

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – September 10, 2019

The Conference meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:36pm. The meeting began at Firemen's Community Center.

Mayor Joseph H. Alessi called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Chiaia (arrived at 6:49pm and joined the meeting in progress), Councilman Kessler, Councilman Raymond, and Councilman Rees. Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Borough Attorney; Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; Richard Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Paul Ferriero, Municipal Engineer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Vincent and Grace Strodthoff, children of Captain-elect Karl Strodthoff, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

North Caldwell Police Department Promotions and Installation Ceremony

Chief Mark Deuer asked for a moment of silence in honor of the 18th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks. He then welcomed everyone to the Installation Ceremony and noted guests in attendance including the Honorable Marcella Matos Wilson, current and former police chiefs, captains and officers from North Caldwell and neighboring towns, members of the North Caldwell Police Foundation, and members of the West Essex and North Caldwell School District Boards of Education.

Chief Deuer introduced Tyler Johnson, candidate for Patrolman. Resolution R-167-19 A Resolution Appointing Tyler Johnson to Police Patrolman was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes. Tyler Johnson was sworn into office as North Caldwell Police Department Patrolman by The Honorable Marcella Matos Wilson.

Councilman Chiaia joined the meeting at 6:49pm.

Chief Deuer introduced Paul O'Neill, candidate for Sergeant. Resolution R-168-19 A Resolution Appointing Paul O'Neill to Police Sergeant was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. Paul O'Neill was sworn into office as North Caldwell Police Department Sergeant by The Honorable Marcella Matos Wilson.

Chief Deuer introduced Suzanne DePoe, candidate for Sergeant. Resolution R-169-19 A Resolution Appointing Suzanne DePoe to Police Sergeant was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. Suzanne DePoe was sworn into office as North Caldwell Police Department Sergeant by The Honorable Marcella Matos Wilson.

Chief Deuer introduced Karl Strodthoff, candidate for Police Captain. Resolution R-170-19 A Resolution Appointing Karl Strodthoff to Police Captain was read. Motion was made by Councilman Chiaia, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. Karl Strodthoff was sworn into office as North Caldwell Police Department Captain by The Honorable Marcella Matos Wilson.

Mayor Alessi called for a recess at 7:20pm to return to Borough Hall for the remainder of the Council meeting.

Mayor Alessi re-opened the public meeting at 7:32pm at Borough Hall. He indicated that the Council would enter a brief Executive Session meeting before returning to the public meeting agenda.

Council President Santomauro moved to enter Executive Session to discuss the Anticipated Contract Negotiation regarding West Essex Community Police. Resolution R-176-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes: Anticipated Contract Negotiations: West Essex Community Police was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with five votes. Councilman Chiaia was not present at the time of the roll call.

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The public meeting was re-convened at 7:46pm. Mayor Alessi called for a moment of silence to commemorate the anniversary of 9-11. He then invited everyone to attend the annual commemoration ceremony the next day in front of Borough Hall.

Citizens to be Heard

Paul Scagnelli – 7 Stony Brook Drive

Mr. Scagnelli asked for an update regarding ground water. Municipal Engineer Paul Ferriero stated that a proposal from a ground water consultant was submitted to the Governing Body for review. The proposal was for an analysis of current conditions and recommendations. He noted that the best time to perform the study may be once the Pulte site is stabilized to avoid having to restudy the area after development is complete.

Brian Donnelly – 50 Ferndale Road

Mr. Donnelly stated that water comes up from the ground on his property and runs down his driveway. He asked about the arbitration process with Pulte home. Mr. Paris explained the process.

Sherri London – 108 Mountain Avenue

Ms. London stated that underground water from the wetlands affects her property. She noted that anything settled through arbitration would not prevent the existence of the underground water from continuing to damage her property. She added that she had sump pumps and sump well prior to the Pulte development which were attempts to mitigate the water issues before the development started.

Don Theobald - 54 Ferndale Road

Mr. Theobald stated that water percolates from underground during heavy rain. He asked that a drain be installed between his home and the corner of Glenview and Ferndale Roads. Mr. O'Sullivan offered to visit the site with Mr. Ferriero to determine a feasible solution.

Dan Gallagher – 36 Ferndale Road

Mr. Gallagher thanked Mr. O'Sullivan for addressing residents' issues and asked for a faster method of communication with Pulte to achieve corrections to development issues.

