

## Mayor and Council Special Budget Meeting – March 5, 2024

The Special Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The meeting began at 5:32p.m. at Borough Hall and virtually via tele/video-conference.

Mayor Raymond called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975. He provided a statement regarding the conduct of the teleconference which would allow members of the public to participate and be heard during public comment.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Joshua H. Raymond, Council President Anthony Floria-Callori, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees, Councilman Kenneth Tilton, Councilman Stephen Weinstein.

Also present were: Glenn Domenick, Borough Administrator; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

On a motion by Councilman Weinstein, seconded by Council President Floria-Callori, public comment was opened. Said motion was unanimously approved.

No one from the public came forward.

On a motion by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Council President Floria-Callori, public comment was closed. Said motion was unanimously approved.

### **Executive Session**

Resolution R-59-2024 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting: A. Personnel: Employee Compensation was moved by Council President Floria-Callori and seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

The public session was paused at 5:35pm.

Public session resumed at 6:03pm.

### **Items for Discussion**

#### **Operating Budgets**

Pool Utility – Increasing memberships and outsourcing the concession stand were discussed as potential ways to correct the unbalanced budget of the Pool Utility. Mr. Maranz reviewed the condition of the concrete decking and requested the replacement of eight to ten slabs prior to the season opening. He suggested that the front walkway be reconfigured to prevent stormwater drainage issues and seepage into the pool building.

Water Utility – Mr. Mondelli reviewed the increase in software costs for the remote meter technology and the associated bonding for the meter replacement project. The Council discussed an increase in water rates to \$7.00 per thousand gallons due to the increase in rates for water purchase from Passaic Valley.

Current Fund – Mr. Mondelli reviewed the current tax rate based on increases and decreases in budget line items discussed to date which resulted in a 5.08% increase on the average assessed property. Councilman Weinstein reviewed the interest rates for bonds and BANS and the potential for refinancing debt. Mr. Mondelli presented savings in the snow removal budget and bond ordinance down payments options. The Council considered the significant increase in recycling collection based on new bids received the week before.

#### **Capital Budgets**

Police and Fire Departments - The Council reviewed requests for Police Department ammunition and Fire Department thermal imaging cameras, a new engine and improvements to the fire station. Funding for improvements to the electronic bulletin board were deemed too costly; removal of the board was recommended.

Public Works - Mr. Mondelli reviewed buildings and grounds improvements as recommended by the Director of Public Works. The Council reviewed the roads recommended for repaving by the DPW Director in addition to the improvement of East Greenbrook Road partially funded by the NJDOT. The total budget for repaving would be presented to the DPW Director for prioritization of streets. Roof repairs for police headquarters and improvements to the Mountain Avenue Field retaining wall, a new DPW pick-up truck and backhoe were discussed.

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Recreation – Recreation Director Bill Maranz requested funding batting cages, additional fencing, and upgrades to the playground, gazebo and snack bar. Mayor Raymond noted that said upgrades would be encompassed in Phase 2 of the Gould/Liberty Complex improvement project to be funded next year. Significant upgrades to the batting cages and the addition of a third tunnel would be considered as part of Phase 2.

Water Utility – The water main replacement project as required by the NJDEP was discussed with East Greenbrook Road to be coordinated with the repaving project.

Pool Utility – The Council approved the improvements to the entrance walkway to prevent stormwater drainage issues. Mini-golf and speaker system upgrades would be tabled.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Council President Floria-Callori, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:21p.m. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC  
Borough Clerk