

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:33pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Absent: Councilman Chiaia

Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Mel Levine, Borough Administrator; Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer; 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 Council President Santomauro to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor provided his report. He stated that the Morristown Municipal Joint Insurance Fund awarded the Borough of North Caldwell a Certificate of Achievement for our Safety Incentive Program and a \$275 gift certificate to be used for safety equipment.

Mayor Alessi announced that Tuesday, July 4 will be the 241st celebration of Independence Day with the annual fireworks display to be held at Bonnell Field. He stated that Travel Baseball and Men's Softball are ending their seasons.

Mayor Alessi reported that the Borough repaved Willow Brook Drive in June with a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. In addition, a grant was received from the NJDOT for repaving Highland Drive and Winding Way which will be completed by the end of the summer. Also scheduled for repaving at the end of the summer are Hickory Drive and Timber Drive. The Mayor thanked Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, for securing the grants from the NJDOT.

Mayor Alessi stated that the North Caldwell Police Foundation will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, August 26 at the Montclair State University Memorial Auditorium. Tickets cost \$75 and include entertainment by Smokey Robinson.

The Mayor's Ball will be held on September 22 from 7:30-11:30pm at Green Brook Country Club. Tickets are \$125 and net proceeds will go the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation for refurbishing athletic facilities and installing a turf field.

Mayor Alessi congratulated residents Larry and Jodi Funder on the ribbon cutting and grand opening of JOLA Coffee Shop at 15 Bloomfield Avenue.

Mayor Alessi welcomed Cass Gilbert, Grand Marshall of the West Essex Memorial Day Parade, and read a Proclamation issued by the Borough of North Caldwell. Due to the rain, the parade had been cancelled but ceremonies were held at the West Caldwell Fire Department and at Essex Fells Borough Hall. The proclamation was presented to Mr. Gilbert and the Council expressed their congratulations and appreciation for Mr. Gilbert's service to the country. Pictures were taken of Mr. Gilbert with the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Gilbert stated he was honored to be named Grand Marshal and to be present. Mr. Gilbert added that 462 World War II veterans die every day and he appreciates being able to continue to play music. He thanked the Mayor and Council.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Alessi opened the floor to the public.

Richard Verde – 8 Hickory Drive

Mr. Verde stated that this gallery is typical of past meetings in that no one attends except if it applies to them. He referenced a meeting he attended at which an honor was presented to an athletic team who then left the meeting. Mr. Verde stated that there was another meeting attended by a group of residents who spoke out against a home being built in their neighborhood. He stated he attended a Mayor and Council meeting regarding issues on Elm Road and on Central Avenue which are county roads and were later repaired. Mr. Verde stated he and his wife spoke to the Town Council at which they spoke about issues of respect. He stated that he had come before the Council in the past to ask for a sign ordinance specifying the time that political signs can be erected prior to and after an election similar to what other towns in the area have. He asked who is responsible for taking down signs after an election as some signs are still present in town three weeks after the election. Mr. Verde is still asking for an ordinance for political signs.

The Mayor stated that the Council listens to the people and no one else has come forward asking for a political sign ordinance. Mr. Paris stated that the governing body receives input from all people and makes a determination as to what needs to be addressed. Mr. Paris stated that others in the Borough have not raised any concerns with political signs and referenced the Supreme Court case regarding Freedom of Speech. The governing body did not deem the political signs to be a problem so there has been no ordinance. Mr. Verde stated that his request is a proactive request because of possible future issues regarding enforcement of removal.

Mr. Verde stated that he is not a politician but rather a North Caldwell resident that wants to do what is best for the Borough. He stated that he is a pragmatist and does not come to the meetings to just spout off information. Mr. Verde stated that he spends a lot of time to attend meetings and that he has offered his time to help given his knowledge of the Borough from his 27 years as Borough Prosecutor. He stated he has a good relationship with most law enforcement officers, except some. He stated that other voices need to be heard in this town. Mr. Verde said he stayed silent for ethical reasons for 27 years but he demands respect as a resident and former officer in this town and still has a lot to contribute to this town. As a result of not being listened to by the Council, Mr. Verde is running for the Borough Council in the November 2017 election so that he can speak his piece regarding the sign ordinance, crooked street signs and roadways with pot holes.

Mayor Alessi asked for any other citizens to be heard. No other citizens came forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular and Executive Session of May 23, 2017, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Kessler abstained. Said motion passed with four votes in favor and one abstention.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting and Executive Session of June 13, 2017, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Councilman Raymond abstained. Said motion passed with four votes in favor and one abstention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL AND ORDINANCE

Resolution R-131-17 A Resolution Authorizing Inclusion in the Essex County Urban County Community Development Program for Program Years 2018-2020 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Resolution R-132-17 Liquor License Renewal – Dezi’s Hospitality, LLC was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes. Councilman Raymond introduced the Raffle Application by Notre Dame Church for a Calendar Raffle for the year 2018 to be held on the 22nd of each month for calendar year 2018. A motion was made by Councilman Raymond to grant the raffle application to Notre Dame Church, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Councilman Raymond introduced Ordinance O-6-17 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Section 107-31 Signs to Prohibit Certain Commercial Signs in Residential Zones within the Borough with revised language made by Mr. Paris after discussion amongst the council, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes. Councilman Raymond stated that the Public Hearing for this ordinance will be on Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Council President Santomauro offered the May 2017 Construction Report. Council President Santomauro stated that there were 48 permits issued in the month of May with total construction cost of \$1,092,315.99 with \$24,466.00 in fees collected in that time.

Council President Santomauro offered the May Recycling Report. There was a total of just over 352 tons of total recycling collected year-to-date which represents 24.44% of all solid waste collected.

Council President Santomauro gave the Animal Control Report for the month of May 2017 which included nine calls and two summonses. No quarantines or animal bites were reported during May 2017.

Resolution R-140-17 – Fuel Supply Agreement Authorization – Jack’s Friendly Service, 152 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, NJ was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Resolution R-141-17 – Fuel Supply Agreement Authorization – Quick on the Way, LLC, 1 Bloomfield Avenue, North Caldwell, NJ was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes.

Council President Santomauro excused herself at 8:18pm.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Resolution R-133-17 Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipend to Recreation Program Director was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-134-17 Authorization to Hire Additional Seasonal Employees for 2017 – Municipal Pool was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-135-17 Authorization to Hire Additional Seasonal Employees for 2017 – Summer Fun was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Councilman Astorino abstained. Said motion was carried with three votes and one abstention.

Resolution R-144-17 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Kristyn Sheehy as Daily Substitute Pool Manager was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of May 2017. Taxes collected for the month of May total \$6,486,638.39. Water Utility collected \$97,915.90. Pool Utility collected \$41,560.70. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-136-17 – Approval to Pay Bills – Councilman Astorino made a motion for the approval to pay bills in the amount of \$1,129,414.77 was read, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-137-17 – Estimated Tax Billing Authorization, 2017 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Department Public Safety Report for May 2017 was read by Councilman Astorino. There were 995 calls received by dispatch and the Police Department issued 95 summonses. There were 57 alarms, 3 arrests, and 12 juvenile matters.

Resolution R-138-17 – Appointment of Volunteer Fire Department Member – Nicholas P. Toscano was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.
Resolution R-139-17 – Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contracts for the Borough of North Caldwell – Motorola Solutions was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

RECREATION

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Report. Recreation Baseball and Softball concluded the season with 275 participants. Unfortunately, the fifth and sixth grade boys lost the Championship game to Essex Fells. The end-of-season pool party was greatly attended. Councilman Raymond extended special appreciation to Premio Foods for supplying the sausage truck again. Summer travel baseball is finishing up their season with three teams: U11, U9 and U8.

The tennis courts have been open since April 1 and membership this year has doubled to 70 individuals registered. The pool has been open since May 27 with 1,193 people registered. The Pool Open House was held on June 3.

Summer fun started on June 24 and currently has 154 participants. Movies at the Pool will be held on July 6, 13 and 20. On Wednesday, June 7, the annual Senior Indoor Picnic was held at Fireman's Hall. Swimming at the pool is free every Wednesday for Seniors.

Men's softball season is ending with playoffs scheduled for early July. Registration for fall recreation soccer is now open. July 4 fireworks will be held at Bonnell field. The last day of Summer Fun is August 4, the last day the town pool is open is September 4 and the Town Picnic will be September 9 from 1-6pm at the town pool.

Discussion – Individual Swim Lessons – Councilman Kessler explained the reason behind the increase to the individual swim lessons. The Mayor and Council agreed to the increase in the price of the lessons.

Resolution R-142-17 Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs – Individual Swim Lessons was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Resolution R-145-17 A Resolution Approving Payment to Borough Employees for Providing Individual Swim Lessons at the North Caldwell Municipal Pool was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

Mr. Gilbert stated that he understands that residents have the right to cut down trees. He stated that his neighbor at 262 Park Avenue has cut down 20 trees prior to moving into the house. Mr. Gilbert mentioned that many of the surrounding towns have ordinances stating that residents cannot cut down a tree unless the tree is sick or dead. He requested that the Mayor and Council consider a tree ordinance. Mayor Alessi and members of the Council agreed that a tree ordinance should be discussed further during an upcoming conference meeting.

A representative from Essex County offered a reminder of some free county events such as late nights at the zoo through Labor Day, summer movies every Wednesday evening after dusk, and the free summer concerts. Schedules are available on the website.

Councilman Rees raised the possibility of Essex County using email instead of mailings to the Council and bulk mail to the residents which are sometimes received after the date of the event.

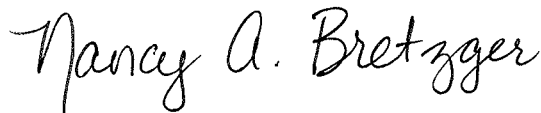
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-143-17 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes - Contract Negotiations –(1) Caldwell Sewer Utility B. Litigation – (1) COAH Declaratory Judgement; C. Personnel – (1) PBA Contract (2) Water Clerk was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with four votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 8:54pm.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Rees, that this meeting be adjourned at 8.54pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk