

The Conference & Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 6:43 p.m.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Absent: Councilman Kessler, Councilman Astorino

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

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Alessi announced that August 29<sup>th</sup> the Firemen's wet down will be held, where the new fire truck will be christened. On September 11<sup>th</sup> there will be our annual memorial service commemorating the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. It will take place in front of Borough Hall and begin at 8:46am. On September 12<sup>th</sup> the town picnic will take place, prior to the picnic is the Stride with Pride 5k run/walk. Registration is at 9:45am with the race starting at 10:30am. More information can be found on the Borough website. The Color Run originally planned for October is being adjourned to a later date. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, St. Jude walk/run to end childhood cancer will take place in West Caldwell.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

North Caldwell Historical Society – Mayor Alessi invited Mr. Kenneth Bechtold, 221 Smull Avenue to come up and speak about the upcoming plans for historical markers for the town. Mr. Kenneth Bechtold, 221 Smull Avenue. Mr. Bechtold is the treasurer of the Historical Society and member of the Historical Commission. The Historical Society would like to reinstitute the historical markers around town. They would like to begin by putting a marker near Borough Hall, as it was formally known as the Dugan Estate. Mr. Bechtold stated Grandview Place as another spot they would like to place a marker near. The Commission and Society would like to have the approval of the Mayor and Council to put a marker on the property. If the Council approves it, they would work up a plaque for Governing Body approval. Councilman Chiaia asked how this project would be funded. Mr. Bechtold stated that the Commission and Society will fund the plaque. Mr. Paris stated the Society should design the plaque and present it to the Mayor and Council. The Governing Body will then consider a resolution for the approval of the plaque and placement of the plaque on Borough property.

Codification Project – Mr. Paris stated that he and the Borough Clerk have been working on this project for some time. He explained that separate ordinances will not be created to accept each change. Rather, at the end of the project, an ordinance will be created to adopt the whole new code book. Mr. Mendola and Mr. Zichelli are in agreement that the zoning fees should be updated. Mr. Paris spoke about the ordinance regarding unfit buildings and what is permitted under the state statute. Mr. Paris asked Mr. Levine if he would like to talk about this as he deals with the unfit building issues. Mr. Levine stated he is not prepared to speak about it at this time, but will address the issue at a future Council meeting.

Allen Road Developer's Performance Guaranty Reduction – Mr. Zichelli stated that we received a request to reduce the Performance Guaranty. He will study the report before the next Council meeting, and unless there are any objections, a resolution will be prepared authorizing the reduction.

Public Safety Radio Amplification Ordinance – Chief Deuer stated that they have learned that several towns have adopted an ordinance regarding radio amplification. The ordinance requires builders to ensure proper radio coverage for Police and Firemen in buildings other than single family homes. Chief Deuer cited Four Seasons in which you lose radio communication in the basement. Borough Attorney, David Paris stated an ordinance could be adopted and that this could become a condition of approval when going before the Planning Board. Councilman Rees stated that since this is a public safety issue, can something be done for existing buildings. It was discussed that installing some type of a booster is a possible solution. It was decided to contact the Borough’s communication consultant, Mobile Tech. Chief Deuer stated that they would be able to tell us exactly what is needed.

State of New Jersey Department of Transportation – Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli stated we have been invited to apply for a roadway grant for next year. Applications are due in October. We are able to apply for two applications. Mr. Zichelli stated he would make application for Willowbrook Drive as the first choice, and a combination of Winding Way and Highland Drive as the second choice. He will begin working on the applications and a resolution will be drawn up for September’s meeting.

## **MINUTES**

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference & Regular Meeting of July 14, 2015, seconded by Councilman Chiaia with Councilman Rees abstaining. Said motion carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of July 14, 2015, seconded by Councilman Chiaia with Councilman Rees abstaining. Said motion carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of July 27, 2015, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **LEGAL AND ORDINANCE**

Council President Santomauro moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-5-15 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 23 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding the Renewal Fee for Liquor Licenses seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously. Seeing no one from the public coming forward, Council President Santomauro moved to Close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-5-15 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 23 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding the Renewal Fee for Liquor Licenses, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to Adopt Ordinance O-5-15-An Ordinance Amending Chapter 23 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding the Renewal Fee for Liquor Licenses, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by Notre Dame Church for Calendar Raffle for 2016 – A motion was made by Council President Santomauro to grant the raffle application to Notre Dame Church for Calendar Raffle for 2016, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by Notre Dame Church for 50/50 Raffle – A motion was made by Council President Santomauro to grant the raffle application to Notre Dame Church for a 50/50 Raffle on September 13, 2015, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by Notre Dame Church for 50/50 Raffle – A motion was made by Council President Santomauro to grant the raffle application to Notre Dame Church for a 50/50 Raffle on September 24, 2015, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

#### PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Resolution R-131-15 – Acceptance of Resignation Letter of Sal Trippi, Plumbing Inspector was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-132-15 – Promotion of William Stickles to General Foreman was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-133-15 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipend to Borough Clerk was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Chiaia gave the Public Safety Report for June and July. During the month of June, there were 1,063 calls to dispatch. There was 233 hours of overtime; 155 hours internally, 78 externally. There were four arrests, one domestic violence incident, and some juvenile matters. Year-to-date maintenance on the department's seven vehicles was \$11,994.00.

For the month of July, there were 938 calls to dispatch. There was a total of 94.5 hours of overtime; 82 internally and 12.5 externally. There were seven arrests – five for theft and two for burglary. Year-to-date maintenance on the department's vehicles was \$12,215.00.

For the month of July, the Fire Department reported 21 calls, which consisted of calls such as fire pit incidents and false alarms. There were planned drills at West Essex Regional High School, James Caldwell High School and in Sussex County.

#### FINANCE

Council President Santomauro offered the Collector's Report for the month of July 2015 of \$2,817,515.90 in taxes, \$126,709.76 for water and \$23,926.92 for the pool. Council President Santomauro moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-134-15 – Approval to Pay Bills in the amount of \$1,999,967.11 was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES

Councilman Chiaia offered the Animal Control Report for June 2015 stating there were six carcasses removed, one warning and eight summons' issued for failure to license an animal, two animal bites and two quarantines.

Councilman Chiaia offered the Construction Report for the month of June and July 2015. In June, there were 41 construction permits issued. Cost of alteration from those permits amounted to \$440,251.00. Year-to-date, 211 permits issued for revenues of \$54,106.00, which is approximately half of what it was at the same time last year.

In July, there were 73 permits issued for a total cost of \$2,556,883.00 in construction/alteration costs and one demolition. Permits issued year-to-date are 284 with \$86,259.00 in revenue generated.

### RECREATION

Councilman Raymond stated that registration for the fall programs are getting underway. He also stated that the lower tennis courts were repaired by the DPW. Residents were notified and registration for the remainder of the 2015 season is complimentary. To date, fifty-seven residents have registered. Summer Fun concluded with 202 participants, which was a 10% increase over last summer. Kiddy Kamp's enrollment increased 50% over last summer. Camps are being fully utilized as well as the pool. Travel baseball ended with the 11U team winning the championship. Softball championships also ended at the end of July.

Fall soccer currently has 155 registrants with practice starting the first week of September. Youth tennis camp runs from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup>. Lacrosse camp runs from August 10<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup>. Progress continues with the Recreation Department along with Rich Mondelli, CFO and Mel Levine, Borough Administrator towards online bill pay. Currently, residents are only able to register online. This is the first step in the process of also having online bill pay for taxes, water and sewer.

The town picnic will be held September 12<sup>th</sup> at the town pool from 1:00pm to 6:00pm.

Essex County Remembers will hold a solemn service at Eagle Rock Reservation at 8:00am commemorating the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

Resolution R-135-15 Authorization to Hire Seasonal Employees for 2015 – Summer Fun was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

### CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

The Mayor asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak. No one came forward.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-136-14 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes - Contract Negotiations – (1) Hidden Ridge Condo Association (2) Acquisition of Walker's Pond Property, (3) Caldwell Sewer Utility, Personnel – (1) Plumbing Inspector (2) Court Administrator was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

The Public Meeting was re-opened at 9:23pm.

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 Councilman Chiaia that this meeting be adjourned at 9:24p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Pravata, Borough Clerk