

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, New Jersey and began at 6:39pm.

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: David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk and Richard Mondelli, CFO

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 and Council presented basketball awards to the girls and boys that won the 2nd Annual Mayor's Cup Basketball Championship. The Mayor congratulated the teams and coaches on their successful season and wished them continued success.

The Mayor spoke about former resident Samuel Brummer. Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo will be dedicating a plaque in his name at the Essex County Memorial Day Ceremony held on Tuesday, May 24 at 12 noon

Unused prescription drugs can be taken to police departments on Saturday, April 30. North Caldwell police provides this service every day.

June 18 is county recycling day for tires. Tires can be dropped off at the ECUA facility in Cedar Grove.

The Turtle Back Zoo Open House is scheduled for Saturday, June 4 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Essex County Surrogate Theodore N. Stephens, II came to speak to the Mayor and Council. He came to give an update on what the surrogate's office does and what they offer. He stated he is the only elected Judge in the state of New Jersey. The Surrogate Courts handle a variety of things including probating wills, administration of non-will estates, adoption, trust funds for minors and guardianships. There has been a new volunteer guardianship monitoring program implemented. The program trains individuals who review the files to verify all required reports have been filed. Once this is completed, information is then input into the computer. Surrogate Stevens said the office is looking for volunteers and welcomes anyone from North Caldwell who might be interested. The only requirement is computer literacy.

The Surrogate website is full of important information and can be accessed at www.essexsurrogate.com. The Surrogate hours are extended every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. This is helpful to individuals who would like to stop by the office after work.

Lastly, Friday, April 24 is the Grand Opening of the Surrogate's new satellite office located at The Turtle Back Zoo Park and Ride. First day of business will be Wednesday, May 4.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Capital Budget Meeting of March 22, 2016, seconded by Councilman Kessler with Councilman Astorino abstaining. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2016, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Meeting of March 22, 2016, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting of April 12, 2016, seconded by Councilman Chiaia with Councilman Kessler and Councilman Raymond abstaining. Said motion was carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council President Santomauro said Borough Attorney, David Paris, would address the update on Walker's Pond acquisition. Mr. Paris stated that CFO, Richard Mondelli, confirmed the deposit has been delivered. Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli, is proceeding with due diligence in terms of conditions of the site that pertain to Green Acres Funding.

Board of Adjustment (Council Appointment)The following Council appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment were made:

- 1) Regular Member James Kearney – to fill unexpired 4-year term of Beth Tanelli to expire 12/31/2019
- 2) Alternate Member #2; Joseph Angelo, to fill unexpired 2-year term of James Kearney to expire 12/31/2017

LEGAL AND ORDINANCE

Council President Santomauro introduced Ordinance O-5-16 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 78-3B(1) of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding the Placement of Recycling Receptacles at Curbside.

There was discussion regarding the time of bringing the recycling cans in. This Ordinance was tabled until the next meeting.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Councilman Rees had nothing to report. Councilman Rees thanked the Board for all their hard work on the acquisition of Walker's Pond.

FINANCE

Councilman Astorino offered the Collector's Report for the month of March 2016 in the amount of \$215,559.61. The water account collected \$104,645.18 and the pool account collected \$1,701.70. Councilman Astorino moved that the Collector's Report be accepted, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-96-16 – Resolution To Read Budget By Title was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Astorino made a motion to Open the Public Hearing regarding the 2016 Municipal Budget, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Astorino thanked CFO, Richard Mondelli, for a terrific job in squeezing every aspect of the budget in order to meet our requirements. He also said Police Chief, Mark Deuer, and Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli, were also very forthright in helping with that process in making the budget a zero percent increase.

Seeing no one from the public coming forward, Councilman Astorino made a motion to Close the Public Hearing regarding the 2016 Municipal Budget, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-88-16 - Resolution To Amend Budget was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-95-16 – Requesting Approval of The Director of The Division of Local Government Services to Establish a Dedicated Trust By Rider For Outside Employment of Off-Duty Municipal Police was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-97-16 – Adopt The 2016 Municipal Budget was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-87-16 – Approval to Pay Bills – Approval to pay bills in the amount of \$997,576.56 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Chiaia offered the Police Department Public Safety Report for March 2016. Dispatch handled 972 calls for the month. The Police Department reports ninety-three traffic summons issued, five matters at West Essex High School, two thefts and four burglaries. There were fourteen motor vehicle accidents, seven requests for medical assistance from our residents and seventeen requests from outside agencies. There was 116 hours of overtime for the month. This included 87.5 hours of in-house shift coverage and 28.5 hours which is reimbursable from outside agencies.

A thank you letter was received from a resident by Chief Deuer thanking the police officers who supported her daughter's bake sale. The resident stating she was overwhelmed by their response and is very lucky to live in such a great town.

Chief Deuer informed the Council that he along with Officer Paul O'Neill responded to a call earlier in the month and delivered a baby.

The Fire Department report for April 2016 included 18 responses, 9 of which were fire calls. One was an environmental hazardous liquid spill. No injuries were reported.

Resolution R-89-16 - Resolution Supporting H.R. 343, The Volunteer Emergency Responders Tax Deduction Act was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Councilman Kessler offered the March 2016 Construction Report. For the month of March 39 permits were issued, bringing the year-to-date total to 118. Fees collected for permits issued for the month was \$17,742.00 bringing the yearly total to \$45,906.00.

Councilman Kessler read the Animal Control Report for the month of March 2016. There were two calls for the month. One call was for a dog at large and one for the removal of a deceased animal. There were 48 summons issued for unlicensed animals.

Resolution R-90-16 – Bid Acceptance & Contract Award for Lease of Real Property for the Telecommunications Facility at the Borough of North Caldwell Public Safety Building, North Caldwell, located at Block 1103, Lot 9 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Santmauro. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution R-91-16 - Resolution of the Borough of North Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey Certifying a Submission of Expenditure for Taxes Paid Pursuant to the Recycling Enhancement Act was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

RECREATION

Councilman Raymond offered the April/May 2016 Recreation Report. Baseball and softball season is underway. Opening Day is scheduled for April 30 with the Parade beginning at Gould School at 9:00am. Opening ceremonies will be at 9:15am at Liberty Field with food and entertainment. There are 277 boys and girls enrolled for the spring season in grades K through 8.

The April Senior Meeting and Bingo was a success with 25 attendees. Spring quick start tennis has a full class of 24. The spring break tennis clinic had seven participants. There are 26 participants in the spring kiddie t-ball clinic. Nineteen are enrolled in the petite soccer program. There are 60 boys and girls enrolled in spring track and field. The Easter Egg Hunt was a success with 150 participants. The senior Cinco de Mayo celebration will be held on May 4. The Registration for summer fun and pool and tennis memberships are underway.

Councilman Raymond spoke about improvements that are taking place at our fields. This includes a new drainage system installed on Firemen's Field, a portable pitching mound that was purchased for Liberty Field I as well as portable fencing so that multiple games can be played at once. Organized training programs for kindergarten boys and girls with professional instructors have been implemented. New bases have been purchased for all the baseball fields and new team benches have been installed at some of the fields. L-screens for pitching and batting practice have been purchased.

Councilman Raymond thanked Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli and the entire DPW for all their hard work in preparing the fields for spring sports.

Resolution R-92-16 – Authorization to Hire Seasonal Employees for 2016 Baseball/Softball Season Referees and Officials was read. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Henry Forstenhausler – Mr. Forstenhausler asked if we ever applied for Green Acres for Walker’s Pond. Mr. Zichelli explained we did and received a little over \$200,000 in the form of a loan and a little over \$300,000 was a grant we received.

Mr. Forstenhausler spoke about the upcoming Firemen’s Annual Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Sunday, June 5 from 8:00am to 12noon.

John Rapkin - 35 Willowbrook Drive. Mr. Rapkin asked if he could learn more about the recreation program and plans going forward. He has lived in town for eight years and feels it is hard to tell that improvements have been made. He would like to see the fields made a priority. He feels they are not a priority and that is very disappointing.

The Council explained that from a financial standpoint 17% of budget is the municipal portion. There are constraints by the state to adhere to a 2% cap. Councilman Astorino told the residents that he, along with CFO Rich Mondelli would be happy to meet with them to discuss the complexity of municipal finance. The Council also said they appreciated the residents coming out and expressing their concerns. They are always open to hearing from them and work at each meeting to address their concerns as best as possible. The Council also mentioned the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation which is a non-governmental body who works directly with the Recreation Director, Bill Maranz, on important issues such as this.

Josh Lightner - 4 Coventry Lane. Mr. Lightner stated that small issues as well as big issues need to be addressed. The issues of the fields at some point will catch up with us. He feels that the approach is already one of being reactive instead of proactive.

Richard Verde – 8 Hickory Drive. There are a lot of pot holes being taken care of, his street for one. He was happy to see sewers being addressed on Elm Road in Caldwell. He hopes that the road being paved is next. He asked the status of Central Avenue between Gould and Greenbrook Avenues. Borough Engineer, Frank Zichelli stated that the County has awarded a contract and it will be done sometime in 2016.

With regard to the deer hunt with bow and arrow, he feels an announcement should be made to the residents in town.

He then spoke about political signs that he feels there should be an ordinance for. Borough Attorney, David Paris said there is no consensus that we need to do this. Although there may be a concern, it’s important that we do not overregulate if a problem does not exist.

Mr. Verde stated he will not be here for the next two months. He will be back in July. He spoke about his “Farewell to Me” party which members of the North Caldwell and Essex Fells Police Departments attended. He received a nice plaque from the Essex Fells Police Department which he shared with the Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution R-93-16 - Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes - Contract Negotiations –(1) Caldwell Sewer Utility; (2) Traffic Signal Cost Sharing Agreement (3) 2016 Tennis Courts Rehabilitation (4) PVWC Contract (5) Hidden Ridge Municipal Services Agreement; B. Litigation – (1) COAH Declaratory Judgement was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously.

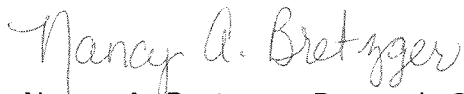
Re-opened to Public Meeting at 8:55pm.

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting, April 26, 2016

Resolution R-94-16 – Tennis Court Rehabilitations Agreement Authorization –
American Tennis Court, Inc. – Tabled

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
Chiaia that this meeting be adjourned at 8:56pm. This motion was carried
unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy A. Bretzger".

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk