

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:32pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Present: Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Raymond, Councilman Rees

Absent: Councilman Kessler

Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, Richard Mondelli, CFO and Nancy Bretzger, 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 Beverly Salerno to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution R-49-17 Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Litigation (1) COAH Declaratory Judgement was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Re-opened to Public Meeting at 7:53pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Alessi appointed Anthony Michelotti to Board of Adjustment as Alternate #2 for a 2-year term to expire 12/31/2018.

The Mayor spoke regarding the meeting he attended in Trenton for the League of Municipalities 25th Annual Legislative Day for Mayors.

The Mayor stated that the Ski Club for grades 4-8 is going strong. The Mayor's Cup for grades 3-8 basketball is beginning this month. Opening Day of baseball and softball has been changed to April 29, 2017. Tennis membership begins March 23, 2017. In the later part of the March, registration for pool membership and Summer Fun will begin. April 6, 2017 will be the celebration of the Annual Spring Spectacular and Easter Egg Hunt at Liberty Field.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Alessi opened the floor to the public.

Josh Leitner - 4 Coventry Lane

John Rapkin - 35 Willowbrook Drive

Mr. Leitner and Mr. Rapkin thanked the Mayor and Council for their hard work and understands that this is now the budgeting time. They would like to continue to discuss the scope of what is getting done and agree that the objective is to get the right project done at the right time. They noted the confluence of events that are happening: recent reports regarding the need to expand the schools which will impact recreation fields, the report we have the highest median income in NJ, and the enthusiasm among residents to contribute to improvements. Mayor Alessi reminded all to consider people who are below that median income, when discussing a tax increase. They stated that the effort of the survey was to get opinions of a broad audience in the community, there is a forward-thinking

audience in town that wants to invest in itself. The interest rates are extremely low right now, so the thought is that it is wise to get as much done as we can now, starting with smaller projects within larger projects such as improvements to Fireman's field for safety issues and to avoid game cancellations and to tackle other projects later such as fencing and new dugouts. They thanked the Council for their consideration.

Andrew Bronsnick – 22 Cambridge Drive

Mr. Bronsnick stated that he has lived in town for 10 years and his youngest will benefit the most. He explained that this is where we (residents) choose to spend our time with our children. He stated that this is a function of safety to our children. He explained the other part that is important is that we want to be proud of our fields to outside people. He feels that our fields are substandard to other towns. He stated that the Council should consider Millburn as a good example of field improvement.

Brian Levitt - 2 Coventry Lane

Mr. Levitt stated that he echoes everything that has been said already. He commented on interest rates, the AAA municipal borrowing costs are at 3%, a 40 year low. The national focus is on pro-growth policies, fiscal stimulus. Through deficit spending, the supply goes up, price goes down, interest rates go up.

Matt Atlas – 18 Rose Avenue

Mr. Atlas stated that he echoes what everyone else has said. He thanks the council for everything that they do. He asked that the Council pass the 2 resolutions for the athletic field improvements tonight. There needs to be consideration for significant safety issues on Liberty Field and Magnusson Field. He stated that safe parking design at Magnusson should be included when financing town restoration.

Sean Jacobs – 34 Fox Run

Mr. Jacobs stated that borrowing the maximum that you can should be considered now. Raising taxes a little bit should also be considered. He feels that capital improvements will raise property values and demand for homes in town. If a project is worth doing, do it well.

Ray Viola – 6 Deer Trail

Mr. Viola stated that there are safety issues at all of the fields: Fireman's Field has rocks in the field and a 6-8 inch lip in the outfield where clay was added on top of the existing clay. Liberty Field has the same issues as Fireman's Field. Mountain Avenue Field has sprinkler heads up 2 to 3 inches and 6 inch deep divots. He asked the Council to go and walk the fields. He stated that safety should be the first priority of the Council. He suggested joining recreation teams with other West Essex towns. He explained that the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation can fundraise to offset costs, i.e. business signs on fields, beefsteaks, golf outings to alleviate financial burden on the town. This needs to be done sooner than later. Mr. Viola asked the Council for a timeframe.

Mayor Alessi explained that the Council was in the process of the Budget review at this time.

Council President Santamauro stated that the Council was taking action now, authorizing an engineer for re-design of Liberty Field and putting together the bids. She explained that the Council has constraints because we are a municipality in which public bidding and bid packages are required.

Mr. Zichelli, Borough Engineer, explained the time line for the process of bidding a project for the town. Preliminary design, then a committee to meet with the consultants, the final design, the Borough will need NJDEP permits. The process from design to bidding can be on a fast track of an estimate of 8 months, but more realistically is 10-12 months.

Mayor Alessi stated that safety concerns are the most important issues for the Council.

Councilman Raymond states that DPW has spent significant time making improvements on Fireman's field. He explained that parking lot revisions will cause a loss of a ballfield on Liberty Field. The Resolution tonight is to approve funds to re-design Liberty Field. There will be Recreation Foundation members invited to serve on committee to review design with the design team. Councilman Raymond stated the Mayor & Council is committed to making improvements.

Councilman Rees stated that he wants the residents to be aware that the turf field is not a given. At this moment, the Council is still in budget discussions and balancing the funding of one big project like turf vs. satisfying several smaller projects.

Mayor Alessi stated that he will do a walk-through of the fields with Mr. Viola. Mr. Rapkin stated they are looking for the approval of a conclusive action plan and timing with the approval of a budget for the first phase of the multi-phased plan to address every field and improvements including logistics of closing one field and using another.

Council President Santomauro stated that we are doing what can do at this time to correct deficiencies while other things are going on. Due to necessary timeframe of bidding process, there will be a temporary measure to have DPW to put in a gravel parking lot at Magnusson Field.

Mayor Alessi stated that he anticipates another Mayor's Ball in the fall to raise more funds for the Recreation Foundation.

David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, explained the municipal budgeting process and the steps towards approving the capital budget.

John Rapkin asked for a timeline to be set and transparency to the residents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of January 24, 2017, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Councilman Rees abstained. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting and Executive Session of February 14, 2017, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL AND ORDINANCE

Councilman Raymond moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-1-17 – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously. Seeing no one from the public coming forward, Councilman Raymond moved to Close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-1-17 – Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Raymond moved to Adopt Ordinance O-1-17-Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-545.14), seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-50-17 Resolution of the Borough of North Caldwell Authorizing Boy Scout Troop #856 to Hold a Fundraiser on April 8, 2017 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by West Essex PBA Local #81 Civic Association for a Tricky Tray Raffle to be held at Green Brook Country Club on May 22, 2017 – A motion was made by Councilman Raymond to grant the raffle application to the West Essex PBA Local #81 Civic Association, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by West Essex PBA Local #81 Civic Association for a 50/50 Raffle to be held at Green Brook Country Club on May 22, 2017 – A motion was made by Councilman Raymond to grant the raffle application to the West Essex PBA Local #81 Civic Association, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-63-17 Appointment of Mel Levine (Member) and Frank Zichelli (Alternate Member) as Community Development Block Grant Representative was read. Motion made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by West Essex First Aid Squad for a 50/50 Raffle to be held at North Caldwell Fireman's Community Center on May 6, 2017 – A motion was made by Councilman Raymond to grant the raffle application to the West Essex First Aid Squad, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by West Essex First Aid Squad for a Tricky Tray Raffle to be held at North Caldwell Fireman's Community Center on May 6, 2017 – A motion was made by Councilman Raymond to grant the raffle application to the West Essex First Aid Squad, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of January 2017. Taxes collected for the month of January total \$2,510,786.69. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-51-17 – Approval to Pay Bills – Councilman Astorino made a motion for the approval to pay bills in the amount of \$3,351,203.11 was read, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-52-17 – Resolution Approving the Funding for Engineering Services for the Design of a Synthetic Turf Athletic Field was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-53-17 – Approving the West Essex First Aid Squad Certified LOSAP List for the Year 2016 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-54-17 – Tax Lien Redemption – Block 705, Lot 1 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-55-17 – Tax Lien Redemption – Block 1004, Lot 5 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-64-17 – 2016 Budget Transfers Approval was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Chiaia stated that tonight's testimony by residents is very helpful to be on the record to justify expenditures.

Councilman Chiaia read the Public Safety Report for the Police Department. He stated that in January there were 2 arrests, 1 burglary, and 3 matters at the high school. A total of 995 calls were called into dispatch and 56 tickets were issued for moving violations. Police vehicle maintenance expenditures for 9 vehicles totaled \$598.05.

Councilman Chiaia read the Public Safety Report for the Fire Department. There were 23 total calls, 7 were for fire alarms with no fires, 6 carbon monoxide alarms, 3 responses for gas odors, 3 mutual aid calls assisting Cedar Grove, Fairfield and West Caldwell, 1 report of smoke in home, 1 fire due to hot ashes placed in garage, 1 smoking laptop at West Essex High School. The Firemen had training regarding B load pathogens.

Councilman Chiaia stated that the Fire Chief wants all residents to know of a new policy from the Board of Public Utilities that the Fire Department must respond to all gas odor complaints. Residents should be notified of the new law so not to be surprised when a fire truck is dispatched.

Resolution R-56-17 Appointment of Volunteer Fire Department Member – Scott Stellfox was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Council President Santomauro offered the January 2017 Construction Report. For the month of January, 46 permits were issued. Fees collected for permits issued for the month was \$12,539.00 which is \$3,000 less than in January 2016. Due to the good weather, construction is continuously working year-round and the money spread out. Increases are expected for the spring.

Council President Santomauro offered the January Recycling Report. There was a total of 277 tons of paper, commingled, bulk and household waste collected in January. This is higher than 3 of last 4 years which indicates that people are interested in recycling.

Council President Santomauro gave the Animal Control Report for the month of January 2017 and stated that there was 1 dog reported lost but recovered, 1 dog was struck by car, 1 call of fox in a garage, 1 large black animal reported but not found, and no bites and no quarantines occurred.

Resolution R-57-17 Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contracts for the Borough of North Caldwell – Dykstra Walker Design Group was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-58-17 Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contracts for the Borough of North Caldwell – Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-59-17 Resolution Authorizing Application to the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund for Funding for the Environmental Assessment and Investigation of Walker's Pond was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-60-17 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award 2016 Roadway Improvements was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

RECREATION

Councilman Raymond reported on the February 2017 Recreation Report. He recognized the Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Dinner at Notre Dame Church attended by Mayor Alessi, Council President Santomauro, Mel Levine, and Councilman Raymond. There were 5 boys that crossed over to Boy Scouts and the Cornelius Vanderburg Founders Award was presented to the North Caldwell Recreation Department with special mention to Bill Maranz & Jamie Cannon for their dedication and leadership in scouting. Councilman Raymond presented the certificate to Bill Maranz.

Councilman Raymond stated the Recreation Basketball teams for grades 3-8 completed the regular season. There were 24 teams with over 300 children playing. The K-2 basketball clinic ended in February with 99 enrolled. The annual Mayor's Cup begins the first week of March with all North Caldwell teams playing each other in a tournament format. The Travel Suburban Basketball team regular season play has concluded. Ski club season for grades 4-6 was cut short by 1 week due to weather. Senior men's' basketball season held on Tuesdays at 8:00pm at Grandview School is winding down. Men's' 40+ basketball open gym play is held Wednesdays 8:00pm-9:30pm at Gould School continues. Spring Track and Field registration ends March 17, Recreation Baseball and Softball registration ends March 6. Flag football had 21 children participating and 7 children were enrolled in the Explorer Science Superheroes 2 program. Opening Day for Baseball and Softball is Saturday, April 29.

Resolution R-61-17 Authorization to Hire Additional Seasonal Employees for 2016-2017 Basketball Season Scorekeepers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion on West Essex Little League Program was deferred to the next meeting on March 14, 2017, when the Chairman of Recreation, Councilman Kessler, can participate in the discussion.

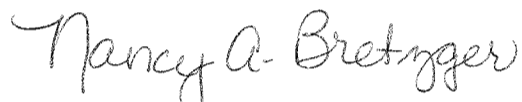
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-62-17 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes –A. Contract Negotiations – (1) Traffic Signal Cost Sharing Agreement (2) Caldwell Sewer Utility (3) Hilltop Water Agreement with Essex Fells B. Personnel C. Liquor License – Bid Amount was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Re-opened to Public Meeting 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 Councilman Astorino that this meeting be adjourned at 9:39pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk