

## Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – January 23, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. The meeting began at 6:31p.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; Jarrod Kantor, Borough Counsel; Karl Strodtzoff, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond asked Matteo and Leon, North Caldwell Football Club players, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Raymond thanked event co-coordinator, Jenny Daly, and all who participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service event. He encouraged the public to propose ideas to bring the community together to help others.

### **Swearing In of Fire Chief Scott Stellfox**

Mayor Raymond administered the Oath of Office to Fire Chief Scott Stellfox who was accompanied by his daughter Brittany. The Mayor acknowledged Assistant Chief Larry Wefferling, former Chief John D'Ascensio and the volunteer firefighters who were present.

### **Proclamation for Muslim Heritage Month**

Mayor Raymond offered a proclamation in recognition of Muslim Heritage Month.

### **North Caldwell Football Club Championship Recognition**

The Mayor and Council congratulated championship teams of the North Football Club and their coaches. Mayoral certificates were presented by Club President Anthony Rainone.

### **Citizens to be Heard – Agenda Items Only**

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

No one from the public came forward.

On a motion by Councilman Weinstein, seconded by Councilman Tilton, public comment was closed. Said motion was unanimously approved.

### **Items for Discussion**

**NCBSA Tournament, Use of Snack Bar** – Councilman Kessler presented a request from the North Caldwell Baseball and Softball Association requesting use of the Liberty Park Snack Bar during a tournament on March 16 and 17. The NCBSA also planned to schedule a food truck which would require a separate food license. The governing body approved the use of the snack bar for pre-packaged good sales.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council President Floria-Callori made a motion to approve the following minutes, seconded by Councilman Weinstein:

- Conference and Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – December 19, 2023
- Special Meeting Minutes – December 29, 2023

Said motion was carried with six (6) affirmative votes for the December 19, 2023 meeting and five (5) affirmative votes and one abstention from Councilman Tilton for the December 29, 2023 meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

The following reports were read into the record upon a motion from Council President Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Rees:

- Tax Collector's Report – December 2023
- Police Department Public Safety/Detective Bureau Reports – December 2023, Year-End 2023
- DPW Monthly Report – December 2023
- Construction Permit Activity Report – December 2023
- Building Sub-Code Inspection Report – December 2023
- Animal Control Monthly Report – December 2023
- Recreation Director's Report – January/February 2024

Said motion was carried unanimously.

**Action to be Taken**

Council President Floria-Callori made a motion, seconded by Councilman Weinstein, to approve all items listed below as a Consent Agenda. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-33-2024 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-34-2024 A Resolution Authorizing for Redemption and Cancellation of Record of Tax Lien – Block 1200, Lot 30
- Resolution R-35-2024 A Resolution Authorizing a Change Order with Heuer & Co. for Reconstruction of the North Caldwell Community Pool
- Resolution R-36-2024 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Part-Time Seasonal Employees – 2023 Recreation Soccer Referees, 2023 Men's Softball Umpires And 2023-2024 Recreation Basketball Referees, Scorekeepers, Site Managers, Basketball Instructors/Trainers

**Citizens to be Heard - Any Subject Matter (5 minute limit)**

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

**Elliott Sommer, 143 Four Seasons Drive** – Mr. Sommer requested a breakdown of water bills and confirmation that the consumption was estimated despite the installation of the remote meters. Mayor Raymond explained the inclusion of quarterly installments for the cost of the new meter in the bills. He stated that the remote readings would go live in February. Mayor Raymond offered to provide a more thorough explanation in a letter to residents which could be delivered to the Four Seasons Community. He offered to attend the HOA's meeting the following evening to explain the billing to residents.

Mr. Sommer requested an update on the Cell Tower Installation meeting with VComm and T-Mobile. Mayor Raymond announced the tentative date of March 6, 2024 which would be confirmed and then noticed to the public.

Hearing no further comments, Councilman Weinstein made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kessler, to close public comment. Said motion was carried unanimously.

**Council Commentary**

Councilman Weinstein stated that 2024 Municipal Budget meetings were held with department heads. He noted that inflationary pressures and increasing cost of services will make it challenging to keep taxes flat.

Councilman Tilton expressed appreciation to former Fire Chief Tim Peterson for his service and wished Chief Stellfox luck in his new role.

**Executive Session**

On a motion by Council President Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Tilton, Resolution R-37-2024 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting in order to discuss:

- A. Potential Contract Negotiations: (1) Farmstead Road/Mountain Avenue;
- B. Contract Negotiations: (1) PBA Contract;
- C. Attorney-Client Privilege/Litigation: (1) Fair Share Housing/Woodmont Properties-Green Brook Realty Associates

Said motion was approved unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Kessler, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:07p.m. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC  
Borough Clerk