

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting – January 29, 2019

The Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:33pm.

Council President Santomauro called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

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

Absent: Mayor Alessi

Also present were: Ms. Katie Forman, Esq. in lieu of Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney, who joined the meeting in progress; Frank Zichelli, Borough Administrator/Engineer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Council President Santomauro asked Councilman Astorino to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

Council President Santomauro stated that Mayor Alessi was not feeling well and the Mayor's Report would be tabled until the next meeting.

Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Jon Rapkin – 35 Willowbrook Drive

Mr. Rapkin from the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation announced a fundraiser planned by the Foundation to coincide with the opening Liberty Turf Field. He stated that commemorative brick pavers were being sold that would line the entrance to the turf field. He added that \$27,000 was raised to date for the 130 bricks sold. Mr. Rapkin noted that 200 pavers is the goal and that the deadline to order is January 31 2019. He thanked for the Council for their support and expressed his excitement for the project and the grand opening.

Mr. Paul Scagnelli – 7 Stony Brook Drive

Mr. Scagnelli asked for an update on the mediation with Pulte Homes. Council President Santomauro stated that mediation is ongoing with a second meeting planned for February 4, 2019. She added that the confidential meetings cannot be detailed for the public at this time. Mr. Scagnelli requested that residents be given the opportunity for discussion with the Council prior to the finalization of a settlement agreement. Council President Santomauro confirmed that the public is always welcome to provide input during open session and that any such agreement would be discussed in open session prior to a vote by the Council.

Mr. Scagnelli asked for the results of the Glenview Road culvert drainage study. Mr. Zichelli stated that the Mayor and Council were provided the report for discussion in that evening's closed session meeting. Mr. Scagnelli asked that the residents be given opportunity to provide feedback prior to any action taken as a result of the study.

Mr. Scagnelli stated that a resident of Glenview Avenue who could not be present has asked that the Borough continue to monitor the accumulation of ice on the road. Mr. Zichelli stated that the DPW continues to monitor and salt the ice. He added that the ice is a result of two properties which have sump pumps discharging into the street contrary to Borough ordinance. He noted that the residents agreed to redirect the sump pump flow once the weather is less cold. Mr. Zichelli noted that the residents stated that the sump pumps were in place two years ago, before the Hilltop construction had begun.

Bernie Doyle – 31 Glenview Road

Mr. Doyle stated that a power line that was installed eight days prior which feeds into the Pulte construction site is lying on the ground across his lawn. Mr. Zichelli offered to call Pulte to contact the utility company to expedite the completion of the work and removal of the wire.

Dan Gallagher – 36 Ferndale Road

Mr. Gallagher asked if the berm discussed at the last meeting was installed. Mr. Zichelli stated that he reminded Pulte to act on it and would be meeting with Mr. Rossi of Pulte to direct the berm's location. Mr. Gallagher stated that the berm was addressed with the Planning Board and approved by Pulte's engineering firm. Mr. Zichelli noted that this is actually a swale to catch water off of the original berm.

Fire Chief John D'Ascensio

Chief D'Ascensio stated that he checked with on the grant availability for the retro-fitting of the Fire Department air packs. He verified the March 25, 2019 deadline for the grant funding. He noted that the date already reflects a time extension and that no further extension would be permitted. Councilman Chiaia added that the retro-fitting would save the Borough \$50,000 as opposed to buying new.

Councilman Chiaia stated that Councilman Raymond's daughter and her friends would like to create a magnet as a fundraiser for the Volunteer Fire Department.

Approval of Minutes

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting and Executive Session of November 7, 2018, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was passed unanimously with six votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of November 20, 2018, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was passed unanimously with six votes.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Public Hearing for Ordinance O-1-19

Councilman Raymond moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-1-19 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Hearing no further comment from the Governing Body and seeing no one from the public come forward, Councilman Raymond moved to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-1-19 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Councilman Raymond moved to Adopt Ordinance O-1-19 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Personnel/Administration

Resolution R-15-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract for Risk Management Consulting Services was tabled until after further discussion in Executive Session. Council Presidents Santomauro stated that the matter required discussion in Executive Session, after which the Council would return to the public meeting to take any action.

Resolution R-33-19 A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipends to Certain Borough Employees for Personal Cell Phone Usage for Municipal Purposes was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-32-19 A Resolution Appointing Tami Michelotti as Borough Clerk was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Finance

Councilman Astorino made a motion to Accept the Tax Collector's Report for December 2018, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-34-19 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting – January 29, 2019

Resolution R-35-19 A Resolution Approving 2018 Budget Transfers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-36-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Redemption and Cancellation of Record of Tax Lien Redemption, Block 600, Lot 2 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-37-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract for Tax Appeal, Tax Appraisal, and Added Assessment Inspection Services was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Chiaia offered the Year End 2018 Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports. He stated that there were 10,763 calls made to dispatch for the year from North Caldwell residents. There were an additional 8,000 from Essex Fells handled by dispatch as well.

Councilman Chiaia offered the Fire Department Public Safety Report for December 2018. He stated that there were fifteen 15 responses in January with no fires or injuries.

Public Works

Council President Santomauro offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for December 2018. She noted the total fees collected in 2018 equaled \$247,565.

Council President Santomauro offered the Solid Waste Collection Report for December and as well as for the year-end 2018. She noted consistency in the volume of recycling. She commended the public's interest in recycling.

Council President Santomauro offered the Animal Control Report for December 2018. She noted a bat that was caught and tested with confirmation that it had rabies.

Resolution R-38-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for Storm Drain Repair. Mr. Zichelli noted that the repair was necessary due to a collapsed corrugated pipe which caused flooding in Lindsley Heights during the August rain storm. He stated that an entire tree was wedged in the pipe which necessitated replacement of a section of the pipe. Mr. Zichelli noted that quotes were received for this repair and the quotes fell under the bid threshold. He added that the services would be performed by the Martin Contracting who submitted the lower of the two quotes. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Councilman Rees abstained. Said motion was carried with five votes and one abstention.

Councilman Chiaia added that complaints of flowing water and mud on Birchwood Road have decreased. Mr. Zichelli noted that the developer working on Birchwood Road installed drainage as promised which has rectified the flow of water.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Director's Report for January/February 2019. He noted that recreation and travel basketball seasons were nearing playoff games. The next Seniors meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2019. Upcoming registrations for baseball, softball, track/field and Summer Fun were announced. He added that the Spring Spectacular and Egg Hunt was scheduled for April 16, 2019.

Councilman Kessler opened discussion of recreation program fee adjustments for 2019. Mr. Zichelli noted that the increases must be approved by resolution and that the Recreation Department needs to begin advertising the proposed increases as soon as possible. Mr. Kessler noted the proposal and announced that a vote should be taken at the next meeting. He welcomed any input of the Council.

Resolution R-39-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2018-2019 Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Basketball Clinic Instructors was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-40-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Contract Negotiations: (1) Risk Management Consultant, (2) Beachmont Terrace Storm Drain Repair; B. Anticipated Contract Negotiations: (1) 620 Mountain Avenue, (2) Drainage Study; C. Litigation: (1) COAH, (2) Pulte Homes; D. Personnel: (1) Part-Time Seasonal Employees, (2) Administrator/Engineer was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Council President Santomauro announced the possibility that action on a remaining resolution may be addressed in public session after Executive Session discussion commences.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 9:27pm.

Upon reopening of public session, Resolution R-15-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract for Risk Management Consulting Services was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by the Councilman Chiaia, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:29pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk