

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting, November 28, 2017

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:37pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer; Rich Mondelli, CFO; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Acting 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 Rabbi Silverstein to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of Anti-Semitism Proclamation

The Mayor thanked everyone for their participation and enthusiasm in attending the meeting for the presentation of the Anti-Semitism Proclamation. He stated that he was proud to present the proclamation. Mayor Alessi read the proclamation.

Mayor Alessi called on Gail Black, President of Hadassah New Jersey, a national organization of women Zionists. She was joined by representatives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Rabbi Alan Silverstein from Agudath Israel Congregation in Caldwell, Hadassah members, and North Caldwell residents.

Ms. Black thanked the Mayor and Council for being the first municipality to be proactive in introducing an anti-BDS proclamation to the community. She stated that the anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestments, Sanctions) movement fights anti-Israel and anti-Semitic oppression and thanked the Governing Body for showing the North Caldwell residents and our neighbors that hate and anti-Semitism will not be tolerated in North Caldwell. She called on Stephanie Bonder to speak.

Ms. Bonder introduced herself as the immediate past President of Hadassah of Northern New Jersey and thanked the Mayor and Council for passing the proclamation. She stated that we are living in a time when hate is on the rise and anti-Semitic incidents are occurring more often. She stated that the proclamation is an example that our community supports one another and doesn't discriminate. Ms. Bonder thanked the Council for their efforts against persecution and the discrimination against others and for taking a stand against hate.

Rabbi Allan Silverstein addressed the audience and stated that it is reassuring for families of his congregation to live in a community that has a policy of no tolerance for bigotry and hatred. He expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and Council for the proactive blessing of community living in West Essex.

Michael Cohen from the Simon Wiesenthal Center thanked the Governing Body for the proclamation and for being the first town that came to them proactively to stand up to anti-Semitism and discrimination. Mr. Cohen gave the history of this movement which began in September of 2016 with the New York City Council and has since spread to several states. The movement continues to take the resolution city to city for passage in as many municipalities as possible. He stated that North Caldwell was the 19th or 20th municipality to adopt the resolution, but the first to proactively contact the movement. He expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and Council.

Photos were taken of the Governing Body and the representatives of the anti-BDS Movement. Mayor Alessi offered copies of the Proclamation to the public.

Mayor's Report

Borough Administrator

Mayor Alessi stated that he has known Frank Zichelli since 2002 and commended Mr. Zichelli for always being truthful, straightforward, hard-working and knowledgeable. Mayor Alessi noted he is confident there will be a seamless transition as Mr. Zichelli has been employed by the Borough for almost 31 years.

Mayor Alessi read in full Resolution R-220-17 A Resolution Appointing Frank Zichelli to the Position of Borough Administrator. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Mr. Zichelli thanked the Mayor and Council and stated he was honored to have the trust of the Governing Body and complimented the support from the Borough employees.

Council President Santomauro stated that Mr. Zichelli was an excellent and logical choice to fill the role of Borough Administrator. She stated that no one has the grasp of everything about North Caldwell like Mr. Zichelli does, adding that he knows North Caldwell's past and knows where the future is heading. Council President stated that Mr. Zichelli handles things with calmness and earns the respect of others.

Councilman Rees stated that it is a pleasure to have Mr. Zichelli as the backbone of the town and extended his congratulations.

Councilman Astorino stated that there is a need for trust in government today that he feels a high level of trust that Mr. Zichelli can resolve issues immediately. He added that Mr. Zichelli has true integrity and the motivation to take this town further.

Mr. Paris congratulated Mr. Zichelli on an honor that recognizes his contributions to the town over the years. He stated he has enjoyed working with Mr. Zichelli in his role as Borough Engineer and looks forward to working together on a daily basis as Mr. Zichelli assumes the role of Borough Administrator.

Councilman Kessler stated that he has enjoyed working with Mr. Zichelli since serving with the North Caldwell Baseball Association. He added that it is a great day for the Borough of North Caldwell because the citizens benefit greatly from Mr. Zichelli's efforts behind the scenes. He stated that Mr. Zichelli's history and knowledge are irreplaceable. Councilman Kessler added that Mr. Zichelli is the best person to handle all of the upcoming Borough projects and wished him luck and congratulations.

Councilman Raymond stated that Mr. Zichelli is a tremendous asset to the community and that the citizens of the Borough are lucky to have Mr. Zichelli serving as both Borough Administrator and Borough Engineer. He added that Mr. Zichelli is a tremendous leader who will undoubtedly help the Borough navigate development and large upcoming projects. Councilman Raymond thanked Mr. Zichelli for all he has done and wished him success.

Councilman Chiaia noted that Mayor Dick Nelson and Borough Administrator John Kosko hired Mr. Zichelli. He commended Mr. Zichelli for giving his advice to the Planning Board, his commitment to DPW needs especially quick snow plowing, his patience, wisdom and humble guidance. Councilman Chiaia added that his kindness sets the tone for the town. He shared a story of Mr. Zichelli's rescue of a family of ducks that were stuck in a stormwater drain. He thanked Mr. Zichelli for his dedication and wished him continued success.

Chief Deuer stated that the atmosphere between the Police Department and Borough Administration/DPW has changed over the years from a separate entity mentality to a cohesive team thanks to a great working relationship with Mr. Zichelli. He stated the Police Department, Fire Department, DPW and Council are now a united group of which he is proud to be a part. He congratulated Mr. Zichelli and offered his support.

Mr. Zichelli asked Eileen Iannarone, Building Administrative Assistant, to assist in his Oath of Office. Mayor Alessi administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Zichelli.

Henry Forstenhausler Tribute

Mayor Alessi noted the passing of Henry Forstenhausler as an important loss to our community. He stated that Mr. Forstenhausler was a great friend to the Governing Body and was a regular attendee at Council meetings. He noted that he was a great supporter of the community and was a member of the National Guard, the North Caldwell Special Police and the North Caldwell Fire Department. Mayor Alessi read Mr. Forstenhausler's obituary of the 60-year North Caldwell resident.

American Red Cross Appreciation

Mayor Alessi noted the \$2,000 contribution made by residents and staff through the Borough for Hurricane Harvey relief to the American Red Cross. This amount is in addition

to contributions made directly by residents and staff to the Red Cross and/or through other avenues.

Additionally, Mayor Alessi announced the celebration honoring Mayor Emeritus Mel Levine who retired at the end of September 2017. The party will be held on November 29, 2017 at Il Tulipano at 7:00pm and tickets are still available.

Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens who came forward.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Councilman Raymond moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-8-17 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 “Vehicles and Traffic”, §99-3 “Schedule 1, No Parking”, of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell to Prohibit Parking on Portions of Glenview Road, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. Councilman Raymond stated that this ordinance originated with a resident concerned with safety in the area and he complimented the Mayor and Council for their response to the request.

Seeing no one from the public coming forward, Councilman Raymond moved to Close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-8-17 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 “Vehicles and Traffic”, §99-3 “Schedule 1, No Parking”, of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell to Prohibit Parking on Portions of Glenview Road, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Councilman Raymond moved to Adopt Ordinance O-8-17 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 “Vehicles and Traffic”, §99-3 “Schedule 1, No Parking”, of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell to Prohibit Parking on Portions of Glenview Road, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Councilman Raymond moved to introduce Ordinance O-9-17 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell with Respect to Traffic Regulations Affecting Borough Schools, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said ordinance is scheduled for approval at the Public Hearing and Final Reading to be held on Monday, December 18, 2017. Councilman Raymond stated that this ordinance was created after discussion with the Mayor and Council, the North Caldwell Board of Education, the Chief of Police, and the Borough Administrator/Engineer for the benefit of our citizens.

Resolution R-219-17 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 six votes.

Resolution R-233-17 Amending the Effective Dates for Liquor License 0715-33-001-001 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-234-17 Amending the Effective Dates for Liquor License 0715-33-001-002 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Raffle License Application for the Montclair Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society “Dapper Dans of Harmony” for Calendar Raffle to be held at the North Caldwell Fireman’s Community Center weekly from March 13, 2018 through May 22, 2018 was moved by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. The application was approved unanimously with six votes.

Personnel/Administration

Resolution R-221-17 A Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Beth Tanelli was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was

carried unanimously with six votes. Mayor Alessi thanked Mrs. Tanelli for her contributions to the Borough.

Resolution R-222-17 Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Anna Crowell as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator for the Municipal Court of the Boroughs of North Caldwell and Essex Fells was tabled until after discussion during the Executive Session.

State of NJ Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits Resolution Approving Post-Retirement Medical Coverage Costs – DPW was read. Mr. Zichelli stated that this resolution was outstanding from a negotiated contract from three years ago which was never sent to the State by the certifying officer at that time. A motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Finance

Councilman Astorino recognized the North Caldwell Police Department and the North Caldwell Fire Department for their prompt response to an oven fire in his home.

Motion to Accept the Collector's Report for October 2017 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-223-17 Approval to Pay Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-224-17 A Resolution Approving 2017 Budget Transfers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-225-17 Resolution Removing Block 301, Lot 20 From 2017 Tax Sale List was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-226-17 Resolution Removing Block 2002, Lot 29 From 2017 Tax Sale List was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Councilman Astorino added that the Finance Committee met regarding pending financial issues and that all is in order. He stated that he and Chief Financial Officer, Rich Mondelli, have committed to meeting monthly. Mayor Alessi thanked Councilman Astorino, the Finance Committee and Mr. Mondelli for their diligence.

Public Safety

Resolution R-227-17 A Resolution Authorizing Employment of James W. Durkin as Police Department Dispatcher was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council President Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. Councilman Chiaia gave the Police Department Public Safety Report for October 2017. He stated that Police Dispatch handled 959 calls and officers issued 63 moving violations, responded to 68 alarms, handled 9 juvenile matters and made two arrests. He added that the Police received 11 requests for assistance from outside agencies and logged 268.5 overtime hours.

Councilman Chiaia noted a letter of appreciation received by the North Caldwell Police Department from Nancy Patrick, resident at 17 Farmstead Road. The letter stated that an attempt to enter her home was made on September 12, 2017 when she was not home. Mrs. Patrick was grateful for the assistance of Officer Michael Mautone and Sergeant Karl Strothoff who searched her home to ensure her safety. Mrs. Patrick felt privileged that the Borough has a police force that exhibits kindness and professionalism. Councilman Chiaia extended his appreciation to Chief Deuer for setting that tone at the Police Department. He added that the Chief prolonged the life of Henry Forstenhausler as a first responder to Mr. Forstenhausler's heart attack in 2000.

Chief Deuer stated that Sergeant Tom Mautone was completing two weeks of service in Puerto Rico along with members from the Fairfield and Caldwell Police Departments. He

noted that they were providing relief efforts and helping to restore power in the worst hit parts of the island.

Public Works/Utilities

Council President Santomauro offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for October, 2017. She stated that permit fees increased and were approximately \$20,000 – 25,000 more than year-to-date totals from last year.

Council President Santomauro offered the Recycling Report for October, 2017. There were 410 tons of paper collected year-to-date and 270 tons of commingled materials year-to-date.

Council President Santomauro recognized a letter sent to Tony Romano from Ms. Barrie recognizing the kindness he showed in removing a deer stuck in a fence, including a \$100 donation in appreciation.

Council President Santomauro offered the Animal Control Report for October, 2017. She stated there were removals of dead animals and a dog was returned to its owner in West Caldwell.

Resolution R-228-17 A Resolution Supporting the Design and Construction of a Dog Park by the County of Essex at the Hilltop Reservation in the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Council President Santomauro credited Councilman Chiaia for initiating the idea and for moving it along with the County representatives. She added her appreciation to Mr. Zichelli regarding the design and planning of the dog park. Council President Santomauro stated that the dog park will be a place where neighbors will gather which will benefit the dogs and the residents. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-229-17 A Resolution Requesting the Funding from the County of Essex for the Design and Construction of a Turf Field at Mountain Avenue Field in the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Council President credited Councilman Raymond for initiating this idea and bringing it to the Council for resolution. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-230-17 Resolution Approving Ring Central Office and Glip Plan Phone Service Agreement By and Between the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Report for November, 2017. He stated that fall programs have come to an end with the West Essex Cowboys C Team winning the Superbowl. Recreation basketball practices have begun with a total of 22 teams and another 100 children participating in the Kindergarten – 2nd Grade basketball clinic. Games begin on January 2. The after-school pre-season basketball clinic for grades 1-3 is sold out. Ski club trips to Mountain Creek begin on January 2, 2018.

Councilman Kessler added that the Seniors trip to the Manor was postponed to December 13. Men's 60+ basketball is looking for additional players and the Men's 30+ basketball games have begun.

Councilman Kessler stated that the Halloween dance for 5th and 6th graders was held on October 30 and Newcomer's Night was held on November 2 with 27 new residents in attendance. Some important upcoming events include the Joy, Peace and Goodwill Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 3 and the annual Seniors Holiday Party Luncheon on Wednesday, December 6.

Resolution R-231-17 A Resolution Fixing Fees for Recreation Program "Dr. Stem" was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Councilman Chiaia added that the West Essex High School football team would be playing for the State title at Met Life Stadium on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 10:00am vs. Voorhees.

Chief Deuer added that the Reindeer Run for Trinity School is planned for Saturday, December 2, causing closures on parts of Smull, Mountain and Forest Avenues between 8:00am and 9:00am.

Executive Session

Resolution R-232-17 Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Personnel – (1) Deputy Court Administrator, (2) Appointment of Supervisor of 4th of July Fireworks; B. Litigation – (1) COAH 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 9:15pm.

Resolution R-222-17 Resolution Authorizing the Re-Appointment of Anna Crowell as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator for the Municipal Court of the Boroughs of North Caldwell and Essex Fells was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

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 9:17pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Acting Borough Clerk