Councilman Rees summarized action items in response to demands and concerns of the Ferndale and Glenview Road residents with regard to damages:

1. The extension of the sewer line on Glenview Road was still pending. Mr. Ferriero noted that the existing sewer was not shown on the design. He added that the course of action was to identify any potential defects in the line, make the line like new and tie into it. He noted that there was not enough space under Glenview Road to run another line parallel to the old line. Councilman Rees asked that a new line be installed as per the plans.
2. Councilman Rees stated that landscaping plans for Glenview and Ferndale Roads indicate the planting of 29 trees where only 23 have been installed.
3. Councilman Rees stated that "no parking" signs were finally installed throughout the development but were not compliant to those specified in the plans.
4. Councilman Rees suggested that the underground water study be started to gather historic and current data as the Governing Body evaluates the best time to perform the analysis and recommendations phase.
5. Councilman Rees noted the periodic release of water from the tanks further up the hill in Verona which causes water to rush into the wetlands and into the stream and through the Glenview culvert. Mr. O'Sullivan noted that he was working with the Verona administrator and Passaic Valley Water Commission to identify the cause of the water release and a solution. Mr. Paris suggested that Mr. O'Sullivan put the Verona Water Department on notice regarding the issue.

Items for Discussion

Pulte "The Reserve"

Mayor Alessi offered that open issues were already addressed during Citizens to be Heard.

Suburban Consulting Engineers Drainage Study

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that he and Mr. Ferriero had discussions with Suburban Consulting to address some comments that arose from the conduct of the study. He anticipated the report being released in approximately four weeks or soon thereafter once Suburban is able to address the remaining tasks in order to finalize the report.

Leaf Composting Inter-Local Service Agreement

Ms. Michelotti offered that the Borough requested a renewal of the annual leaf composting agreement with Fairfield. A resolution of agreement from Fairfield was anticipated before the end of the month.

Municipal Wading Pool Change Order and Close of Contract

Mr. O’Sullivan stated that a change order documenting a reduction in the cost of the contract was being prepared. He added that the resolution for the \$3,000.00 reduction would be offered at the next meeting.

Council Meeting Broadcasts

Ms. Michelotti offered that the hardware and software cost estimate review for meeting telecasting was complete. She noted that Sergeant Credico was able to eliminate reliance upon a third party vendor for installation and maintenance of the telecasting. Ms. Michelotti would execute the broadcasting at each meeting. The estimated cost of hardware is \$5,000.000 with minimal maintenance costs which could be funded in the following year’s budget.

Mayor Matarazzo Tribute

Mayor Alessi noted that two generations of Matarazzos served as Mayor. He expressed desire of the Council to honor both with a tribute, possibly renaming a portion of Mountain Avenue in their memory. Mayor Alessi offered to consult with the Matarazzo family before making a decision.

Boy Scouts Shed

Councilman Kessler stated that the North Caldwell Boy Scouts asked to construct a shed on Borough property to store their equipment. He noted that their current storage inside Gould School was not practical due to school closures. The Council agreed to the request with further consideration needed regarding location and size of the structure.

Action to be Taken

Raffle License Applications BA-1-19 RA-4-19, RA-5-19, RA-7-19 West Essex Cheerleading Booster Club for Purse Bingo, 50/50 Raffles, and Tricky Tray were presented. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Raffle License Application RA-8-19 Notre Dame Church Calendar Raffle was presented. Motion was made by Councilman Raymond, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-171-19 A Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Michael Wrobel, Crossing Guard was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-172-19 A Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Christine Basile, Recreation Administrative Assistant was read. Councilman Kessler wished Ms. Basile a happy retirement and expressed the Borough’s appreciation for her years of service. Mayor Alessi stated that Ms. Basile assumed much responsibility over the years and was a pleasure with whom to work. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-173-19 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-174-19 A Resolution Appointing Allison Barth as Swim Team Head Coach for the 2019 Pool Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Resolution R-175-19 A Resolution Appointing Emma Bossaert as Swim Team Assistant Coach for the 2019 Pool Season was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-176-19 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes: A. Personnel: (1) Municipal Prosecutor, (2) NCPD; B. Potential Litigation: (1) Mountain Avenue Commercial Use; C. Contract Negotiations: (1) Pulte Homes Extension Request, (2) Municipal Pool - Concession Stand; D. Anticipated Contract Negotiations: (1) Green Brook Embankment and Infrastructure, (2) West Essex Community

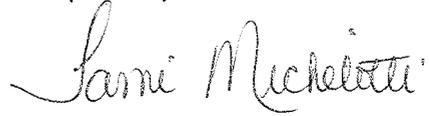
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Police which was already addressed earlier in the meeting, (3) Camp Wyanokie was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Raymond. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 10:34pm.

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 the Councilman Rees, that this meeting be adjourned at 10:35pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk