

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – November 26, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. The meeting began at 7:31pm 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.

Mayor Alessi asked Mr. O'Sullivan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Alessi, Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Raymond, and Councilman Rees.

Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Richard Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor's Report

Certification of 2019 General Election

Mayor Alessi announced the certified results of the 2019 General Election with regard to Borough Council and the Borough's Open Space Trust Fund referendum. He stated the total votes each Borough Council candidate as follows: Arthur Rees – 1,017 votes; Kenneth Tilton – 979 votes; Anthony Floria-Callori – 950 votes; Edward Roth – 899 votes. Mayor Alessi stated the total votes for the Open Space Trust Fund Referendum Question as follow: Yes – 955 votes, No – 714 votes.

Mayor Alessi announced the next Seniors meeting and luncheon planned for December 4. He invited all residents to participate in the annual Joy, Peace and Goodwill celebration on December 8. Mayor Alessi welcomed contributions to the Annual Toy Drive and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Citizens to be Heard

Paul Scagnelli – 7 Stony Brook Drive

Mr. Scagnelli asked for the status of the drainage study. Mr. O'Sullivan noted that a draft form of the document was released to the Council for comment. Mr. Paris added that the document is a deliberative document and is not yet available for public release until the Council determines that their questions are addressed and the report is final. Council President Santomauro noted that the report is lengthy and technical which requires a thorough review by the Council with possible questions to be answered by the Municipal Engineer prior to release. She assured the public that the report would be made available to the public as soon as possible.

Mr. Scagnelli asked for a status of Pulte Homes' extension request. Mayor Alessi noted that the Borough is in negotiations with Pulte. Mr. Scagnelli noted that Phase 2 foundations are under construction currently despite the lack of an extension agreement.

Bernie Doyle – 31 Glenview Road

Mr. Doyle stated that his property continues to receive water from the Pulte property in his back yard. He also noted an area of his property near the fire hydrant that was seeded with no topsoil. Mr. O'Sullivan indicated that he asked Pulte to address the repair. Mr. Doyle also noted that utility wires were installed but not affixed to the corresponding pole. Council President Santomauro offered that the Borough would follow up to have the correction made.

Anthony Floria-Callori – 4 Chestnut Hill Road

Mr. Floria-Callori offered samples of tree ordinances from other municipalities. He asked for a Borough ordinance to provide for the replacement of trees, the maintenance of those that should be preserved, and the requirement that dangerous trees be removed. Councilman Rees agreed with the need for a Borough tree ordinance. Mayor Alessi offered that the Council would further research the suggestion. Council President Santomauro noted that the Council had reviewed the implementation of a tree ordinance in the past and stated opposition of residents at the time. She offered to revisit such an ordinance with proper consideration, noting that an ordinance could not be rushed for introduction, hearing and adoption prior to the end of the calendar year.

Bernie Doyle – 31 Glenview Road

Mr. Doyle noted that the recent flushing of the fire hydrant and cleaning of the sewer near his home generated a residue. Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed the recent cleaning, televising and repairs to the sewer line on Glenview Road. Mr. Doyle offered samples for examination

John Zurlo – 19 Glenview Road

Mr. Zurlo asked the Council about plans to address recommendations for drainage and culvert repairs on Glenview Road. Council President Santomauro stated that it would be considered further in conjunction with the drainage report from Suburban Consulting Engineers that was anticipated to be distributed in the next week or two. Mr. O’Sullivan added that the Glenview culvert is on Essex County’s list for infrastructure review.

Mr. O’Sullivan stated that a draft of the drainage study was shared with the Council so that any questions or concerns could be addressed and answered by the Municipal Engineer or by Suburban prior to the release of the final study results. He noted that preliminary reviews by him and Mr. Ferriero raised areas of additional concern and an expanded scope that required further examination. Similarly, the Council would have the opportunity to review the initial version of the study prior to release. He provided a summary of the study’s timeline noting that field work continued through the summer which necessitated additional data gathering and running of models.

Mr. Zurlo asked for the results of the sewer testing at the top of Glenview Road. Mr. O’Sullivan described the need to dissolve roots that infiltrated the sewer lines and some essential repairs that were identified. Councilman Rees asked Mr. O’Sullivan to check the joints of clay pipes for replacement with pvc. Mr. O’Sullivan confirmed that Pulte would televise the sewer line and perform repairs down the full length of Glenview Road to Mountain Avenue.

Mr. Zurlo asked for an update regarding the periodic release of water from the Passaic Valley water tank. Mr. O’Sullivan confirmed that he received confirmation that the equipment was being recalibrated and that water levels would be temporarily dropped by two feet to avoid accidental overages. He offered to follow up with Passaic Valley for an update.

Mr. Zurlo asked about the cement platforms at the top of Glenview Road and asked for landscaping to fill in the area. Mr. O’Sullivan confirmed that the slabs provide an access point for maintenance of the detention basin and described the chamber at top Glenview allows for a pressure reducing valve on the water main.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Chiaia made a motion to table the approval of minutes to the next Council meeting. Council President seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Councilman Raymond moved to introduce Ordinance O-13-19 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10-1 Regarding Borough Holidays, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:30pm.

Raffle License RA-11-19 submitted by Notre Dame Church for an on-premise 50/50 Raffle to be held on February 29, 2020 was moved by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Personnel and Administration

Councilman Rees had no report.

Finance

Councilman Astorino made a motion to Accept the Tax Collector’s Report for October 2019 which was seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-205-19 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-206-19 A Resolution Approving 2019 Budget Transfers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Councilman Astorino announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting on December 9, 2019.

Public Safety

Councilman Chiaia offered the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for October 2019. He noted that there were 1,115 calls made to Dispatch with 138 summonses issued in October. Chief Deuer noted the increased speed enforcement on Smull Avenue in response to residents' request. Councilman Chiaia offered two letters of appreciation for the NCPD.

Councilman Chiaia offered the Fire Department Public Safety Report for November 2019 and announced that Santa would be escorted through town by the NCFD on Saturday, December 21.

Councilman Chiaia provided an overview of the classes he attended at the Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities conference. He provided the Council with a report from the Camp Wyanokie Commission meeting including technology budgeting for increased security, Wi-Fi and registration.

Resolution R-208-19 A Resolution Approving the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant – Cycle July 1, 2020 through June 20, 2021 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-207-19 A Resolution Appointing a Temporary Municipal Prosecutor for December 2020 was read. Councilman Chiaia noted that the Mayoral appointment was agreed upon by the mayors of both North Caldwell and Essex Fells. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Council President Santomauro and Councilman Raymond voted no. Said motion was carried with four affirmative votes from Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Kessler and Councilman Rees.

Public Works

Council President Santomauro offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for October 2019, the Solid Waste Collection Report for October 2019 and the Animal Control Report for October 2019.

Recreation

Councilman Raymond offered the Recreation Director's Report for November/December 2019.

Executive Session

Resolution R-209-19 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: Pulte Homes Extension, Flanagan's Contracting, Caldwell Sewer was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 9:37pm.

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 Council, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:37pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk