

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 7:35p.m.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

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

Also present were: David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, 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 the West Essex Cowboys to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor explained that he attended the swearing in ceremony of Joseph London to Eagle Scout on Sunday, December 20, 2015.

He also mentioned the Free Rabies Clinic which will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at the Fire House from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

The Mayor and Council presented awards to the West Essex Cowboy's for their undefeated season and winning the championship game.

Councilman Astorino arrived at 7:43pm.

The Regular meeting resumed at 8:02pm.

The Mayor read a proclamation that was presented to former Town Prosecutor, Richard Verde, for his service to the Borough.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Rees moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2015, seconded by Councilman Kessler with Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino and Councilman Chiaia abstaining. Said motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Rees moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Regular Meeting of November 24, 2015, seconded by Councilman Kessler with Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino and Councilman Chiaia abstaining. Said motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Kessler moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting of December 8, 2015, seconded by Councilman Chiaia with Councilman Kessler abstaining. Said motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Kessler moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Conference Meeting of December 8, 2015, seconded by Councilman Chiaia with Councilman Astorino and Councilman Rees abstaining. Said motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL AND ORDINANCE

Council President Santomauro moved to Open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-9-15 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99-4 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell to Prohibit Parking on Portions of Gould Avenue During Certain Hours, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously. Seeing no one from the public coming forward, Council President Santomauro moved to Close the Public Hearing for Ordinance O-9-15 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99-4 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell to Prohibit Parking on Portions of Gould Avenue During Certain Hours, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to Adopt Ordinance O-9-15-An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99-4 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell to Prohibit Parking on Portions of Gould Avenue During Certain Hours, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Raffle Application by Bloomfield Educational Foundation, Inc. for Travel Voucher Raffle at Greenbrook Country Club on April 30, 2016 – A motion was made by Council President Santomauro to grant the raffle application to the Bloomfield Educational Foundation, Inc. for a Travel Voucher Raffle at Greenbrook Country Club on April 30, 2016, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Councilman Rees stated he has nothing to report at this time.

FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of November 2015 in the amount of \$6,109,450.90. The water account collected \$221,269.15 and the pool account collected \$435.62. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-186-15 - Payment of Bills – Approval to pay bills in the amount of \$723,549.11 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-187-15 – 2015 Budget Transfers Approval in the amount of \$27,000.00 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Chiaia read October report for the Police Department. There were 1,073 calls to dispatch. Traffic summons written were 64. There was one arrest, three domestic violence incidents, three burglaries, eight juvenile matters and one stolen vehicle. There was 205 hours of overtime of which 135 hours will be reimbursed.

Call volume dropped in the month of November to 950 calls. There were 97 summons written and four arrests by the detective bureau. There were nine burglaries, three domestic violence matters, four juvenile matters and one stolen vehicle. There was 128.5 hours of overtime of which 27.5 hours will be reimbursed.

The Fire Department report was read. There were 364 man hours logged in for 26 calls for the month of November. In the month of October, there were 175 man hours logged in for 20 calls.

Councilman Chiaia stated they are in the process of reviewing resumes and setting up interviews for the prosecutor's position. The interviews will take place during the month of January.

Police Chief stated that the suspects have been apprehended for the burglaries that had occurred in November and no burglaries have taken place since.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Councilman Kessler offered the November Construction Report. There were 61 permits issued, four of which were updates. This is an 8 percent increase from this time last year. Year-to-date total of permits issued is down approximately 8 percent compared to last year at this time. Current month's revenue for permits was \$21,734.00. The year-to-date total is \$145,229.00, which is approximately \$47,000.00 less compared to 2014.

Councilman Kessler read the Animal Control Report for the month of November 2015. There were four calls during the month. There were two carcass removals for the month.

Councilman Kessler offered the Recycling Report for November 2015. Total household waste for November was 301 tons, of which 74 tons was recycling. Year-to-date totals for recycling is 382 tons of recycled material collected.

Resolution R-188-15 - Bid Acceptance and Contract Award - 2016 Tennis Court Rehabilitation was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-189-15 - State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Councilman Raymond voting "No".

Resolution R-190-15 - Authorization to Execute InterLocal Agreement with the Township of West Orange for Animal Facility Sheltering Services was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santomauro with Councilman Raymond abstaining. Said motion was carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the Bids Received for Construction, Maintenance and Operation of a 90 Foot Wooden Communications Pole and Related Ground Support Facilities at 150 Mountain Avenue, North Caldwell; Block 204, Lot 4. Mr. Zichelli explained the reasons why we could not accept the bid. Councilman Kessler explained that Verizon Wireless was the only bidder and there were some exceptions in their bid. David M. Paris stated that he does not think that we can negotiate this. He feels that the exceptions should be reviewed and then put out for rebid. If the Governing Body wants to accept the exceptions, reduce the price and reduce the yearly increase then it should go out to rebid at the lower amounts. The Council agreed this was the best approach.

There was discussion on the Capital Purchase of a Snow Plow. Mr. Zichelli explained he likes to have eight plows for the winter. We are currently down to seven and one of the trucks needs major engine repair. The cost would be approximately \$5,000. The truck is a 2006 and Mr. Zichelli feels it is not worth putting this much work into it. He would like to replace the truck with a new one. He is requesting at the Re-Organization meeting in January a Capital Ordinance be introduced to replace the truck. He has spoken with Rich Mondelli, Borough CFO, and he feels comfortable ordering this once the ordinance is introduced. Councilman Rees asked for more information with regard to the amount of repairs

that have been done to the existing truck. Mr. Zichelli was also asked to get information for the Governing Body on purchasing vs. leasing the truck.

RECREATION

Councilman Raymond offered the December 2015/January 2016 Recreation Report. There has been tremendous participation in recreation basketball. There are a total of 23 teams for grades 3 through 8. It is the highest turnout of any West Essex town. There are 286 participants and games beginning the week of January 4.

Over 300 family members enjoyed the Joy, Peace and Goodwill event on December 5. Santa's appearance at the event was a huge hit.

Travel basketball has selected eight teams for boys and girls in the competitive Suburban League. Winter youth programs that are scheduled are hands on arts and crafts, explore science, fun and games, and indoor lacrosse for squirts. Ski club begins January 5.

The Senior men's basketball team has begun their regular season. Games are every Tuesday. The 40 and over men's basketball open gym play is every Wednesday from 8pm to 9:30pm.

Monthly bingo for seniors was December 1. Senior bingo is the first Tuesday of each month with refreshments served. December senior bingo was the largest attendance to date. The senior holiday luncheon was held December 2 at the Firemen's Community Center. The holiday toy drive was a great success. The toys were distributed to Hackensack University Hospital.

Councilman Raymond stated the Recreation Department had a very successful 2015. He commended Bill Maranz and Jamie Cannon for all their hard work.

Resolution R-191-15 – Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs – Referees & Officials Fees for the WEYSA Games was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-192-15 – Authorization to Hire Seasonal Employees for the 2015 Soccer Season Referees and Officials was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. With Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino, Chiaia and Rees voting "No" and Councilman Raymond and Kessler voting "Yes" this resolution was not passed.

There was discussion regarding the resolution about seasonal employees for 2016. Councilman Raymond stated that he will discuss this issue with recreation director, Bill Maranz. It was decided to revisit this resolution in executive session.

Resolution R-193-15 – Authorization to Hire Seasonal Employees for 2015-2016 Basketball Season Scorekeepers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia to accept this resolution with the amendment to adopt only the scorekeepers, not the facility managers, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Henry Forstenhausler – 188 Mountain Avenue
Mr. Forstenhausler asked the status of North Caldwell having senior bussing. The Mayor stated he had looked into it previously and did not seem to think many residents were interested. It was decided that there would be a reverse 911 sent to residents in order to get some additional feedback as to whether or not they would be interested in this service.

Mr. Forstenhausler spoke about the location of the drop box inside Borough Hall. He feels its location should be a little lower in order to drop off payments securely. He then wished all in attendance a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Richard Verde – 8 Hickory Drive

Mr. Verde spoke about the North Caldwell website. He stated he recently looked on it and there were a few things that were outdated. He feels it should be updated more regularly.

He spoke about the condition of Elm Road. He feels that although the North Caldwell piece has been paved, Caldwell should have had their piece of the road paved by now. He stated that it is unfair to North Caldwell residents who use that road so much to be subjected to the condition of road. He feels there should be a liaison from North Caldwell to address this issue with Caldwell. The Mayor stated he has spoken with Caldwell in the recent past and will contact their Mayor to find out the status.

He then spoke about the search for a new prosecutor. He stated that he feels it should be someone from the town. It is important that the prosecutor know the town and its residents. He volunteered his services to help with the search.

Mr. Verde then spoke about the updated ordinance book. He feels it has taken too long and the project should have been completed by now. Borough Attorney, David Paris addressed his concern. David said this is a very lengthy and arduous process. It has and continues to require input from every department in the Borough. The Borough is working with a codification company and David feels there are only a few more areas which will require additional input. As soon as the project is completed, the Borough Code will be posted online.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-194-15 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes - Contract Negotiations – (1) Acquisition of Walker’s Pond Property; (2) Caldwell Sewer Utility; (3) Traffic Signal Cost Sharing Agreement; B. Litigation – (1) COAH – Update on status of Declaratory Judgement Action was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Re-Opened to Public Meeting at 9:50pm.

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 Astorino that this meeting be adjourned at 9:52pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk