

## Mayor & Council Regular Meeting – March 27, 2018

The Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:38pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Absent: Councilman Astorino, Councilman Chiaia

Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Rich Mondelli, Borough Chief Financial Officer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Acting 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 Captain William Texas to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Presentations

#### **Proclamation to Captain William Texas**

Mayor Alessi thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mayor Alessi read a proclamation in honor of Captain Texas's 25 years of service with the Borough. Chief Deuer thanked Captain Texas for his service to the community and to the Police Department and presented him with a plaque. Captain Texas thanked the Mayor and Council, Chief Deuer, and his family for the honor.

#### **Certificates to Mayor's Cup Basketball Champions**

Mayor Alessi and members of the Council presented certificates to the championship teams of the 2018 Mayor's Cup Tournament: Team Michigan 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, Team Rutgers 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, Team Gonzaga 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys, and Team Seton Hall 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys. Coaches from each team thanked the players for well-played seasons and great sportsmanship. Photos were taken of each team with the Mayor and Council.

### Essex County Liaison

Mayor Alessi called upon Essex County Liaison, Asmeret Ghebremichael. Ms. Ghebremichael announced the upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival for which she brought postcards to distribute to Borough residents. She added that the postcards would be mailed to households also.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi stated that the Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Spectacular would be held the following day at 4:00pm. The Mayor noted that the four Nor'easter storms that affected the area in recent weeks left many tree branches down. He added that the DPW began a one-time courtesy branch collection on March 19 to clear properties of branches and storm debris. Mayor Alessi stated that PSE&G will upgrade a 12 inch gas line on Mountain Avenue. He added that renovations on the Borough owned property at 137 Gould Avenue have been completed in preparation for rental for which details are available at Borough Hall. Mayor Alessi reminded residents to notify their landscaping service providers of the need to be licensed in the Borough.

Mayor Alessi read some of the handwritten thank you notes from Borough children to the DPW, Police Department and Fire Department for helping residents through the recent storms.

### Citizens to be Heard

Lynda Korfmann – 22 White Oak Drive

Mrs. Korfmann stated she was present on behalf of several of her neighbors around 4 Hemlock Drive. She referenced an email sent by her neighbor Mr. Anthony Vagnoni to the Mayor and Council describing disturbances caused by the renters at 4 Hemlock Drive since September 2017. Mrs. Korfmann noted frequent Uber activity, blaring music late at night, loud voices outdoors, an abundance of garbage bags in the street not contained in receptacles, numerous visiting cars parked on the street, and frequent overnight parking. She noted a disregard for decency and respect for the neighbors and asked that the Police Department enforce ordinances applicable to her complaints.

Chief Deuer stated he was aware that four Montclair State University students are renting the home and that the Police Department have notified the property owners of issues. He added that 26 parking tickets have been issued since Mrs. Korfmann's complaint in January 2018. Mrs. Korfmann noted that she and her neighbors have not called the police every time there are parking, noise or other disturbances. Chief Deuer noted that requests for overnight parking cannot be denied without reason. He encouraged Mrs. Korfmann and her neighbors to call the Police Department when they have complaints. He noted that past measurements of noise have not surpassed the violation levels.

Mr. Paris added that the garbage ordinance can be enforced and noted that all complaints should be called in to the Police Department so they are on record. Chief Deuer stated he would patrol the area that weekend.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting of February 13, 2018, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Councilman Kessler abstained. Said motion was passed with three votes and one abstention.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of February 13, 2018, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Councilman Kessler abstained. Said motion was passed with three votes and one abstention.

Councilman Raymond moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2018, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Council President Santomauro abstained. Said motion was passed with three votes and one abstention.

Councilman Raymond moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of February 27, 2018, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Council President Santomauro abstained. Said motion was passed with three votes and one abstention.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legal and Ordinance**

Councilman Raymond moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-2-18 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Members of the Police Department for the Years 2018, 2019 and 2020, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Raymond moved to Close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-2-18 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Members of the Police Department for the Years 2018, 2019 and 2020, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Raymond moved to Adopt the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-2-18 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Members of the Police Department for the Years 2018, 2019 and 2020, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Raymond introduced Ordinance O-3-17 – An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank. Councilman Raymond stated that the public meeting and final reading will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Mr. Mondelli stated that the State sets a limit on how much a municipality can increase its appropriations. He added that the increase was set at 2.5% this year. The ordinance will allow the Borough to increase the appropriations to 3.5% and "bank" the difference for future budgets. Councilman Kessler seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Raymond introduced Ordinance O-4-18 – An Ordinance to Provide for Various Capital Items as Enumerated Within for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex and to Provide for the Funding Thereof. Councilman Raymond stated that the public meeting and final reading will be held on

Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Councilman Kessler seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Councilman Raymond introduced Ordinance O-5-17 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$376,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$357,200 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. Councilman Raymond stated that the public meeting and final reading will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Councilman Kessler seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

An amendment to the date of Raffle License Application R-3-18 for North Caldwell Recreation Foundation Raffle to be held at Horseneck Tavern on April 12, 2018 was moved by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. The application amendment was approved unanimously with four votes.

Raffle License Application R-5-18 for North Caldwell Recreation Foundation 50/50 Raffle to be held at Liberty Field – Opening Day Baseball/Softball on April 21, 2018 was moved by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. The application was approved unanimously with four votes.

#### **Personnel/Administration**

Resolution R-59-18 A Resolution Appointing Gregory Karol as Manager of the Borough of North Caldwell Municipal Pool for the 2018 Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-60-18 A Resolution Appointing Fred Giordano as Assistant Manager of the Borough of North Caldwell Municipal Pool for the 2018 Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-61-18 A Resolution Appointing Samantha Benanti as Director of the 2018 Summer Fun and Kiddy Camp Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-62-18 A Resolution Appointing Victoria Zizzo as Assistant Director of the 2018 Summer Fun and Kiddy Camp Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-63-18 A Resolution Appointing Cassidy Muller as EMT for the 2018 Summer Fun Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-64-18 A Resolution Appointing Paula Cox as Head Lifeguard of the Borough of North Caldwell Municipal Pool for the 2018 Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-66-18 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Diana Ruthman as Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Borough of North Caldwell was tabled by Mayor Alessi.

Resolution R-67-18 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Danielle Leno as Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Borough of North Caldwell was tabled by Mayor Alessi.

Resolution R-77-18 A Resolution Authorizing Employment of Danielle Felten as Police Department Dispatcher for the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-65-18 A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Separation Pay to John Intili was tabled pending further discussion and clarification of the unused sick and vacation time due to Mr. Intili.

#### **Finance**

A motion to accept the Collector's Report for February 2018 was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

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Resolution R-68-18 Approval to Pay Bills in the amount of \$1,992,263.18 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-69-18 Transfer of Funds was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-70-18 A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate #17-01 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-73-17 Introduction 2018 Municipal Budget Introduction was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-74-17 Deferred Local District School Tax was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-75-17 Deferred Regional High School Tax was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-76-18 A Resolution for Self-Examination of Budget was read. Mr. Mondelli explained that the State allows municipalities in good financial standing to self-examine their budget with their auditors every two out of three years. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

### **Personnel (continued)**

Mayor Alessi re-visited tabled resolutions R-66-18 and R-67-18 due to the urgent staffing needs of the Borough. Ms. Michelotti provided a background of the interview process and of each candidate. Mr. Mondelli stated the intention to cross-train the new employees to provide coverage at Borough Hall. Mr. Rees stated his confidence in Mr. Zichelli, Mr. Mondelli and Ms. Michelotti to hire appropriate staff.

Resolution R-66-18 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Diana Ruthman as Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-67-18 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Danielle Leno as Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

### **Public Safety**

Council President Santomauro offered the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for February 2018. She noted there were 894 calls to dispatch and 117 motor vehicle stops.

Council President Santomauro offered the Fire Department Public Safety Report for February 2018 noting 21 calls. She added that Chief D'Ascensio complimented residents for clearing snow from hydrants.

Resolution R-78-18 A Resolution Approving the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014 – June 2019 was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

### **Public Works**

Council President Santomauro offered the Public Works reports including the Construction Permit Activity Report for February 2018, Recycling Report for February 2018 and Animal Control Report for February 2018. All showed slower activity in the winter months.

**Recreation**

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Report for March and April 2018. He stated that the recreation basketball season concluded with the Mayor's Cup championship. He added that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade West Essex travel basketball made it to the finals. Recreation baseball and softball teams are being organized encompassing 19 teams and an additional 40 children enrolled in Kindergarten tee-ball. Councilman Kessler stated that the track and field program would be starting soon.

Councilman Kessler stated he attended the Taste of Notre Dame and spoke with members of the Seniors group who complimented the monthly Seniors organization. He added that pool membership registration would begin on March 26. The pool open house is scheduled for June 16 with a rain date of June 17.

Resolution R-71-18 A Resolution Authorizing Boy Scout Troop #856 to Hold a Fundraiser on May 12, 2018 in the Municipal Parking Lot in the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

**Executive Session**

Resolution R-72-18 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes: Litigation – COAH was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 9:46pm.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman, seconded by Councilman, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:46pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti  
Acting Borough Clerk