

Conference Meeting September 12, 2017

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 7:33pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Absent: Councilman Kessler, Councilman Rees

Also, present were David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Mel Levine, Borough Administrator; Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; 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 Zachary Root to lead those present in the salute to the American flag.

Citizens to Be Heard

Ibrahim Shahmehdi – 19 Maywood Court

Ibrahim introduced himself as a first grade student at Grandview Elementary. He stated he would like to see recycling bins placed next to every garbage can in every public park. Mayor Alessi agreed to meet with Ibrahim and Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli, after school to discuss the details further.

Peter Hollander - 1 The Crossing

Mr. Hollander stated that he has lived in North Caldwell since 1993 and was present on behalf of the North Caldwell Police Foundation whose mission is to provide education and equipment for the North Caldwell Police Department. Mr. Hollander stated that he feels the proposed turf field at Liberty Field benefits few at the expense of many and should not be paid for by the town. He feels the bond should instead be used to update Police Headquarters for much needed renovations and suggested a referendum. Since the Police Foundation Mission Statement states that it cannot fund plant and equipment, he implored the Mayor and Council to consider utilizing funds to renovate Police Headquarters to provide better protection. Mr. Hollander thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and consideration.

The Mayor noted his great respect for the North Caldwell Police Department and stated that Chief Deuer and the Police Department are part of the budget process. The Mayor stated that he and the Council would consider Mr. Hollander's suggestions. Chief Deuer stated that Mr. Hollander and Ms. Stephanie Fein have been very generous to the Police Foundation and that improvements have been made such as to the radio system. Chief Deuer noted that he would explore further improvements such as the bullet-proof glass again when preparing next year's budget.

No other citizens came forward.

Items for Discussion

Usher's Syndrome Proclamation

Zachary Root, suffering from Usher's Syndrome since birth, was present with his parents, Rachel and Jared, and sister, Emily. Mayor Alessi read the Proclamation declaring the third Saturday of September as Usher Syndrome Awareness Day to promote awareness and education of the syndrome. Mayor Alessi stated that designating Usher Syndrome Awareness day will encourage all citizens to work toward the eradication of this disease.

Anti-Semitism Proclamation

Mayor Alessi stated that West Caldwell Mayor Joe Tempesta passed a proclamation against anti-Semitism and other prejudices. Mayor Alessi stated the Borough's interest in a similar proclamation in North Caldwell. The Mayor will contact Gail Black, President of New Jersey Hadassah, and invite Rabbi Silverstein from Congregation Agudath Israel to also be present for the proclamation.

Dezi's Hospitality Extension of Premises

Councilman Chiaia stated that the Borough received an application for an expansion of premises from Horseneck Tavern's for a three-day Oktoberfest event. Chief Deuer stated that he went to the restaurant to walk the property and looked at the plan. He stated that the applicant plans for a 20'x 40' tent that will be constructed to accommodate approximately 100 people maximum. The tent would have German beer and wine for sale and would be monitored by employees checking identification and giving out wristbands to each patron. Chief Deuer noted that Dezi's Hospitality purchased only enough wristbands so that when the last one is given out, they will know that they have reached maximum capacity. The proposed plan provides for parking for emergency services and live music to adhere to the noise ordinance. Chief Deuer stated that the use of alcohol outside the premises requires a need for police to be present. He noted that there have been former complaints by surrounding neighbors about noise.

Horseneck Tavern co-owner, Jim Faloni, was present along with the restaurant manager. Chief Deuer advised Mr. Faloni to notify neighbors of the upcoming event and insure that the band would cease playing by 10pm. Council President Santomauro asked if the other businesses in the strip mall had been notified. The restaurant manager stated that the neighboring businesses are closed on Friday night and Sunday and that the bank is closed on both Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Faloni stated that he was also mandated by his landlord to notify all of the surrounding businesses about the event. Mayor Alessi noted that the application indicates that wine will not be served which was confirmed by the restaurant manager who stated that there is a full bar in the restaurant only, but patrons can bring their drinks into the tent. The manager noted that the event attracts beer drinkers and added that German food would be served in the tent. He stated that security would be present to keep alcohol consumption to a minimum. Chief Deuer stated that there are periodic complaints from the neighbors regarding noise and that the owners have always been compliant and he suspects the event will be no worse than other weekend nights.

Transfer of Sewer Service:

Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli stated that the home being constructed at 620 Mountain Avenue requires a transfer of sewer service. The residence is in the Caldwell sewer district which must be pumped, by law, uphill into the Borough's system and then to the Caldwell system for treatment. Mr. Zichelli stated that the property owner, Skender Meka, is seeking permission to leave the Caldwell sewer system to go to the Cedar Grove sewer system.

Mr. Meka would be absorbing the cost and add manholes to Mountain Avenue.

Borough Attorney David M. Paris noted that the County of Essex should be included for approval. Council President Santomauro noted that the amendment should be made to move the motion.

LESO Federal Support for Local Law Enforcement Equipment Acquisition

Chief Deuer stated that the LESO Program gives the Police Department the opportunity to acquire surplus equipment from the Federal Government. He stated that the Police Department was previously enrolled but the membership expired and that he would look to have a resolution ready for the next meeting.

Councilman Chiaia noted his appreciation to Chief Deuer regarding his response to calls from residents regarding blasting planned for Monday, September 11 for construction on the Hilltop. Requests for postponement of the blasting on the national day of mourning were acknowledged by Chief Deuer who contacted the contractor to stop the blasting for the day. Councilman Chiaia stated that the responsiveness was noteworthy and thanked Chief Deuer.

Action To Be Taken

Resolution R-170-17 Resolution for Place-to-Place Transfer (Extension of Premises) for Dezi's Hospitality, L.L.C., License #0715-33-003-002 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Resolution R-172-17 NJDOT Roadway Improvement Grant Application - Roosevelt Boulevard was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Resolution R-173-17 NJDOT Roadway Improvement Grant Application - Deer Trail Road was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Resolution R-174-17 Establishing the Adopt-a-Spot Program and Authorizing the Procurement of Concessions for Landscaping Services for Public Properties within the Borough of North Caldwell was tabled by Mayor Alessi in which he stated that it would be addressed at a later meeting.

Resolution R-175-17 Resolution Approving Transfer of Sewer Service, Block 801, Lot 11, 620 Mountain Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Resolution R-176-17 Approval to Pay Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

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Resolution R-177-17 Tax Lien Redemption - Block 2102, Lot 6 C0102 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Resolution R-178-17 Insertion of Revenue Item – Chapter 159 – Police Grant was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Resolution R-182-17 Insertion of Revenue Item – Chapter 159 – DOT Grant was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Resolution R-181-17 Authorizing Appointment of Beth Tanelli as Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Raffle Application for Notre Dame Church for 50/50 Raffle to be held at Green Brook Country Club on October 5, 2017. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Raffle Application for Notre Dame Church for 50/50 Raffle to be held at Notre Dame Church on October 14, 2017. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Raffle Application for Notre Dame Church for 50/50 Raffle to be held at Notre Dame Church on December 9, 2017. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Raffle Application for Notre Dame Church for 50/50 Raffle to be held at Notre Dame Church on December 17, 2017. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with 4 votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-180-17 Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Litigation – COAH Declaratory Judgment, B. Contract Negotiations, C. Personnel, D. FSHC Settlement, E. Walker Property Property Survey, F. LaSerra Farms was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Re-opened to Public Meeting at 8:53pm.

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Resolution R-179-17 Resolution of the Borough Council of the Borough of North Caldwell Authorizing the Execution of a Settlement Agreement with Fair Share Housing Center was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Santomauro and seconded by the Council that this meeting be adjourned at 8:54pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tami Michelotti".

Tami Michelotti, Deputy Clerk