was so located but was further than the two that were being used at this time.

Library Reimbursement (Tenants) – Richard Mondelli, CFO, explained that there was a renter that wanted a refund and he was looking for clarification of the resolution that was done in 2013. The Mayor and Council stated that if they are residents they should be reimbursed whether they own the property or are renting. There was discussion on the wording of the resolution. It was decided to say per “residence” instead of per “family”. There will be a new resolution at the next meeting.

Tennis Membership For Seniors– Councilman Chiaia explained that Bill Maranz, Recreation Director, had been approached by a resident asking why there was not a senior membership rate for tennis as there is for the pool. Mr. Maranz told the resident that he would speak with the Mayor and Council and see if a senior membership for tennis would be feasible. The Mayor and Council discussed this and agreed on a \$50.00 Senior tennis membership for Seniors 62 and older.

Coffee with the Council- Councilman Raymond explained that a few of the neighboring municipalities have had something similar to this. He stated at the last meeting there were several residents that have requested to have better communication with the Mayor and Council. Council President Santomauro said that she feels that the Mayor and Council are very available for the residents, that the Mayor has Office Hours twice a month and that they are all welcome to come to the Mayor and Council meetings and can speak during “citizens to be heard”. Councilman Raymond stated that at these meetings there would be no agenda and the residents can speak more freely. It was decided to try this approach and see if there was a turnout. Councilman Chiaia suggested to do it attached to some type of event such as the service at Borough Hall on Veterans Day. It was also suggested to hold it at one of the Movies at the Pool nights since there were already residents coming there. The Council decided to try one of the Movies at the Pool nights during the month of July.

Kiwanis Club Logo on Windscreens for Tennis Courts – Councilman Raymond explained that the Kiwanis Club has donated funds for the benches that have been put around the tennis courts. They have also donated windscreens for the tennis courts and would like to have a 2’ x 2’ Kiwanis logo on the screens. Mr. Zichelli stated that the windscreens are usually 5 – 6 feet high and 20 feet long. He also asked if the members have been asking for the windscreens, he stated that there have not been windscreens on the courts last year. The Mayor and Council asked if the sign on the windscreens could say “North Caldwell Tennis” and under that the Kiwanis Logo along with the wording “Windscreens donated by Kiwanis Club”. Councilman Raymond stated that he would speak with the Kiwanis and see if they can do that.

Field Closure Procedures during Inclement Weather – Keeping People/Teams off the Field when they are Closed – Mayor Alessi stated that this discussion took place during Citizens to be Heard. He reiterated that there would be an ordinance adopted and signs to help alleviate any more problems to the fields.

Councilman Raymond explained that an email had been received from a resident asking if the Mayor and Council would consider doing a proclamation regarding Gun Violence Awareness day on June 2, 2017. There was some discussion and the Council stated that they would look at the sample proclamation and see if the wording would work with the Borough.

Action to be Taken

Resolution R-105-17 Resolution to Read Budgets by Title was read. Mayor Alessi tabled this resolution for the next meeting on May 23, 2017.

Mayor Alessi tabled the public hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget to the next Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council on May 23, 2017.

Resolution R-106-17 Resolution to Adopt the 2017 Municipal Budget. Mayor Alessi tabled this resolution for the next meeting on May 23, 2017.

Resolution R-107-17 Approval to Pay Bills was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

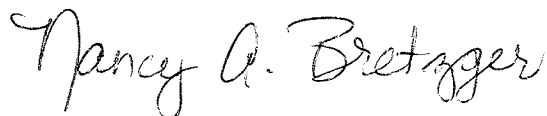
Resolution R-108-17 Resolution Approving a Professional Services Contract By and Between the Borough of North Caldwell and Nassau Capital Advisors, LLC was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Resolution R-109-17 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Litigation (1) COAH Declaratory Judgment (2) 137 Gould Avenue/Ms. Fox; B. Contract Negotiations – (1) Caldwell Sewer Utility (2) Traffic Signal Cost Sharing Agreement; C. Personnel was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

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 8:34pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk