

Conference Meeting June 10, 2014

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 7:38pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Council Members: Council President Cynthia Santomauro, Councilman Frank Astorino, Councilman John Chiaia, Councilwoman Patricia Fost, Councilman Joshua Raymond, Councilman Arthur Rees

Also, present were Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Chief Mark Deuer, and Nancy Pravata, Borough Clerk

David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, arrived at 8:20pm.

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 Mr. Frank Zichelli to lead those present in the salute to the American flag.

#### Citizens to Be Heard

Mayor Alessi opened the floor to the public.

Jody Lazarski, 4 Hillside Avenue – Thanked the Council for reading the letter that was written by all the residents of the street regarding the hazards on Hillside Ave. She would like to see if something can be done regarding the parking, u-turns and speeding on the street.

The Mayor thanked them for coming and that the Council is here to listen and possibly come up with a solution that works for everyone.

Chief Deuer spoke regarding the problems on the street. He said that they have done a survey of the calls that have come in. There are numerous calls that have come in from Hillside Avenue.

Jamie Caruana, 3 Hillside Avenue – She indicated there was an increased problem as the dog groomers have been asked not to have the employees park on Hillside Ave. during the day. The street is not wide enough and they are taking up all of the spaces on the block.

Ken & Mary Anderson, 8 Hillside Avenue – There are signs on the bottom of the street, but they are not big enough for people to see. Their mailbox has been hit several times and has to be replaced. It is worse during the winter with the snow. It does make it a one lane road with cars parked on both sides.

Councilman Rees asked if there were sidewalks on this street. The street is narrower than most streets at 26 feet. Sofia's has arrangements for parking of their patrons at STS.

There was discussion of having permit parking on the street. Mr. Zichelli spoke about the apartments that are above the businesses in the building. Council President Santomauro asked that the Council see the resolutions for the building.

Councilman Chiaia asked if the property values would increase if a cul-du-sac could be created at the end of the block. Is there any need to have an area that is designated as a dog drop off spot?

Hillside has an area on the Little Falls side with a no parking sign.

If a space is open to the public, a sign would be needed to create a time limit.

Chief Deuer believes Little Falls is going to prohibit parking in front of the building.

Council President Santomauro stated that the Council would look into the problem and work on a solution.

No one else came forward.

David M. Paris, Borough Attorney arrived at 8:22pm.

#### Items for Discussion

- A. Dental Plan – Mel Levine explained that MetLife Dental was not increasing their price for the year 2014. We will be staying with MetLife Dental for 2015. We did consider a different plan with Bollinger.
- B. Proposal for “Pudsters” to donate to the Recreation Department - Councilman Raymond explained that Pudsters is a restaurant in West Caldwell. Jenn Gann who is a resident in town is part owner of this restaurant. It was confirmed that Pudsters is out of business as of this time.
- C. Codification Project – David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, explained that it is a big project in that it is a review of everything in the Borough’s Code. The three volumes have been received from the Code Company and memos have been sent out to the staff for their input on different areas of the Code. There is an area that has not been touched since 1973, and that is on gasoline stations. There was a discussion of how the Council wanted to proceed with this chapter; and whether it should be removed from the Code. Council President Santomauro stated that there should be an increase in the fee for licensing the gas station. David M. Paris will review.
- D. Green Acres Application for the purchase of the Walker Property – applications are due at the end of July.
  - (1) Required Public Hearing – schedule for the next conference meeting on July 22, 2014.
  - (2) Resolution will be needed at the next meeting also.
- E. Hillside Avenue Parking – This was discussed during the Citizens to Be Heard.
- F. Condominium Service Act, Four Seasons and Hidden Ridge Developments – Frank Zichelli explained that we have been formally approached by Four Seasons as to when we will start reimbursing them for the roadway maintenance as well as the street lighting. We do provide solid waste directly. He stated he was meeting with the condominium association and will report back as to the outcome of the meeting.

Action to Be Taken

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution R-104-14 - Resolution Approval to Pay Bills in the amount of \$259,098.32 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.
- B. Resolution R-105-14 - Estimated Tax Billing Authorization, 2014 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilwoman Fost. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Ordinances:

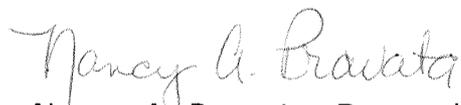
Council President Santomauro introduced Ordinance O-6-14 – An Ordinance to Vacate Birch Avenue in the Borough of North Caldwell. Council President Santomauro moved to pass the Ordinance at first reading, seconded by Councilman Rees, with Councilman Chiaia recusing himself. Said motion was carried unanimously. Council President Santomauro stated that the Final Reading and Public Hearing for this Ordinance would be held on Thursday, June 26, 2014.

Executive Session

Resolution R-106-14 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: Contract Negotiations – Acquisition of Walker’s Pond Property – Personnel (1) Employee Salaries 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 Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia that this meeting be adjourned at 8:45p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Pravata, Borough Clerk