

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – October 15, 2019

The Conference meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:30pm.

Mayor Joseph H. 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: 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; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; Richard Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Councilman Kessler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens to be Heard

Paul Scagnelli – 7 Stony Brook Drive

Mr. Scagnelli asked for the status of Pulte Homes' request for an extension on construction and if the Borough would be making demands of Pulte in exchange for an approval. Mr. Paris stated that the request had not yet been approved and confirmed that the Governing Body was considering concessions to demand of Pulte in return for the extension.

Bernie Doyle – 31 Glenview Road

Mr. Doyle asked for a landscaping status at the Hilltop. Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that landscaping was not yet complete. He stated that re-seeding and top-soiling was planned.

Dan Theobald – 54 Ferndale Road

Mr. Theobald asked for the installation of a catch basin on the eastern curb line of Ferndale Road. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that he discussed the request with Pulte during an on-site meeting and would ask Pulte to view the puddling after the next rainfall.

Items for Discussion

Bond and Note Sale

Mr. Mondelli announced that the Bond Sale held on October 10, 2019 resulted in a bond interest rate of 1.81% and a note rate of 1.385%. He noted the Borough's stellar financial status and the low interest rates as compared to last year's rate of 2.164%. He stated that the first payments on the bond would be due next year.

Councilman Chiaia noted that the low rate is secured for the next 10 years. Councilman Astorino thanked Mr. Mondelli for ensuring the Borough's fiscal responsibility as shown by the Aa2 Moody's rating.

Liberty Turf Field Permit Fees, Soccer Lines, Bleachers

Councilman Kessler stated that the Recreation Committee met with the Recreation Department and Borough Administrator regarding fees for use of the Liberty Turf Field and Mountain Avenue Field. He explained the proposed fee structure and stated that an ordinance amendment would be prepared for introduction at the next Council meeting. Councilman Kessler noted that the fee structure would take effect on January 1, 2020. Council President Santomauro asked that the types of teams be clarified to ensure clarity that volunteer coached teams are not to be confused with non-profit entities.

Councilman Raymond noted that the turf field was constructed at a considerable expense to the Borough for which the field usage fees will be used.

Councilman Kessler stated that the Recreation Committee met with members of the Recreation Department and the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation regarding the installation of new soccer lines for travel games and for grades 3+. He noted that the two small-sided fields were not appropriately lined for older ages and for travel team standards. Councilman Kessler explained a solution realized by Mr. Maranz whereby lines could be painted on the field which would be cost effective and would not impact the turf warranty. He stated that the first year would cost \$1,800 with subsequent years costing approximately \$1,000, as compared with a one-time cost of \$27,000 to permanently sew in new lines. The Council approved of the cost effective solution.

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Councilman Kessler stated that the bleachers at the turf field are low to the ground. He noted that the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation offered to offset the approximate \$80,000 cost for larger, higher bleachers and asked that the Governing Body consider the expense in the 2020 budget. Councilman Raymond suggested that the current bleachers be recycled for another field or at the basketball court.

Municipal Pool

Councilman Kessler provided the Council with areas of concern regarding the municipal pool including repairs and replacement of the pool lining and pavement. He noted that the improvements will be costly which the Governing Body should consider as a four to five year plan.

Municipal Alliance Funding for 2020-2021

Ms. Michelotti announced that the predicted amount for the Community Development grant to the Municipal Alliance is \$16,000 for the June 2020 through July 2021 fiscal year.

Camp Wyanokie

Councilman Chiaia stated that he volunteered to assume the vacancy on the Camp Wyanokie Board which oversees the 120 acre parcel of land. He noted that North Caldwell has carried the burden of administration and scheduling of park use on behalf of the other member towns: Fairfield, Caldwell, West Caldwell, and Roseland. He announced that the Board agreed to migrate to an online reservation system through which insurance, indemnification and fees could be maintained.

Action to be Taken

Raffle License RA-9-19 Notre Dame 50/50 on December 14, 2019 at Notre Dame Church was presented. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Raffle License RA-10-19 Reed Foundation Casino Night on October 24, 2019 at Green Brook Country Club was presented. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-192-19 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Councilman Astorino thanked Mr. Mondelli for his efforts on securing the bond rate which will have an exponential savings benefit.

Resolution R-193-19 A Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Service Agreement with the Township of Fairfield for the Composting of Leaves was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-195-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract to M2 Associates, Inc. for Hydrogeological Evaluation Services. Council President Santomauro noted that the contract is lower than the bid threshold. She offered that the service provider has over 34 years in hydro-evaluations. She stated that the contract is for \$8,000 to conduct phase one of the study to include data review and valuation of baselines.

Councilman Kessler provided information from Essex County regarding the opioid crisis and noted that Essex County has the highest rate of overdose deaths in the state. He announced an Opioid Awareness Workshop on October 16 and an Opioid Awareness Walk on November 2.

Council President Santomauro stated appreciation for the County's responsiveness to the Borough's request for manicuring and maintenance of the Central Avenue cut.

Chief Deuer announced a presentation on vaping scheduled for the following day at West Essex Middle School which is sponsored by the North Caldwell Police Foundation and the North Caldwell Municipal Alliance.

Executive Session

Resolution R-194-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Personnel: 1. NCPD; B. Litigation: 1. Civil Action Complaint; C. Potential Litigation: 1. National Prescription Opiate Litigation; D. Contract Negotiations: 1. Pulte Homes Extension Request, 2. Suburban Consulting Engineers, 3. Flanagan's Contracting Group, Inc.; E. Anticipated Contract Negotiations: 1. West Essex Community Police was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 9:05pm.

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 Councilman Chiaia, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:05pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk