

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:42p.m.

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, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, 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 Councilman Raymond to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Alessi stated that Councilman Raymond found out that North Caldwell was ranked No. 11 most desirable community out of 50 in the nation by Business Insider. The mayor wanted to thank everyone here for helping make the Borough No. 11. The mayor said he is very fortunate to have such a wonderful Council, Borough Clerk, Business Administrator and professionals who work for the town. The mayor stated the Borough is run on a tight wire and this speaks to why we are ranked No. 11.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders invites everyone to attend Artists at Work, November 7 and 8 from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Beauford Avenue in Livingston.

On Sunday, December 6 the Borough will hold its annual tree and menorah lighting in front of Borough Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2015, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Rees abstained. Said motion carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Regular Meeting of September 21, 2015, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Rees abstained. Said motion carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting of October 13, 2015, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Rees abstained. Said motion carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Conference Meeting of October 13, 2015, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Raymond recused and Councilman Rees abstained. Said motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL AND ORDINANCE

Discussion on Affordable Housing RFP's – Borough Attorney, David Paris, explained that a Request for Proposals for developers had been put out for the Affordable Housing development that will be built in the Borough. The proposals have been received and now they need to be reviewed by the Governing Body and a determination made as to who the contract will be awarded to. David Paris stated that Mr. Surenian's office is a good reference as his office has basically worked with all of the entities. It was decided that a committee made up of Council President Santomauro, Councilman Rees, Councilman Kessler with Councilman Raymond serving as an alternate will review the proposals. A meeting will be scheduled for December 2, 2015 for the presentations. The committee, along with the Council, Frank Zichelli and a representative from Mr. Surenian's office will be attending the meeting.

Chief Deuer stated that he met with the homeowner on Gould Avenue and explained the parking situation as well as the concern for the safety of the school children. The Chief stated he has been monitoring the situation for the last two weeks and there has not been a car there. It was decided there will be a draft ordinance at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Resolution R-163-15 - Appointment of Interim Public Defender, James Pomaco, Esq. was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-164-15 - Appointment of Interim Municipal Prosecutor, John Cesaro was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond with Councilman Rees abstaining. Said motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of September 2015 in the amount of \$502,074.96. The pool account collected \$984.43 and the water account collected \$178,735.00. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-165-15 - Payment of Bills – Approval to pay bills in the amount of \$306,757.57 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-167-15 – 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-168-15 – Approval of 2014 Corrective Action Plan was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Chiaia gave the Police Public Safety Report for the month of September 2015. There were 1051 calls and responses for the month. The police department received a thank you letter from the Fairfield Police Department for assisting them with a call on September 7.

Councilman Chiaia gave the Fire Report for the month of September 2015. There were 23 responses for that period consisting of 2160 man hours.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Councilman Chiaia offered the September Construction Report. There were 48 permits issued, two updates. The cost of construction was \$71,200.00, cost of alteration totaled \$500,166.78 and cost of demolition totaled \$2,750.00 for a total cost of construction in the amount of \$574,116.78. Current month's revenue for permits was \$14,955.00. The year-to-date-total is \$111,091.00, which is approximately \$49,000 less than last year.

Councilman Chiaia read the Animal Control Report for the month of September 2015. There were 14 responses for the month. The animal control officer issued five summonses and two warnings. There was one dog bite which was responded to as well as one sick squirrel and one sick fox. Animal Control successfully removed seven animal carcasses without using the assistance of the West Orange Animal Shelter.

RECREATION

Councilman Raymond offered the October - November 2015 Recreation Report. Recreation soccer season is winding down. It was a successful season with 172 participants from grades kindergarten through 6. The fall schedule includes petite soccer, youth tennis, hands on arts and crafts, bitty basketball and the newest program, lacrosse squirts.

Recreation basketball registration runs from October 23 through November 11. Currently, there are 107 registered with 17 payments received. Councilman Raymond spoke about the importance of implementing on-line payments. He continues to work with Officer Credico to have this up and running as soon as possible.

Travel basketball schedules are in the process of being set up. This includes schedules for men's adult and senior men's basketball.

Newcomer's night was held on October 20, 2015. There were 21 new residents that attended. Both Bunny Jenkins and Chief Deuer gave presentations. Mrs. Jenkins spoke about the history of North Caldwell and the Chief spoke about signing up for Nixle alerts.

The Halloween Dance for 5th and 6th graders was well attended. Ninety percent of the class attended.

Travel basketball tryouts begin November 24. Trunk or Treat will be held October 30 at the Grandview School parking lot.

Ski Club registration for grades 4 through 6 can be done on-line. The parent meeting is scheduled for November 9.

The holiday toy drive begins the second week of November.

Cynthia Santomauro asked Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli about products that can go on the fields to prevent the deer droppings problem. Frank said he has spoken with the recreation director, Bill Maranz, and they have talked about installing additional fencing. They have not laid out any plans nor priced it just yet.

The Mayor spoke about Veterans Day on November 11. There will be a service outside of Borough Hall at 8:00am. The Gould School choir will be there along with the cub scouts.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Richard Verde, 8 Hickory Drive - He stated that he appreciates that everyone sits on the dais as Council members and their service to the town. He spoke about the prosecutor being an annual appointed position. He stated he has served in this capacity since 1988, but was not appointed this year. Richard stated he has served this community in many capacities over the years from coaching council member's children to community functions. He also stated his point is that a letter was sent to him on a Friday after not talking to him for a year and a half about the municipal court. He feels that letter was inappropriate, hurtful and unwarranted. He is still getting accolades for being a Super Lawyer, is in the top one percent of criminal lawyers in the nation and included on the federal CJA list for the last ten years. He said he was always fair and just in his job and did not do things for political reasons.

He stated that when he began working in North Caldwell in 1988 none of the Council members were here. He spoke about the Bible he donated in 1992, which still remains in the court room. Lastly, he said to enjoy life every day.

Caren Verde, 8 Hickory Drive - Mrs. Verde stated in the way this was done was very disrespectful. It was very disappointing. When someone does something wrong you talk to them directly, you don't send them a letter. Mrs. Verde said you may not remember what people do to you or say to you, but you always remember how people make you feel. She said the Mayor and Council are leaders of this community and she feels they lead with disrespect.

Kevin Murphy - Police Officer with Essex Fells for the past 11 years. He came here representing himself to speak on Richard's behalf. He feels this will be a great loss to both North Caldwell and Essex Fells. He feels that we are losing someone with a lot of knowledge and that it was disgraceful how this occurred.

Henry Forstenhausler - Mr. Forstenhausler questioned what the yellow flags on Mountain Avenue are for. Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli, stated that before you dig, whether for planting shrubs or a major excavation, there is an obligation that you must call for a mark out. He stated if a month has gone by and there is no activity, you can pull them out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-166-15 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes - Contract Negotiations - (1) Acquisition of Walker's Pond Property; (2) Caldwell Sewer Utility; Liquor License - Retail Distribution License Fee; Litigation - COAH - Update on status of Declaratory Judgement Action was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Re-Opened to Public Meeting at 9:15pm

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Astorino that this meeting be adjourned at 9:17pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Pravata, Borough Clerk