

## Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – March 10, 2020

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The meeting began at 7:38pm 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.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Alessi, Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Chiaia (joined the meeting at 7:46pm), Councilman Rees and Councilman Tilton.

Absent: Councilman Kessler.

Also present were: Alan Genitempo, Esq., Acting Borough Attorney; Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Mr. Joseph Angelo to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor's Cup and Recreation League Basketball Champions**

Mayor Alessi and the Borough Council recognized the champions from the annual Mayor's Cup Basketball playoffs as well as the Recreation Basketball League. Certificates of congratulations were presented to each team member.

Mayor Alessi called for a brief recess at 8:04pm. Mayor Alessi re-opened the meeting at 8:09pm.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

#### **Paul Scagnelli – 7 Stony Brook Drive**

Mr. Scagnelli requested an update regarding Pulte Homes' extension request. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that an agreement was being drafted which would be subject to formal action by the Borough Council which was anticipated for the next meeting.

Mr. Scagnelli asked about the need for the zoning overlay described in Ordinance O-2-2020 which was introduced at the February 25, 2020 meeting. Mr. Genitempo stated that zoning rules are provided within the zoning overlay ordinance that are not included in the Green Brook settlement agreement. Mr. Scagnelli expressed concern with the higher density of the development as compared to the traditional single-family lots in town. Council President Santomauro added that COAH obligation and regulations were a basis for the agreement and associated zoning. Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that the proposed ordinance is subject to Planning Board review prior to adoption.

#### **Chief Tim Peterson – North Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department**

Chief Peterson explained the role of the New Jersey Firemen's Relief Association which provides financial benefits for firefighters if need during their careers or to their families upon their death. He stated that a recent change in the age limit from 45 years of age to 57, allows certain NCFD members to join the relief association later in their career. He stated that an application would be presented for Council approval at the next meeting with another application anticipated in the next few months.

### **Action to be Taken**

Resolution R-51-2020 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. A motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. The motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

### **Items for Discussion**

#### **Mowing and Trimming Bid Results**

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that two bids were received in response to the Mowing and Trimming Bid Specs as detailed his memo to the Council dated March 6, 2020. He verified that the proposed contract amounts are within the budget allocation. He stated that the contract and bid documents will be reviewed by the Borough Attorney and then presented to the Council for award of a contract.

#### **NCFD State Relief Association**

Mayor Alessi noted that Chief Peterson explained this discussion topic during the Citizens to be Heard portion of the meeting.

**West Essex First Aid Squad BrewFest**

The Council discussed the WEFAS BrewFest fundraising event scheduled for June 20, 2020 at Essex Valley School. Ms. Michelotti stated that the Borough provides insurance coverage for WEFAS and, therefore, WEFAS requested the Borough's permission to finalize the event. There were no objections from the Council.

**Municipal Alliance National Night Out**

Councilman Chiaia presented the option for North Caldwell to participate in National Night Out scheduled for August 4, 2020. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the event could be executed in conjunction with Essex Fells. Councilman Chiaia suggested the Municipal Alliance committee members be consulted and involved in the planning of the event along with the Police and Fire Departments.

**NCRF Liberty Park Pavers Phase II**

Mayor Alessi announced the availability of personalized pavers through the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation. He provided the contact information for anyone interested in obtaining a paver.

**Janitorial Services**

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the current vendor for janitorial services at Borough Hall and Police headquarters submitted a letter of resignation. He stated that a quote was obtained from a new vendor which is less than what was currently paid. He stated that that service would be selected that better meets the scheduling needs of the NCPD.

**Board of Health Update re: Coronavirus Preparation and Response Plan**

Mr. O'Sullivan updated the Council on emergency response procedures with regard to the novel Coronavirus spread. He stated that Health Officer Bill Wallace from the West Caldwell Health Department met with Borough department heads that day. He added that the virus is spreading fast and that public outreach via the website should direct residents to the Centers for Disease Control.

Council President Santomauro stated that public gatherings may be soon restricted and that teleconference meetings could be considered as an option for future meetings in accordance with OPMA requirements.

**2020 Municipal Budget**

Mr. Mondelli referred to a memo dated March 3, 2020 which detailed proposed revisions to the 2020 Operating Budget. He stated that the revisions would result in a 1.51% municipal tax increase. He also provided a revised General Capital budget to confirm proposed revisions since the March 2, 2020 budget meeting. The Council had six capital budget items which were still pending decisions. He offered to prepare the 2020 Capital Budget for introduction at the April 28, 2020 Council Meeting.


Councilman Tilton requested that the damaged backstops on Mountain Avenue field be removed as they are a safety hazard.

**Executive Session**

Resolution R-52-20 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes: Personnel – Administration, Contract Negotiations – Tennis Courts was read. A motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. The motion was carried unanimously with five 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 Councilman Chiaia, that this meeting be adjourned at 10:04pm. This motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti  
Borough Clerk