

Mayor & Council Conference & Regular Meeting, December 18, 2017

The Conference & Regular Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell were held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 6:34 pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Present: Council President Santomauro, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Raymond

Absent: Councilman Astorino, Councilman Rees

Also present were: David M. Paris, Borough Attorney; Frank Zichelli, Borough Administrator/Engineer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Acting 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 Mrs. Beverly Salerno to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-235-17 Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Contract Negotiations – PBA Contract; B. Litigation – COAH; C. Personnel – (1) Information Technology Director Appointment, (2) Council Committee Assignments, (3) DPW Personnel, (4) Personnel Compensation, (5) Re-Organization Appointments: Counsel, Auditor, Prosecutor, Certified Municipal Court Administrator, Planning/Zoning Board Appointments was read. A motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

Council President Santomauro made a motion to re-open the public meeting, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

The Public Meeting was re-opened at 7:34pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Alessi recognized the West Essex Cowboys 3rd / 4th Grade C Football Team as Superbowl Champions for the 2017 season. The Mayor read a proclamation to the team and presented certificates to each player, assisted by the Council members. The Cowboys' Head Coach thanked the players and their parents for an excellent season.

Mayor Alessi stated that the retirement celebration for former Mayor and Borough Administrator, Mel Levine, was held on November 29, 2017 and was well-attended. He wished Mr. Levine well in his retirement.

Mayor Alessi announced the passing of former Recreation and Police Department employee, Leslie Crow. The Mayor announced the retirement of 15-year DPW employee, Kerwin "Jake" Armstrong. Mayor Alessi welcomed two new DPW employees, John Ritter and Bob Kirk, who both have a history with the Borough as a volunteer Fireman and Police Dispatcher, respectively.

The Mayor noted that the annual Seniors Holiday Luncheon was held on December 6 which featured entertainment by the Gould School choir. He announced that Police Sergeant Thomas Mautone just returned from serving with hurricane recovery efforts in Puerto Rico. Mayor Alessi stated that the annual Peace, Joy and Goodwill event was held on December 3. He announced the upcoming free Rabies Clinic scheduled for Saturday, January 6, 2018 from 1:00-3:00pm with license renewals available.

Mayor Alessi called on Essex County liaison, Asmeret Ghebremicael, who was present. Ms. Ghebremicael announced that the County Holiday Lights Display at

Turtle Back Zoo would continue through January 5, 2018 from 5:00 – 8:00pm. She also stated that she delivered post cards for distribution to residents containing information about the County deer hunt. She noted that the postcards were also being mailed to residents directly. Ms. Ghebremicael extended holiday wishes from County Executive DiVincenzo.

Councilman Chiaia asked Ms. Ghebremicael to convey the Borough's sincere thanks to the County Executive for the support of the new traffic light at the entrance to West Essex Regional Schools. Mayor Alessi also expressed his thanks for the light which has increased safety.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No citizens came forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting of October 10, 2017, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Meeting of October 10, 2017, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting October 24, 2017, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Meeting of October 24, 2017, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting November 8, 2017, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Meeting November 8, 2017, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously with four votes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Elected Official – Stormwater Training

Mr. Zichelli stated that the State's Stormwater regulations require annual training of elected officials. Mr. Zichelli provided the training documents to the members of the Governing Body to read and acknowledge receipt of the documents. He welcomed any questions from the Council.

Overnight Parking Restrictions Notification to New Residents

Councilman Chiaia stated the Court Administrator notified the Borough Clerk that there have been complaints by new residents have been ticketed by the NCPD for overnight parking. The residents are stating that they had no knowledge of an overnight parking ordinance. Councilman Chiaia stated concern that the issuance of the tickets to very new residents was counteractive to the warm welcome the Borough wishes to extend. He proposed that a solution be found such as a notification to new residents or an issuance of a warning for first time offenders.

Mayor Alessi added that posting "no overnight parking" signs on every street in town is not feasible. Chief Deuer stated that there are signs posted at certain access points in town as required by law. He offered to help work toward a solution.

Councilman Raymond asked if the parking regulation was posted in the annual Borough flyer. Mr. Zichelli stated that it currently was not included in the flyer which was already being printed for 2018. It was suggested that the next annual flyer include reference to the ordinance and that it also be included on the Borough website. Chief Deuer added that the rule is included in the Newcomer's Night materials. Mayor Alessi suggested that the next mass-mailing to residents include a flyer reminding residents of the rule.

Councilman Chiaia stated that with new residents moving in every day it is difficult to notify new residents with annual notifications. Council President Santomauro stated that a warning for first time offenders is probably the best solution. Chief Deuer stated that the officers are not able to identify the vehicle owners as new residents when issuing the summons.

Essex Fells Fire Department Antennae Request

Mr. Zichelli stated that he received a request from the Essex Fells Fire Department to place an eight foot antenna at the tank site adjacent to the building where the radio control equipment is stored. Mr. Zichelli noted that there were no objections from the NCPD. He stated that he would notify EFFD that if, at any time, the antennae interfered with our communications, it would need to be removed.

Mr. Paris agreed that there should be a provision that the antennae could be removed at any time at the Borough's discretion and that the facility would have to be restored to its original condition. He added that we should create an interlocal agreement.

Wading Pool Conceptual Designs

Mr. Zichelli updated the Governing Body on the plans recently received for the zero entry/wading pool design. He added that the Borough does have funding to replace the existing wading pool with a zero-entry wading pool with features. He offered the two conceptual designs as a starting point. He noted that construction could be completed for implementation next summer but possibly not by Memorial Day. He asked for feedback and preferences to communicate to the consultants.

Council President Santomauro inquired if the current kiddie pool could be maintained with the addition of a wading pool to allow a place for swimming for young children while the older children can run in the sprayground. Mr. Zichelli stated that the current pool would require additional investment but that the cost would be at maintenance cost levels and not a major rehabilitation cost. He added that there is enough room to keep the kiddie pool. Mayor Alessi stated he would like to see the kiddie pool maintained provided it doesn't continue to cost too much. He added that he prefers the design of the round sprayground.

Mr. Zichelli stated that both conceptual designs include a raised bench to provide some separation between the wading pool and the sprayground. He added that both designs fit within our budget and that the baby pool can be maintained with either plan. He confirmed that the plans are for zero-entry with the inclusion of four or five jets with the ability to add more if desired.

The Council agreed on the circular design sprayground format and the maintenance of the current kiddie pool.

Appreciation from the West Essex First Aid Squad

Mayor Alessi stated that he received a letter from the West Essex First Aid Squad in appreciation for the Borough's donation of \$5,000. He stated the squad provides first aid and emergency services to the municipalities of West Essex and that the squad relies on local fundraising efforts. The Mayor thanked the West Essex First Aid Squad for all they do for our community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legal and Ordinance

Councilman Raymond moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-9-17, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell with Respect to Traffic Regulations Affecting Borough Schools, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Seeing no one from the public coming forward, Councilman Raymond moved to Close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-9-17, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell with Respect to Traffic Regulations Affecting Borough Schools, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Raymond moved to Adopt Ordinance O-9-17, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell with Respect to Traffic Regulations Affecting Borough Schools, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Personnel/Administration

Resolution R-236-17 A Resolution Appointing Michael Credico as Part-Time Information Technology Director for the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Council President Santomauro added that Detective Credico has performed IT functions with no additional compensation for years and that he has done an excellent job. She added that other municipalities pay a lot of money for this work and the Borough is now able to compensate Detective Credico as recognition of his work. She stated that this part-time position will not interfere with his Police Department responsibilities. Mayor Alessi echoed Council President Santomauro's support of this resolution and added the cost savings that Detective Credico's in-house work provides to the Borough. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Council President Santomauro stated the next three resolutions are in response to the added responsibilities to be assumed by certain Borough employees since the retirement of the former Borough Administrator.

Resolution R-237-17 A Resolution Authorizing an Increase of Salary to Tami Michelotti, Acting Borough Clerk of the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-238-17 A Resolution Authorizing an Increase of Salary to Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector of the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-239-17 A Resolution Authorizing an Increase of Salary to Frank Zichelli, Borough Administrator and Borough Engineer of the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-247-17 A Resolution Authorizing an Increase of Salary to Mark Deuer, Chief of Police of the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Council President Santomauro stated that this increase is well-deserved and that he was not being compensated commensurately for his experience as compared to other municipalities. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. Chief Deuer thanked the Council.

Finance

Resolution R-241-17 Approval to Pay Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-242-17 A Resolution Approving 2017 Budget Transfers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-243-17 Tax Lien Redemption – Block 703, Lot 7 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Chiaia Collector/Treasurer's Report for November, 2017 was read. Spread in minutes. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Chiaia delivered the North Caldwell Fire Department's Annual Public Safety Report for December 2016 through November 2017. He stated that there were 260 calls for the year of which 83 were fire alarms, 51 carbon monoxide were alarms and 19 were mutual aid provided to other towns. Councilman Chiaia announced the elected officers for 2018 and expressed gratitude for their volunteer service.

Councilman Chiaia delivered the Police Department Public Safety Report for November, 2017. He stated that there were 795 calls to dispatch, 57 traffic violation summonses issued, 86 alarms, 21 medical assists, and seven juvenile incidents. He added that 229 hours of overtime were logged for the month.

Resolution R-240-17 A Resolution Accepting the Memorandum of Agreement with West Essex PBA Local 81 (North Caldwell Unit) and Authorizing the Execution of a Collective Negotiation Agreement Consistent Therewith was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Public Works/Utilities

Council President Santomauro offered the Construction Report for November 2017 which shows an increase of \$34,000 in permit fees over last November.

Council President Santomauro delivered the Recycling Report for November 2017 which noted 773.7 tons of total recycling collected for the month.

Council President Santomauro delivered the Animal Control Report for November 2017 which showed a few missing dogs who were returned to their owners. She recommended microchipping pets for ease of return if they get loose.

Resolution R-248-17 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Township of West Orange for Animal Facility Sheltering Services was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Mr. Zichelli stated that the Borough transferred ferial cats to the Animal Shelter that day.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Report for December 2017 and January 2018. He thanked residents for contributions to the annual toy drive which were donated to the Morristown Medical Center Children's Hospital. Winter programs are under way with 20 children enrolled in the Dr. Stem program and seven participants in Beginner Yoga. Recreation basketball practices are under way with 22 teams from 3rd to 8th grade. The Seniors holiday party was held with holiday songs performed by the Gould School Choir and a "white elephant" gift exchange. The Seniors trip to The Manor was held on December 13 with 35 Seniors in attendance. Councilman Kessler noted that there are 43 participants enrolled in the Ski Club and the first trip is scheduled for January 2, 2018.

Resolution R-244-17 A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipend for 4th of July Fireworks Supervisor – Chris Basile was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-245-17 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Seasonal Employees for 2017-2018 Basketball Season – Scorekeepers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

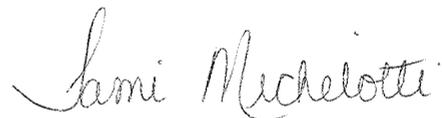
Resolution R-246-17 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Seasonal Employees for 2017-2018 K-2nd Grade Basketball Clinic – Instructors was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Kessler read a letter from Mr. Zichelli addressed to County Executive DiVincenzo regarding the construction of a dog park. Councilman Kessler stated he was hopeful that a dog park would soon be constructed and he thanked Mr. Zichelli for overseeing the project.

Councilman Chiaia offered congratulations to Ashley Nolan for earning her certification from the New Jersey Supreme Court as Certified Municipal Court Administrator.

Council President Santomauro made a motion to return to Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes. The public meeting was recessed at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Acting Borough Clerk