

The Conference & Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:44pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Present: Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Raymond, Councilman Rees

Absent: Councilman Chiaia

Also present were: David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer and Nancy Bretzger, 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 Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor stated he hopes everyone is looking forward to the town picnic scheduled for Saturday, September 10. The following day, September 11, there will be a ceremony commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Trade Center attack. As in the past, the ceremony will be outside Borough Hall beginning at 8:46am.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

John Rapkin – 35 Willowbrook Drive, North Caldwell

Josh Lightner – 4 Coventry Lane, North Caldwell

Mr. Rapkin commented on how nice the refurbished tennis courts look. He then spoke about the Recreation Foundation and Recreation Committee's meeting regarding the proposals received for conducting a field study. He stated they have decided to use Petry Engineering, as their proposal seems to cover everything the Foundation is looking for. The study should take approximately six weeks. The Foundation is hoping for the results of the study by the beginning of October. Following the results of the study, the Recreation Foundation would like to have a town hall meeting to address any questions the residents may have. The Recreation Foundation would then like to address the Mayor and Council with how they would like to move forward. Mr. Lightner stated that the decision for the Recreation Committee to fund the study and hire Petry Engineering was unanimous.

Mr. Rapkin spoke about Beth Tanelli's upcoming Zombie 5K Run and Kids Fun Run scheduled for October 29. There will be a website up and running soon to sign up and/or donate online.

Mayor Alessi thanked both Mr. Rapkin and Mr. Lightner and said the Council is looking forward to the study results.

Asmeret Ghebremicael, County Liaison, spoke about the dedication to the 9/11 search and rescue dogs at the Eagle Rock Reservation 9/11 Memorial on August 17 at 12noon. The 9/11 Memorial at the Eagle Rock Reservation is scheduled for Sunday, September 11. The memorial will begin at 8:00am. There will be several guest speakers commemorating this event. Tuesday, September 27 is Senior Wellness Day at Cody Arena. This event is free for all seniors. Councilman Rees asked about the County correspondence that the Borough receives. He would like to know if the information could be emailed rather than distributed via regular mail. Asmeret said she will look into this and see if that is an option. Councilman Rees

also questioned the county tax rate increase of 72.22%. He asked if she would verify that number and let him know and the Council know at the next meeting.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

5 Year Plan – Department of Public Works – This was tabled to the next Conference meeting in September.

Police Department – Communication System – Chief Deuer stated there are areas in North Caldwell and Essex Fells where officers are unable to communicate with headquarters when out of their vehicles. Vehicle to headquarters communication is not a problem. The issue is with the handheld radios communicating with headquarters. They currently rely on cell phone communication. A state contracted vendor has been contacted. The vendor has begun the preliminary stages of designing a system that they believe would meet the Borough's needs. The upgrade is expensive, but necessary. The cost of the upgrade should be shared by Essex Fells.

100% Disabled Veteran – Exempting from Property Taxes Refunds – Borough Attorney, David Paris stated the research indicates that reimbursement for prior taxes is up to the discretion of the Governing Body. Mr. Paris stated the Council needs to develop a policy on how they would like to address this issue going forward. Mayor Alessi stated Disabled Veteran, Mr. Milder, has been in contact with him stating he has documentation that would require previously paid taxes reimbursed. The Council decided to postpone any decision until they have the opportunity to review this documentation.

### **MINUTES**

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference and Regular Meeting of July 26, 2016, seconded by Councilman Astorino with Councilman Kessler abstaining. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of July 26, 2016, seconded by Councilman Astorino with Councilman Kessler abstaining. Said motion was carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **LEGAL AND ORDINANCE**

Council President Santomauro moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-9-16 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell with Respect to Traffic Regulations Effecting Borough Schools, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting was open to the public.

Mr. Projansky, North Caldwell Board of Education President, 4 Arbor Road. Mr. Projansky thanked the Mayor and Council, Police Chief Deuer, Borough Administrator, Mel Levine and Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli for all their efforts in helping to keep our children safe, especially during the school year. He stated he hopes this is the beginning on an ongoing dialogue between the Council and Board of Education. He looks forward to continuing fostering this relationship that has been built over the years.

Seeing no one else from the public coming forward, Council President Santomauro moved to Close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-9-16 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell with Respect to Traffic Regulations Effecting Borough Schools, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to Adopt Ordinance O-9-16-An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell with Respect to Traffic Regulations Effecting Borough Schools, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro introduced Ordinance O-10-16 – An Ordinance Authorizing A Special Emergency Appropriation for Master Plan Reexamination and Map Upgrades. Council President Santomauro moved to pass the Ordinance at first reading, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously. Council President Santomauro stated that the Public Hearing for this ordinance will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

Resolution R-140-16 – Resolution for Renewal of Membership in the Morris County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund January 1, 2017 – January 1, 2020 was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-154-16 - A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Municipay Merchant Processing Terms and Agreement with Municipay D/B/A Nationwide Payments Solutions, LLC was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

#### PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Resolution R-141-16 - Authorization to Hire Additional Seasonal Employees for 2016 – Municipal Pool was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-142-16 - Acceptance of Resignation of Crossing Guard – Raymond Smith was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Council President Santomauro read the Police Department Public Safety Report for July 2016 in Councilman Chiaia absence. There were 900 calls to dispatch for the month. Council President Santomauro spoke about North Caldwell being named the eighth safest town in New Jersey and the only one in Essex County. She also reminded residents to keep your cars in the driveway locked.

#### FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of July 2016 of \$2,636,294.09 in taxes, \$102,664.30 for water and \$34,068.33 for the pool. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-143-16 – Approval to Pay Bills in the amount of \$5,426,367.31 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-144-16 – Resolution Exempting Property Owned by Disabled Veteran From Taxation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 – Eugene Jarvis was read. Tabled until next meeting.

Resolution R-145-16 - Resolution Authorizing Refund of Taxes Previously Paid to the Borough of North Caldwell by Robert Milder. Tabled until next meeting.

Resolution R-146-16 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of Taxes Previously Paid to the Borough of North Caldwell by Eugene J. Jarvis. Tabled until next meeting.

Resolution R-147-16 – Tax Lien Redemption, Block 1108, Lot 10 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-148-16 – Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-149-16 – Approval of 2015 Corrective Action Plan was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES

Councilman Kessler read the Construction Report for July 2016. There were 36 permits issued for the month. For the month, a total of \$18,571.16 was collected. A year-to-date total of permits issued were 306 at a cost of \$109,975.00.

Councilman Kessler offered the Recycling Report. Total recycling waste for the month was 65.04 tons, of which 37.73 tons was paper and 27.67 tons was comingled. Year-to-date recycling is 430.61 tons, which does not include the month of June. The recycling total has increased over 2014 and 2015.

Councilman Kessler read the Animal Control Report for July 2016. There were ten calls for the month. This includes two summons issued, one warning, three animals which needed removal, one animal bite and one quarantine.

Resolution R-150-16 – Authorization to Enter Into An Interlocal Service Agreement with the Township of Fairfield for the Composting of Leaves was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

#### RECREATION

Councilman Raymond offered the Recreation Report. He thanked all those involved who helped with the Municipay project. He feels this service is needed by the Borough in order to have residents pay all municipal bills online.

Councilman Raymond spoke about Summer Fun which enjoyed another successful season. Senior swim days at the town pool are every Wednesday. Seniors are welcome to use the facility for free. Pool memberships for 2016 are up 13% from 2015. There are currently 410 memberships.

West Essex Cowboys Football and Cheerleading practices begin mid-August. The first pep rally is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7 at 6:00pm.

The town picnic is scheduled for September 10 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm at the North Caldwell Pool. Soccerfest is scheduled for September 24 beginning with a parade at 9:00am. Senior Fitness begins September 27.

Councilman Raymond wanted to remind residents again of the 5K Zombie Run and Fun Run for Kids scheduled for October 29. It should be a fun time for all.

Resolution R-151-16 - Authorization to Hire Additional Seasonal Employees for 2016 Baseball/Softball Season Umpires and Officials was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-152-16 - A Resolution Allowing (Firm) Access to Borough Fields and Facilities was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution R-153-16 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes – A. Contract Negotiations – (1) Traffic Signal Cost Sharing Agreement (2) Caldwell Sewer Utility (3) Walker’s Pond – Environmental Issues  
B. Litigation (1) COAH Declaratory Judgment C. Means and Methods of Public Safety Enforcement and Investigation – Stepping Ridge Condominium Association, Inc. was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

The Public Meeting was re-opened at 8:27pm.

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 Astorino that this meeting be adjourned at 8:29pm. This motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk