

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:34pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

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

Absent: Mayor Alessi, Councilman Chiaia

Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Mel Levine, Borough Administrator; Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer; Richard Mondelli, CFO; and Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk

Council President Santomauro called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Council President Santomauro asked Councilman Kessler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Council President Santomauro stated for the record that Mayor Alessi could not attend the meeting but requested that Council President Santomauro act in his place.

Council President Santomauro thanked Frank Zichelli, the DPW, Police Chief Deuer, and the Police Department on behalf of the Governing Body for outstanding service in cleaning the roadways during the March 14 snowstorm to keep the residents safe. Council President Santomauro stated she could see the difference in the roads when driving from North Caldwell into other towns and received positive feedback from some residents regarding the road conditions. Council President Santomauro also thanked the County for clearing county roads such as Mountain Avenue.

Council President Santomauro stated that through Essex County Deer Management Program 2017 the Hilltop Reservation took down 41 deer, the South Mountain Reservation 48 deer. The deer were transported to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey which provided 7,872 meals for the needy.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Council President Santomauro opened the floor to the public.

George Stafford – 16 Kitchell Avenue, Wharton, New Jersey
Mr. Stafford stated he represents the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, Keep It Green, a statewide Open Space group, and ANJEC, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. Mr. Stafford requested that the Board consider new resolutions at a future meeting, the first being about the New Jersey Water Plan. He stated that in 1996, the legislature decided that a study be conducted every 5 years to monitor water supply, how the water is used, and how many people are using it; however, the study has not been done since. A study was done around 2011 but it has not been published. Mr. Stafford stated that since 1996, water in New Jersey is being used by about 1 million more people now and that we get more rain than 21 years ago, about 50 inches of rain per year in New Jersey as compared to 37 inches in Seattle. He stated that we are literally drinking the water that falls

out of the sky. Mr. Stafford stated in 1999, the New Jersey Highlands exported 106 billion gallons of water to 6 million people that receive some or all of their water from the Highlands, noting that North Caldwell is independent regarding water. He continued that in 2011, the Highlands exported 136 billion gallons of water to 7 million people. We lose almost 25% of our treated drinking water to infrastructure leaks indicating a problem but the source of the problem is unknown. He stated that in order to move forward with infrastructure plans for the future, he has developed a resolution that asks the Governor's office and the Department of Environmental Protection to release the 2011 results and start another study as soon as possible.

Mr. Stafford also presented a second resolution regarding Open Space. He stated that since 1996 we have lost almost a quarter of a million acres of Open Space which promotes groundwater recharge through which the springs feed the streams, rivers and reservoirs. He noted that if you pave over an acre in New Jersey, 4 million gallons are lost, which could be, at least in part, recharged as runoff. Mr. Stafford stated the resolution asks that the State come up with a sustainable program to fund Open Space real estate. If we were to leave all current Open Space untouched, it would simply stabilize our current water position, it would not address what will happen in the future as our population grows and our Open Space shrinks.

Mr. Stafford offered to email copies of his proposed resolutions and to return to speak further on this matter and answer any questions. Mr. Stafford thanked the Board for their time.

Council President Santomouro asked for any other citizens to be heard. No other citizens came forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Santomauro requested a motion to accept the minutes from the Budget Meeting and Regular Meeting of February 28, 2017. Councilman Raymond moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Kessler abstained. Said motion was carried with 4 votes.

Council President Santomauro requested a motion to accept the minutes from the First Executive Session and Second Executive Session of February 28, 2017. Councilman Raymond moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Kessler abstained. Said motion was carried with 4 votes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL AND ORDINANCE

Council President Santomauro asked Councilman Raymond to table the introduction of Ordinance O-2-17 until after it is discussed during the Executive Session.

Councilman Raymond introduced the Raffle Application by North Caldwell Partnership for Education (NCPE) for a 50/50 Raffle to be held at Liberty Field Parking Lot on May 20, 2017 at the Second Annual Food Truck Festival. A motion was made by Councilman Raymond to grant the raffle application to the North Caldwell Partnership for Education (NCPE), seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Resolution R-79-17 Appointment of Gregory Karol as Manager of the Borough of North Caldwell Municipal Pool for the 2017 Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler with a grammatical correction noted. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-80-17 Appointment of Samantha Benanti as Head Director of the 2017 Summer Fun and Kiddy Camp Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-81-17 Appointment of Victoria Zizzo as Director of Lower Camp Summer Fun and Assistant Director of Kiddie Camp for 2017 Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of February 2017. Taxes collected for the month of February total \$6,428,060.23. Water Utility collected \$102,203.17. Pool Utility collected \$12.32. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-82-17 – Approval to Pay Bills – Councilman Astorino made a motion for the approval to pay bills in the amount of \$735,431.34 was read, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-83-17 – 2016 Appropriation Reserves Transfers Approval in the amount of \$4,000.00 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-84-17 – Fixing Water Rates Pursuant to Ordinance O-1-09 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-85-17 – Cancellation of Capital Appropriation Balances Approval was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-86-17 – 2017 Municipal Budget Introduction was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Councilman Rees voted against the resolution based on planned expenditure on the turf field which he feels does not benefit all residents. Councilman Rees suggested this go to referendum on which the town can vote. Councilman Rees voted against the resolution. Said motion was carried with 4 votes.

Council President Santomauro thanked Richard Mondelli for his work on the budget as well as all Department Heads for keeping the budgets as low as possible.

Resolution R-87-17 – Deferred Local District School Tax was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-88-17 – Deferred Regional High School Tax was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-89-17 – A Resolution for Self-Examination of Budget was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Astorino read the memo from Richard Mondelli, CFO, on Capital Budget Requests regarding the \$2,567,546 General Capital items discussed at the Capital

Budget Meeting on March 20, 2017. Councilman Astorino stated these improvements would increase our debt by \$2,292,564, use \$202,321.28 of capital improvement fund and \$69,725.72 of capital surplus. Councilman Astorino continued that this would bring our total non-bonded general debt to \$8,082,339.29 and leave a balance of \$142,266.05 in the general capital improvement fund. Councilman Astorino stated that this was a big year for capital improvements such as Walker's Pond and municipal field improvements. He stated that he was not originally in favor of implementing a turf field in lieu of improving all fields. However, he has never seen the Recreation Department receive appropriate funds for what is needed. Councilman Astorino commended Councilman Raymond's and Councilman Kessler's plan which is inclusive of all residents. Councilman Astorino stated that the installation of the turf field, given its proximity to the municipal pool, Liberty Field, the tennis courts and the Municipal Building, is more reflective of the caliber of the town. Councilman Astorino stated that the current climate of lower interest rates makes this the right time to proceed with the turf field which is desired by a significant section of the community. Councilman Astorino commended the Council for doing a great job in accomplishing big projects such as this.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Council President Santomauro stated that the February Public Safety Report will be discussed at the next Mayor & Council Regular Meeting along with the March Report due to Councilman Chiaia's absence.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Council President Santomauro offered the February 2017 Construction Report. For the month of February, 29 permits were issued. Fees collected for permits issued for the month was \$8,272.00. One (1) Certificate of Occupancy was issued, 19 Certificates of Approval were issued, and 6 Certificates of Continued Occupancy were issued. Council President Santomauro stated that the Year-to-Date permit total as of the end of February 2017 is \$20,838.00 which is much less than the year prior.

Council President Santomauro offered the February Recycling Report. There were 34.05 tons of paper and 24.75 tons of commingled for a total of 58.8 tons of recycling in February 2017. This is similar to January 2017 and but shows a consistent upward trend from past years.

Council President Santomauro gave the Animal Control Report for the month of February 2017 where there were only 2 incidents of dogs running at large and 3 deceased animals retrieved.

RECREATION

Councilman Kessler reported on the March-April 2017 Recreation Report. Recreation Basketball has concluded. Over 300 Kindergarten through 8th grade boys and girls participated. Councilman Kessler congratulated the Mayor's Cup tournament champions: Girls Grades 3-4 Celtics, Boys Grades 3-4 Notre Dame, Girls Grades 5-6 Fairfield, Boys Grades 5-6 Maryland and Boys Grades 7-8 Wizards.

Councilman Kessler stated the Youth Track & Field practices will begin the first week of April for boys and girls in grades 4 – 8 from the West Essex community with 55 participants registered, 35 of whom are from North Caldwell. Councilman Kessler stated that Recreation Baseball and Softball teams are organized, practices will be starting soon and Opening Day is Saturday, April 29 at 9:00 am. There are 270 boys and girls in Kindergarten through 6th grade registered. Councilman Kessler noted the Spring Spectacular is planned for April 6 from 4:00 to 5:00pm

and includes an egg hunt. Councilman Kessler stated that spring youth tennis clinics participants can register for a specific day of the week this year rather than for the whole week. Councilman Kessler highlighted some important dates including the Senior Fitness program which started on March 7 and will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Fireman's Community Center through May 11 and the Senior Meeting and Luncheon which will be held on Wednesday, April 19 at 1:00pm at Fireman's Community Center. Councilman Kessler noted that registrations for Summer Camp and the Spring Programs are underway. Councilman Kessler stated that tennis membership registration began on March 23, the tennis courts should be open on April 1, depending on the weather, and that the Spring Break Tennis Camp will run from April 10-13. Councilman Kessler stated that the municipal pool opens on May 27 and encouraged all to attend the Pool Open House on Saturday, June 3. Councilman Kessler noted the first day of Summer Fun Camp is Monday, June 26 and encouraged all to register as soon as possible.

Resolution R-90-17 Authorization to Hire Seasonal Employees for 2017 Baseball-Softball Season Umpires and Officials was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-91-17 Authorization to Hire Seasonal Employees for 2017 – Municipal Pool was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Kessler noted the North Caldwell Board of Education meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at Grandview School at 7:30pm at which plans for improvement to the school facilities will be discussed. He encouraged participation and attendance to understand the goals for the school facilities in North Caldwell. Councilman Raymond stated his intent to attend the meeting. Councilman Kessler stated that school improvements would be discussed at the meeting as part of the conversation on preparing for the influx of 80-100 new students into the school system due to the building of new homes in town over the next few years. Councilman Kessler noted the meeting's purpose is to give the town an overview of potential plans and potential costs.

Council President Santomauro noted the attendance of the County Representative at the meeting and thanked her for all her work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

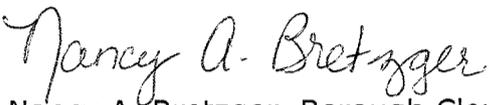
Resolution R-92-17 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes –A. Contract Negotiations – (1) Traffic Signal Cost Sharing Agreement (2) Caldwell Sewer Utility B. Personnel - (1) Part-time Recreation Program Director C. Litigation – (1) COAH Declaratory Judgment was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Re-opened to Public Meeting at 9:13pm.

Introduction of Ordinance 2-17 – An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell Authorizing the Granting of a Long Term Tax Exemption and the Execution of a Financial Agreement with White Rock Urban Renewal Associates, L.P. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et. seq. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously. Councilman Raymond stated that the Public Hearing would be Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

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 Raymond that this meeting be adjourned at 9:20pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk