

Mayor and Council Reorganization Meeting – January 5, 2021

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. The meeting began at 7:01pm at Borough Hall.

Mayor Alessi called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975. He provided a statement regarding the conduct of the teleconference which would allow members of the public to participate and be heard during public comment.

Mayor Alessi asked Councilmen Elect Matt Atlas and Anthony Floria-Callori to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Alessi congratulated the new Council members and looked forward to a successful year ahead.

Certification of Results of November 3, 2020 General Election – Matthew J. Atlas

Borough Clerk Tami Michelotti presented the Certification of Results of the November 3, 2020 General Election wherein it is stated that Matthew J. Atlas was duly elected as Council Member to a three-year term to expire December 31, 2023.

Joshua Raymond, Esq., former Borough Councilman, administered the Oath of Office to Matthew J. Atlas. Councilman Atlas expressed his appreciation to his family, Mr. Raymond and campaign volunteers for their encouragement, dedication and support. He thanked former Council President Santomauro and Councilman Chiaia for their commitment and service to the community. He looked forward to working with the Mayor and Council and starting to work on Borough issues and foster continued civic engagement.

Certification of Results of November 3, 2020 General Election – Anthony Floria-Callori

Borough Clerk Tami Michelotti presented the Certification of Results of the November 3, 2020 General Election wherein it is stated that Anthony Floria-Callori was duly elected as Council Member to a three-year term to expire December 31, 2023.

The Honorable SallyAnne Floria administered the Oath of Office to Anthony Floria-Callori. Councilman Floria-Callori expressed his appreciation to his mother, his family, election campaign volunteers and also the residents of North Caldwell for their votes and trust in him. He noted the challenges before him and committed to working hard to accomplish the Borough's goals.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Alessi, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Atlas, Councilman Floria-Callori, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Rees, and Councilman Tilton.

Also present were: Mr. Mark Semeraro, Esq., Borough Attorney; Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor's Annual Address

Mayor Alessi reflected on the challenges of the prior year including the COVID-19 pandemic and Tropical Storm Isaias. He reported the progress of the Walker's Pond restoration. He thanked former Councilman Chiaia for his dedication to the pond project and his continued service through the Walker's Pond Conservancy. He highlighted some of the successes and advances made in 2020. He announced the retirements of John D'Ascensio, Fire Chief/OEM Coordinator/Fire Official, and Michael Mautone, Police Officer. Mayor Alessi congratulated the incoming Councilmen and thanked the outgoing Council members for their dedication to the Borough.

Election of Council President

Councilman Rees nominated Councilman Astorino for Council President noting his dedication and stating that he is most qualified for the position of Council President. He made a motion to elect Councilman Astorino as Council President for the year 2021, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Council President Astorino stated his appreciation for the nomination and noted that he was inspired with energy and innovation for the future.

Council Committee Designations by Council President

Council President Astorino noted the unique talents of each Council person and announced the following committee appointments:

Legal Ordinance: Councilman Atlas (Chair), Council President Astorino, Councilman Tilton

Personnel: Councilman Floria-Callori (Chair), Councilman Atlas, Councilman Kessler

Finance: Council President Astorino (Chair), Councilman Rees, Councilman Tilton

Public Safety: Councilman Tilton (Chair), Councilman Floria-Callori, Councilman Kessler

Public Works: Councilman Rees (Chair), Councilman Atlas, Councilman Floria-Callori

Recreation: Councilman Kessler (Chair), Council President Astorino, Councilman Rees

The need for a Technology Committee was discussed. The Council decided to combine Technology with Personnel. Council President Astorino made a motion to accept the appointments, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Action to be Taken

Councilman Tilton made a motion to accept the following resolutions, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-1-2021 A Resolution Accepting the Retirement of John D’Ascensio – Fire Prevention Official, Fire Sub-Code Official, OEM Coordinator
- Resolution R-2-2021 A Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Police Department Dispatcher

Mayoral Appointments of Professional Services:

Mayor Alessi stated that a Request for Qualifications was issued for annual professional services. He added that submissions were reviewed in preparation of the appointments. The following resolutions were moved in one motion by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-3-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Borough Attorney – Mark Semeraro, Esq. of Kaufman, Semeraro and Leibman
- Resolution R-4-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Borough Auditor – Joseph Faccione of Samuel Klein and Co.
- Resolution R-5-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Bond Counsel – John Draikiwicz, Esq. of Gibbons PC
- Resolution R-6-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Special Counsel – Affordable Housing – Erik Nolan, Esq. of Surenian, Edwards and Nolan
- Resolution R-7-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Labor Attorney – Mark Semeraro, Esq. of Kaufman, Semeraro and Leibman
- Resolution R-9-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Borough Planner – Joseph Burgis of Burgis Associates
- Resolution R-10-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Borough Engineer – Paul Ferriero, PE of Ferriero Engineering, Inc.
- Resolution R-12-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Water Superintendent and Water Operator – MJG Associates, LLC
- Resolution R-13-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Grant Writing Consultant – Millennium Strategies, LLC

Mr. Semeraro noted that the award of Special Labor Council Services as per Resolution R-8-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Award of Discretionary Contract for Special Labor Counsel Services was outside of the scope of the RFQ process as it pertains to a limited engagement for continuity of collective bargaining negotiations. He noted that the contract award was for professional services valued at less than \$17,500. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Mayoral Appointments of Municipal Officials:

The following resolutions were moved in one motion by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-14-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Stormwater Coordinator – Kevin O’Sullivan
- Resolution R-16-2021 A Resolution Appointing a Fire Prevention Official for 2021 –2023 – Vincent Marciano
- Resolution R-17-2021 A Resolution Appointing a Fire Sub-Code Official – Richard Schopperth
- Resolution R-18-2021 A Resolution Appointing an Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator – Mark Deuer
- Resolution R-19-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Crossing Guards – Stephen Lerner and Anthony DiStasi

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Mayoral Appointments to the Planning Board:

Mayor Alessi announced the Planning Board appointments as follows:

Class II Member – Kevin O’Sullivan – One-year term to expire December 31, 2021

Class IV Regular Member - Scott Fishbone – Four-year term to expire December 31, 2024

Class IV Regular Member – Carl Spinelli – Four-year term to expire December 31, 2024

Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Mayoral Appointments with Council Consent:

Camp Wyanokie Commission

Mayor Alessi announced the North Caldwell appointees to the Camp Wyanokie Commission as follows:

John Chiaia - One year term to expire December 31, 2021

Anthony Prinzo - One year term to expire December 31, 2021

Council Appointments to Public Bodies:

Planning Board

Class III Regular Member – Art Rees – One-year term to expire December 31, 2021

Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Regular Member – Herschel Salan - Four-year term to expire December 31, 2024

Regular Member – Paul Sceppaguercio - Four-year term to expire December 31, 2024

First Alternate Member – Ankur Kumar - Two-year term to expire December 31, 2022

Second Alternate Member – David Spindler - Two-year term to expire December 31, 2022

Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Consent Agenda

The following items were moved as one motion by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion passed unanimously with six affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-20-2021 A Resolution Establishing the Annual Schedule of Meetings for the Year 2021

- Resolution R-21-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Banking Depositories for the Year 2021

- Resolution R-22-2021 A Resolution Designating Official Newspapers for the Year 2021

- Resolution R-23-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of Petty Cash Funds for the Year 2021

- Resolution R-24-2021 A Resolution Adopting a Temporary Budget for the Year 2021

- Resolution R-25-2021 A Resolution Appointing a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) for the Year 2021 – Kevin O’Sullivan

- Resolution R-26-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Fund Commissioner and an Alternate Fund Commissioner – Kevin O’Sullivan and Tami Michelotti

- Resolution R-27-2021 A Resolution Appointing a Representative to the Essex County Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) – Kevin O’Sullivan

- Resolution R-28-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Officers and Officials for the North Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Association for the Year 2021

- Resolution R-29-2021 A Resolution Appointing a Community Development Representative and Alternate for 2021 – Kevin O’Sullivan and Tami Michelotti

- Resolution R-30-2021 A Resolution Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Assessments or Municipal Liens or Other Charges

- Resolution R-31-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Specific Payments That Can Be Made Outside of a Meeting

- Resolution R-32-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contracts for Recreation Programs Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3(a)

Councilman Atlas noted past conflicts in meeting scheduled with the North Caldwell Board of Education. He asked that schedules be coordinated to allow for civic engagement at meetings of both public bodies. He asked for clarification of the temporary budget. Council President Astorino reviewed the purpose until the annual municipal budget is adopted.

Mr. Semeraro reviewed the annual notice of meetings requirement. He confirmed that the Borough Administration was working on a coordinated schedule with the Board of Education. Mayor Alessi noted that the Borough schedules Mayor and Council, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Municipal Court meetings throughout each month which makes a schedule change difficult. Councilman Kessler added that the Board of Education changed their schedule in recent years which now conflict with the

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Borough's meeting schedule. Councilman Atlas noted the increased attendance by the public since virtual meetings have been instituted. Councilman Tilton suggested that meetings start earlier in the evening.

Citizens To Be Heard

Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce

Council President Astorino thanked Assemblywoman DeCroce for attending the meeting.

Assemblywoman DeCroce congratulated the new council members and Council President Astorino. She wished all a happy new year and offered her assistance and that of her staff.

Mr. Semeraro noted that Assemblyman Jay Webber was present earlier in the meeting but had to depart and sends his regards.

Jann Skelton – 17 Spruce Road

Ms. Skelton stated that she was present as a private citizen and not as a representative of the West Essex Board of Education. She noted that the mayoral and council appointments were all male and asked that women be considered for future appointments.

Councilman Rees congratulated and welcomed Councilman Atlas and Councilman Floria-Callori on behalf of the Council.

Mayor Alessi announced the dates and times of the January conference and regular meetings.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:09pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk