

The Conference & Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 6:49 pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Absent: Councilman Kessler

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 Jeremiah Murnane to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor welcomed North Caldwell's new County Liaison, Asmeret Ghebremicael. He also spoke about the new AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) that was installed at the pool and town hall. There will be a safety meeting for employees regarding use of this equipment. Movies at the pool are in full swing. Refurbishing of the tennis courts will begin soon. The Mayor thanked the Recreation Department for all they have done in helping to increase pool membership this year.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Richard Verde, 8 Hickory Drive – Mr. Verde spoke about Elm Road now being completely paved.

He spoke about political signs he has seen on various lawns. He feels it is too soon to display signs and an ordinance should be in place addressing this issue. Some towns have ordinances that allow signs to be displayed 30 days before an election and removed within five days after an election. He feels an ordinance such as this should be in place in North Caldwell.

He spoke about the website not being properly updated. The date and time for the Council meeting were incorrect. Borough Clerk, Nancy Bretzger, explained that it was correct on the town calendar which is also on the website. He stated it should be correct on both sites as residents may not know to look on the website calendar.

Mr. Verde inquired as to when Grandview and Central Avenues will be paved. Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli, stated the county has put it on the schedule for sometime this summer.

Mr. Verde asked whether a new municipal prosecutor has been named for North Caldwell. The Council explained they are coordinating efforts with Essex Fells and a new prosecutor has not been named yet.

Lastly, he spoke about town residents being informed of when and where deer culling will take place. He feels it should be done via the internet and/or a reverse 911 call. This should be done so that parents are informed as children may not always pay attention to signs that are posted.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Jeremiah Murnane, North Caldwell Boy Scout – Jeremiah Murnane showed pictures to the Mayor and Council regarding his upcoming Eagle Scout project. He is proposing the refurbishment of the Veteran’s Memorial located outside of Borough Hall. His plan is to replace the light fixture that lights the American flag, level out the pathway and add a handrail, trim the bushes for increased visibility, plant flowers and possibly add more light fixtures. He also proposed cleaning and resealing the WWI memorial and replacing the Plexiglas on the WWII Memorial. He would like to incorporate a pathway leading from the main memorial to the WWII Memorial while adding a smaller plaque for Army Sgt. Derek McConnell who was a North Caldwell resident killed as a result of injuries suffered in Afghanistan. Jeremiah said that his goal is to have a rededication of the Memorial on Veteran’s Day. Councilman Rees said he has seen a few of the Eagle Scout projects and feels that this is one of the best projects he has seen. Mr. Chiaia asked where the funding would be coming from. Jeremiah stated that he would be asking for donations from the community and local businesses. He will be asking Boy Scouts from his troop to volunteer their time in helping with the project. The Mayor and Council gave Jeremiah their approval for his generous time and effort to refurbish the Borough’s Veteran’s Memorial.

Recreation – (1) Retaining Firm for Feasibility Study regarding recreational facilities – Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, stated that at the last few meetings there were some parents requesting some improvements on the athletic fields in the Borough. At the last meeting, Mr. Zichelli stated that he was directed to obtain two proposals from engineering consulting firms to create a master plan for the athletic fields and Walker’s Pond. He stated he is in receipt of two proposals. Councilman Raymond stated that the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation would like a third proposal. They would like this proposal to be conducted by a land tech group from New York. He also stated that the Foundation has voted and unanimously agreed to completely or partially fund the cost of the study. Councilman Raymond suggested that at the August meeting there be a resolution to approve an engineering firm to perform the study. There was discussion amongst the Council as to where the funds should be coming from, i.e. the Foundation, the Borough or to share the cost. The Mayor and Council asked Mr. Paris to prepare a general resolution for the August meeting if it is decided that the Borough is to acquire the services of the Consulting Firm to perform the study.

(2) Potential guidelines for donations (field naming, structure naming, i.e. tennis courts, snack bar, scoreboard, field signage at Fireman’s Field, etc.) – Councilman Raymond stated this stems from the same group as to what level of monies is needed to rename fields. The question was raised as to whether this was required to bid. Mr. Paris stated that he will do some research as to whether or not other municipalities have done naming rights by bid or donation.

(3) Potential guidelines on what the Borough might consider including in next year’s budget and does that depend on how much can be raised by donations and/or grants – It was discussed that this will be determined after review of the consultant’s study.

Engineering – (1) Map Updates (2) Master Plan Re-examination– Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer explained that the tax maps and utility maps need to be updated and have the Master Plan re-examined. He has included the cost of these items in his budget for this year. When he spoke to the Borough’s CFO, Richard Mondelli, he feels that it is better to go out for an Emergency Appropriation for the \$25,000.00 and pay \$5,000.00 each year over the next five years, instead of it all coming out of the budget this year. He also stated that the Master Plan Re-examination is required by the state every six years. The Borough was given a reprieve over seven years ago when the state changed it to every ten years, but the Borough is still behind schedule. The Mayor and Council discussed and decided that there will be an Ordinance at the next meeting for the Emergency Appropriation.

Traffic Issues/Concerns – Councilman Chiaia explained that the Public Safety Committee which consists of himself, Councilman Kessler and Councilman Raymond along with Police Chief Deuer and Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli, met with the Board of Education to discuss the new fall bussing schedules. It was decided to make some changes to the parking along Knollwood Avenue. Parking will be prohibited on Knollwood Avenue during the hours of 8:30am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 3:30pm while Gould School is in session. U-Turns will be prohibited along Gould Avenue and Hamilton Drive East. There is an ordinance being introduced later during the meeting for these changes so that it can be adopted at the next meeting before the school year begins. This will ensure that proper signage can be installed along the roadways informing residents of these changes.

Permanently Disabled Veteran – Real Estate Taxes – There was discussion regarding when a permanently disabled veteran should receive a tax refund. The Council questioned whether the Borough is responsible for refunding the resident from the date the Borough was notified of the disability or from the date the government declares the resident 100% disabled. The Mayor and Council asked Mr. Paris, Borough Attorney, to do some research to see if there is a Federal Statute stating what the Borough would be responsible for.

MINUTES

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 28, 2016, seconded by Councilman Chiaia with Councilman Astorino abstaining. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of June 28, 2016, seconded by Councilman Chiaia with Councilman Astorino abstaining. Said motion was passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL AND ORDINANCE

Council President Santomauro introduced 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. 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, August 16, 2016.

Resolution R-131-16 – Resolution for Place-to-Place Transfer (Extension of Premises) was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond with Councilman Rees recusing himself. Said motion was passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Resolution R-132-16 Authorization to Hire Additional Seasonal Employees for 2016 – Municipal Pool was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution R-133-16 Authorization to Hire Additional Seasonal Employees for 2016 – Summer Fun was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Chiaia read the Police Department Public Safety Report for June 2016. During the month of June, the Police Department received 992 dispatch calls. Seventy- nine moving violation tickets were issued. The Detective Bureau reported

five motor vehicle accidents. There were 15 calls from residents and 14 calls from outside agencies requiring assistance. There were 130 hours of overtime and 100 hours of outside overtime for PSE&G and West Essex.

Councilman Chiaia read the Fire Department Public Safety Report for June 2016. There were 14 calls received for the month. There was one mutual aid call from Fairfield to assist with a fire. The Annual Pancake Breakfast was a big success. The Fire Department held a wet down for the third graders on June 1.

FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of June 2016 of \$817,115.22 in taxes, \$102,596.78 for water and \$80,557.36 for the pool. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution R-134-16 – Approval to Pay Bills in the amount of \$2,768,658.35 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution R-135-16 – Cancellation of Capital Appropriation Balances Approval was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution R-136-16 - Resolution Authorizing Refund of Taxes Previously Paid to the Borough of North Caldwell by Robert Milder was Tabled due to the previous discussion during the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES

Mayor Alessi asked Councilman Chiaia to present the reports in Councilman Kessler's absence. Councilman Chiaia stated that Councilman Kessler was not here tonight due to a business trip and he read the Construction Report for June 2016. There were 51 permits and four updates issued for the month. Cost of construction for the month was \$1,940.00; cost of alteration, \$539,081.85; and cost of demolition \$1,500.00. Total fees collected for the month were \$14,069.00 with a year-to-date total of \$91,404.00.

Resolution R-137-16 - Treatment Works Permit Application, Preliminary Major Subdivision Block 101, Lot 3, Hilltop at Essex County Parcel 3 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution R-138-16 - Award 2016 Roadway Improvement Project was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was passed unanimously.

RECREATION

Councilman Raymond offered the Recreation Report. Summer Fun is underway with 176 children enrolled. The program has a couple of weeks remaining with the Talent Show scheduled for August 1. Senior swim days at the town pool are every Wednesday. Seniors are welcome to use the pool all day free of charge. The pool is enjoying a great season. There are currently 408 memberships which is an increase of 12.5% from 2015. The free Wi-Fi has been a huge success thanks to the help of Detective Michael Credico. On August 3, the Fairfield Library will be sponsoring Musical Story Time at the pool from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

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The tennis court renovation project has begun. All six courts will feature new blue and green colored court surfaces. Weather permitting, the project should take approximately two weeks.

The North Caldwell Swim Team has 45 boys and girls participating. Youth Swim School has 21 participants and summer youth tennis has 40 boys and girls participating.

Important upcoming events are Movies at the Pool scheduled for July 28 and August 4. DJ Splash Jam Pool Party is Friday, August 5 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The Town Picnic is scheduled for September 10 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm at the pool.

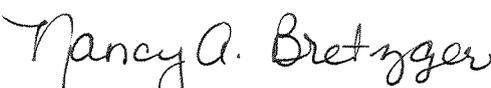
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-139-16 - 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 (2) LaSerra Farms was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was passed unanimously.

The Public Meeting was re-opened at 9:48pm.

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 9:50pm. This motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk