

Organization Meeting January 3, 2016

The 2016 Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Sunday, January 3, 2016 and began at 12:03pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Joseph H. Alessi, announcing that notice of the date, time and location was provided in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975. Mayor Alessi asked Councilman Kessler to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk, presented the Certification of Results of the November 3, 2015 General Election wherein it is stated that the following were duly elected:

Francis X. Astorino, Council Member – 3-year term  
Robert C. Kessler, Council Member – 3-year term

Honorable Donald L. O'Connor, J.M.C. administered the Oath of Office to Francis X. Astorino.

Honorable Donald L. O'Connor, J.M.C. administered the Oath of Office to Robert Kessler.

Councilman Frank Astorino stated that serving on the Council is a true privilege and honor. Councilman Astorino spoke about fiscal responsibility as something very important. He said having a good budget has allowed the Borough to spend \$100,000 upgrading the technology for the Police Department and purchase a new fire truck for the Fire Department, which is important when you want to raise your family in a safe community.

Recreation is a gateway to being connected to the community. He encouraged the residents to be involved and volunteer. The town can only get better if we support the things we need economically and the things that are nice that are on our wish list.

He thanked everyone for voting for him again and pledged to help make North Caldwell the best town to live in New Jersey.

Councilman Robert Kessler said it has been a privilege to work with the Council and other employees of the Borough over the last 15 months. He said they truly have the best interest of our community at heart. They devote many hours to help make North Caldwell a wonderful town to live in. This achievement can be seen as North Caldwell was not only named one of the best towns to live in New Jersey but one of the top towns to live in the United States.

One request Councilman Kessler had of our residents of the community, is to get involved. Whether it be at a Council meeting or Board of Education meeting, there are many ways to get involved no matter what your age is. Go to a meeting and see what's going on in the community you live in.

A roll call was conducted with the following in attendance:

Mayor Alessi  
Councilman Astorino, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Raymond, Councilman Rees, Councilwoman Santomauro

Also in attendance Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution R-1-16 – Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes – Contract Negotiations - Purchase of Snow Plow Truck for DPW; B. Personnel – Recreation Referees and Officials was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Re-Opened to Public Meeting at 12:28pm.

## **MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS**

Mayor Alessi spoke about Fred Remington who passed away. He was the husband of longtime Council member Jeannette Remington. The Mayor stated that the Council's thoughts and condolences go out to the family at this time.

The Mayor thanked Rabbi Silverstein, Senator Joe Pennachio, Judge O'Connor, Council, Chief Deuer, Madam Clerk, Richard, family and friends for being here.

The Mayor thanked Frank and Bob for all their hard work on the Council. The Mayor stated things are going well in North Caldwell. In 2014, *New Jersey Magazine* named us the third best place to live out of 566 municipalities. In October 2015, *Business Insider* published out New York City conducted a national poll and ranked North Caldwell as the 11<sup>th</sup> best suburb in the United States out of 2,750 municipalities across the country. *Business Insider* made the determination by using a scientific vetting process where they calculated the results based on certain criteria and analyzed this by using a mathematical formula. Some of the criteria they utilized were household incomes, crime rate, housing affordability, education levels, homeownership, housing costs, social and economic variables. The criterion most weighted in the process was our school system, which has been recognized throughout the state.

As far as the crime rate, recently there have been a string of burglaries in North Caldwell and in the surrounding areas. Detective Michael Credico worked with a task force to secure search warrants and ultimately made five arrests. Many of the valuables that were stolen out of the cars plus two cars were returned.

The Mayor spoke about one of the things that makes this town what it is -- responsiveness. How the Council responds to residents concerns. A resident thanked him for taking care of an issue we had spoken about two weeks ago. He mentioned it to Frank Zichelli, and didn't even know it had already been taken care of. On Hillside Avenue, residents expressed their concern about parked commercial vehicles. The Council passed an ordinance to help them. Once that was done, the commercial residents came to the Council and the ordinance was tweaked in order to help them. Lastly, a light will be installed in front of the high school. It took a lot of work and several years, but again, this was responsiveness. The Mayor told the residents that when they have a concern over something, he can not promise anything but we will certainly look into it. Please remember, we are doing the best for the town.

The Mayor spoke about the Council having joint meetings with the other Boards. Among the Boards they have already met with, is the Historical Society and Historical Commission. As a result of the meetings, the website

lists the upcoming meetings and historical sites in North Caldwell. They will be doing the same with the Zoning and Planning Boards and Board of Education.

The Mayor stated the Council is currently working on a 5-year plan. All the Council members are head of a certain committee. Council President Cynthia Santomauro – Legal & Ordinance; Councilman Art Rees – Personnel; Councilman Frank Astorino – Finance; Councilman John Chiaia – Public Safety; Councilman Josh Raymond – Recreation and Councilman Bob Kessler – Department of Public Works. All Council members submitted a 5-year plan that will be reviewed so we can be proactive, not reactive.

Regarding financial responsibility, the Mayor stated out of the last three years, we came in with a flat tax rate.

We are in the process of negotiating and continue to negotiate with the Walker Family Trust. Our goal is to preserve the enjoyment and the heritage the past residents of the town enjoyed so that present residents can do the same. Our goal is to have open spaces, walking paths and ice skating.

We were able to raise \$80,000 at the Mayor's Ball through the North Jersey Recreation Corporation, Inc. We're going to have another Mayor's Ball and we're hoping to raise a lot more.

With regard to an increase in revenue, we have a packaged good liquor license for \$175,000 out to bid. Once we sell it, like we did the one for the restaurant, we can fill our coffers with that.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming.

The Borough Attorney, David M. Paris, Esq. arrived at this time.

### **ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Chiaia to elect Councilwoman Cynthia Santomauro as Council President for the year 2016, seconded by Councilman Astorino. This motion was carried unanimously.

Council Committee Designations by Council President Santomauro were announced as Legal Ordinance Chair – Council President Santomauro; Personnel Chair - Councilman Rees; Public Safety Chair – Councilman Chiaia; Finance Chair – Councilman Astorino; DPW Chair Councilman Kessler; Recreation Chair – Councilman Raymond.

Resolution R-2-16 - Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for the Borough of North Caldwell – David M. Paris, Esq. of Piro, Zinna, Cifelli, Paris & Genitempo, LLC, Borough Legal Counsel was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-3-16 - Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for the Borough of North Caldwell – Joseph Faccone of Samuel, Klein & Co., Borough Auditor was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Organization Meeting January 3, 2016

Resolution R-4-16 Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for the Borough of North Caldwell – John Draikiwicz of Gibbons, PC, Bond Counsel was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-5-16 - Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for the Borough of North Caldwell – Jeffrey R. Surrenian & Associates, LLC, Special COAH Counsel was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Alessi appointed the following Borough Officials with the advice and consent of Council:

R-6-16 - Confirmation of Appointment; Donald L. O'Connor, As Judge of the Municipal Court of North Caldwell – 3-year term. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

R-7-16 - Confirmation of Appointment of Water Superintendent and Water Operator – Frank Zichelli. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

R-8-16 - Confirmation of Appointment of Crossing Guards – Thomas Towne, Michael Wrobel, Raymond Smith. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

The following are Mayoral Appointments, with no confirmation required.

Planning Board:

Class IV, Alternate #2 – Sandra Nathans – 2-year term to expire 12/31/2017

Class III, Regular Member – James Campbell – 4-year term to expire 12/31/2019

Class II, Regular Member – Mel Levine – 1-year term to expire 12/31/2016

Mayor Appointments with Council Consent:

Camp Wyanokie Commission:

John Gakos – 1-year term to expire 12/31/2016

George Press – 1-year term to expire 12/31/2016

Planning Board (Council Appointment):

Motion by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino to appoint Arthur Rees to serve as Class III Member of the Planning Board. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Board of Adjustment (Council Appointment):

Regular Member Robert Augustitus – 4-year term to expire 12/31/2019

Regular Member John Ritter – 4-year term to expire 12/31/2019

Regular Member Beth Tanelli – 4-year term to expire 12/31/2019

Alternate Member #1; Asish Shah, 2-year term to expire 12/31/2017

Alternate Member #2; James Kearney, 2-year term to expire 12/31/2017

Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond to appoint members of the Board of Adjustment as listed above. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Alessi read the following Resolutions, which are on a consent agenda. Hearing no objection to move by one motion, Council President Santomauro moved to adopt all of the resolutions, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

R-9-16 - 2016 Annual Schedule of Meetings

R-10-16 - 2016 Depositories Authorization

R-11-16 - 2016 Official Newspapers Designations

R-12-16 - 2016 Petty Cash Funds Authorization

R-13-16 - 2016 Temporary Budget Adoption

R-14-16 - Resolution Appointing a Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.)

R-15-16 - Resolution of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes of Assessments

R-16-16 - Authorizing Specific Payments that can be Made Outside of a Meeting

R-17-16 - Authorization to Approve Professional Service Contracts for Recreation Programs

R-18-16 - Authorizing Appointment of Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund Commissioner

R-19-16 - Resolution of the Borough of North Caldwell Waiving the Appointment of a Risk Management Consultant and Indemnifying and Holding Harmless the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund as a Result of any Claims Arising from said Action

R-20-16 - Authorizing Appointment of 2016 Officers for the North Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department

R-21-16 - Authorization to Hire Seasonal Employees for 2015 Soccer Season Referees and Officials

R-22-16 - Establishing a New Petty Cash Fund

#### Ordinance

Council President Santomauro introduced Ordinance O-1-16 – Bond Ordinance Authorizing Acquisition of a Pick-Up Truck with Plow In and For the Borough of North Caldwell, In the County of Essex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$41,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$38,950 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. Councilman Kessler moved to pass the Ordinance at first reading, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously. Council President Santomauro stated that the Public Hearing for this ordinance will be on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Rabbi Silverstein from Congregation Agudath gave the Benediction.

Richard Verdi – Eight Hickory Drive, North Caldwell

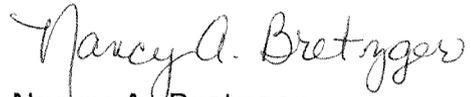
Mr. Verdi came to congratulate Councilman Astorino and Councilman Kessler on their election. He said he has lived in this town for almost 30 years. As Council members, it is important to communicate with each other; to talk amongst each other before action is taken. He spoke of the importance of the Recreation Department. He feels recreation is the foundation of the community. He then wished the Council good luck in the upcoming year.

Seeing no one else coming forward, The Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

Organization Meeting January 3, 2016

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino that the meeting be adjourned was carried unanimously at 12:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy A. Bretzger".

Nancy A. Bretzger  
Borough Clerk