

Conference Meeting August 8, 2017

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 6:30pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Absent: Councilman Astorino

Also, present were David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Mel Levine, Borough Administrator; Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; Francine Paserchia, Borough Clerk – Essex Fells; 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 Francine Paserchia to lead those present in the salute to the American flag.

Citizens to Be Heard

Mr. Josh Leitner and Mr. Jon Rapkin from the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation stated they were present for the discussion on the Turf Field Design.

Items for Discussion

Political Signs – Mr. Paris stated he has researched municipalities limiting signage. If the Borough adopted an ordinance, it would have to pass strict scrutiny as the presumption is against regulation of political expression. Some examples of what could be regulated include size, illumination, and placement on side yards vs. front yard. Regulation needs to be content neutral as citizens have the right to post political signage as execution of free speech. Mr. Paris noted that time limits for erecting and removing signs could be designated for political event signs that have a specific event date, i.e. fundraisers. However, designating the number of days permitted for signage that do not have a specific date might meet challenge.

Mr. Paris noted some area municipalities that have sign regulations: Fairfield has time constraints around signage, West Caldwell has setback requirements and time limitations, Caldwell has size limitations regarding billboards in non-residential zones, Essex Fells has only a general sign ordinance, Montclair has size and illumination limitations, Verona only states that construction permits are not needed, and Roseland has no sign regulations.

Mayor Alessi thanked Mr. Paris for the information. He noted that the last discussion regarding political signs was during the 2001 election and that the Borough has done well policing itself.

Liberty Turf Field Design - Mr. Zichelli presented and reviewed the turf field design display. He stated that the Council-appointed Turf Field Design Committee has met with Suburban Consultants on developing a design that accommodates a number of different sports. One of the existing baseball

diamonds has been rotated to eliminate the visual obstruction caused by the setting sun. The design includes a walking path for all residents to use and enjoy. The walking path was not part of the original concept but was added to make the facility more inclusive for all residents to enjoy. The walking path added \$91,000 to the design, bringing the estimate to approximately \$1.4 million. The path will be concrete which would be more durable than asphalt.

Mr. Raymond stated that the field design will accommodate use for multiple sports including a full-size soccer field, two small soccer fields with portable fence that can be used to separate games, a full-size field hockey field, full-size boys/girls lacrosse field and two baseball diamonds that can accommodate men's softball. Mr. Raymond noted that the design takes spectator areas into consideration and eliminates the need for parents and lawn chairs on the fields. Mr. Rees asked if the concrete curb would be integrated with the walking path. Mr. Zichelli stated that the rubber tracks incorporate the hidden curb of which only six inches are visible.

Mr. Zichelli stated there would be ten foot fencing in some areas for safety. Mr. Paris asked if storage facilities were incorporated into the plan. Mr. Raymond stated they are not part of the initial design for cost reasons but could be worked in later. Mr. Zichelli noted that the DEP could be contacted to obtain a wetlands permit and if more open space was available, a storage facility could possibly be accommodated.

Mr. Leitner from the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation noted that the design estimate of \$1.4 million is down from the original \$1.9 million estimate. He stated that the committee is maximizing the design within the budget but has opportunities such as paver donations to raise additional funds. Mr. Leitner noted that the pavers are intentionally being offered closer to the launch of the field installation.

Mr. Zichelli stated that construction could start next August as it could take one year to get all of the required permits and to finalize the design and go out to bid. The construction itself is estimated at three months. Mr. Raymond noted the plan is to have the field ready for use in Spring of 2019.

Councilman Kessler asked if adjustment to the current lighting facilities will be required as there may be a cost saving if electric poles do not need to be moved. Mr. Zichelli noted it may be necessary to adjust some fixtures and move poles.

Councilman Raymond added that the next phase could include concession stand/patio and restroom improvements. Councilman Rees asked if additional bonding could be requested if needed. Mr. Zichelli stated that a supplemental bond ordinance may be an option but estimates are required before going out to bid. Councilman Rees asked if a scoreboard was part of the design. Councilman Raymond noted that a scoreboard could be an opportunity for sponsorship. He stated that offering field use to teams outside of the Borough could help offset costs.

Mr. Zichelli stated that the turf would be rubber and sand which was chosen over cork which is more costly per square yard. Mr. Leitner added that the estimates received for cork were very varied and this was a concession they made to keep expenses within budget. Mr. Zichelli noted that there will be a total of 84,660 square feet of turf.

Mr. Chiaia asked if there was any plan to integrate the walking path into the existing path in the adjacent wooded area. Mr. Zichelli stated that one of

the existing gates could be moved to allow access to the nature trail that leads over the brook from the field.

Mayor Alessi added that the path is great way to integrate the use of the field design for use by the whole community and thanked the Committee for their hard work.

Adopt A Spot RFPs - Mr. Zichelli stated that Councilman Kessler noted the traffic triangles in the Borough needed some landscaping and maintenance. He stated that it is a labor-intensive task and suggested that the Borough adopt a program similar to other municipalities like Mendham and West Orange that have sponsors to assume the landscaping of those areas. Mr. Zichelli stated that the Borough could accept landscaper interest/RFPs on a first-come, first-served basis. Mayor Alessi suggested a resolution be drafted. Mr. Zichelli noted that an opportunity to seek interest could be when landscapers come in for licenses in response to the new ordinance up for approval.

Payment to Green Brook Country Club - Mayor Alessi stated that Green Brook Country Club requests payment in full seven to ten days before the Mayor's Ball event. Council President added that the deposit has already been paid. Mayor Alessi stated he would review the contract to verify that the full payment is due prior to the event as many attendees may wait until the last few days to send in the money.

Mayor Alessi reminded everyone to support the North Caldwell Police Foundation by buying tickets to the fundraising concert to be held on August 26 at Montclair State University. Chief Deuer stated that tickets could be purchased online starting at \$75 and that over 300 tickets have been sold so far.

NJDOT Grant Application - Mr. Zichelli stated that the State has invited the Borough to submit a grant application for roadway improvements. He noted that the grant money could be used for the repaving of Roosevelt Avenue and either Brookside Terrace or Deer Trail Road.

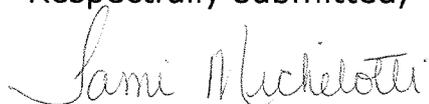
Executive Session

Resolution R-158-17 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Litigation (1) COAH Declaratory Judgment; B. Contract Negotiations; C. Personnel (1) DPW (2) Borough Clerk (3) NJLM was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Re-opened to Public Meeting at 7:46pm.

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 7:47pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, Deputy Clerk