

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Monday, November 7, 2022. The meeting began at 6:33 p.m. at Borough Hall and was held simultaneously via tele/video-conference.

Mayor Alessi 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 Joseph H. Alessi, Council President Francis Astorino, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Anthony Floria-Callori, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees, Councilman Kenneth Tilton.

Also present were: Kevin O’Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Guenther Waldo, Borough Counsel; Karl Strodthoff, Police Captain; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Councilman Kessler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens to be Heard

John Chiaia, 34 Grandview Place - Mr. Chiaia commended the Council for the installation of new speed tables in the Borough and requested that they continue to be evaluated. He recommended that the governing body should maintain autonomy in promoting police personnel through the ranks with less focus on test scores in light of the proposed promotional ordinance.

Items for Discussion

NCPD Promotional Ordinance

Mr. O’Sullivan noted a typographical error in the ordinance that was introduced at the October 25, 2022 meeting which had since been corrected. He confirmed the public hearing on November 22, 2022.

Parks and Public Lands Ordinance Amendment

Mr. O’Sullivan presented a potential amendment to the Parks and Public Lands ordinance to include the use of Walker’s Park. Councilman Kessler reviewed options for fees and fee waivers for certain Borough-related events. Revenue streams for use of the structure would be considered in the future. Councilman Atlas noted that field use permits for Firemen’s Field should be amended once the turf installation is complete. An ordinance amendment draft would be prepared and shared with the Legal and Ordinance and Recreation Committees prior to introduction.

Walker’s Park Improvements

Mr. O’Sullivan stated that a formal Request for Expression of Interest document was being prepared by the Borough Attorney. He added that the Borough Engineer met with the NJDEP regarding the park permits. The Council discussed the sustainability of the structure on the property.

Firemen’s Field Improvements

Mr. O’Sullivan provided an update on the turf field construction. He noted that the turf would likely be installed in December with the shade structures and benches to follow in January. Perimeter landscaping and peripheral projects such as a scoreboard and seating areas would be further discussed in the spring. Councilman Kessler noted that the present scoreboard was functional but required a new controller. Mr. O’Sullivan noted some cost savings made possible by in-house site preparation completed by the DPW.

Essex County Transportation Survey

Mr. O’Sullivan announced a Transportation Survey which would assist in ten-year plans within Essex County. He encouraged residents to submit the survey which was announced through the Borough’s notification system and would be advertised in an upcoming mailing.

Smull Avenue Speed Tables

Councilman Rees requested a change to the speed table signage. Mr. Waldow would check for any flexibility in the signage wording. Mr. O’Sullivan confirmed that the signs at the tables may be removed in time.

Cellular Service Improvements Update

Councilman Floria-Callori provided an update on cell tower discussions with carriers. Mr. Waldow confirmed that a public bid document was being prepared.

Quarterly Newsletters

Councilman Kessler presented a schedule for quarterly newsletter distribution with electronic distribution in January, April and October and a dual mailed/electronic distribution in July. He requested that Council members submit newsworthy items to him the month before the distribution to allow a comprehensive review by all members prior to distribution.

NCFD Clothing Allowance

Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed the formula utilized by the Fire Department to issue clothing allowances to the volunteer members and clothing allowances/stipends to the executive members. He noted that the formula had changed recently and requested approval to move forward for 2022 allowances. He suggested that future allowances be based on the cost of living adjustment (COLA) utilized for the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). The Council suggested a change in the title of the allowance.

Recreation Program Fees – Ski Trip Busing

Councilman Kessler reviewed the fees associated with busing options for ski trip members. He noted that a minimum of 30 participants was required. If the minimum was secured, the fee would be added to the Recreation Program Fee schedule at the next meeting.

Action to be Taken

Resolution R-179-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino and seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-180-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting

- A. Contract Negotiations: (1) Essex Fells Water, (2) Caldwell Sewer, (3) WERSD Class III SLEO;
- B. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge

was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino and seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried 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 Councilman Atlas, seconded by the Council, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:49pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC
Borough Clerk