

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – May 9, 2023

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. The meeting began at 6:36p.m. at Borough Hall and was held simultaneously 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: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Jarrod Kantor, Borough Counsel; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Karl Strodthoff, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond asked Carolina Lucas and Justin Smith to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Raymond introduced high school seniors Carolina Lucas and Justin Smith who were performing their Senior Service volunteer projects with the Borough. Mayor Raymond noted recent events including a wedding at Walker's Park and Arbor Day at Grandview School. He announced upcoming events including the installation of a flag pole at Walker's Park by Eagle Scout Jake Montano, the Asian American Pacific Islander event on May 20th, the Memorial Day parade featuring North Caldwell resident Bob Milder as Grand Marshall, and the annual North Caldwell Fire Department Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Sunday, June 4th.

Citizens to be Heard – Agenda Items Only

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

Elliott Sommer, 143 Four Seasons Drive – Mr. Sommer asked for the status of an agreement between the Borough and the Four Seasons Homeowners Association regarding placement of ALPR cameras on light poles and pledged the HOA's cooperation. Mr. Sommer supported stronger measures be included in an updated Tree Ordinance to prevent erosion and damages from stormwater drainage.

Dan Gallagher, 36 Ferndale Road – Mr. Gallagher requested that the Tree Ordinance amendment be shared with the public. Mayor Raymond reviewed the ordinance process and noted that the ordinance would be shared with the public prior to a public hearing.

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

Items for Discussion

Bids for Pool Improvements – Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed the bid process for the pool improvements project and noted that two (2) bids were received. He stated that the low bid was over the amount bonded for the project. Incoming pool registrations over the upcoming weeks would help determine the viability of a supplemental bond to cover the shortfall. Councilman Kessler noted that the improvements project would rehabilitate the existing pool for a life expectancy of 10 to 15 years.

2023 Municipal Budget Amendments – Mr. Mondelli reviewed an anticipated amendment to the introduced budget due to pending contracts related to the Shared Municipal Court and for SLEO Class III officers for the West Essex Regional School Districts.

Flood Damage Ordinance – Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed an ordinance amendment required by the NJDEP and FEMA for compliance with the Flood Insurance Program. The ordinance would be prepared for introduction at the next meeting.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed the suggested revisions to the Borough's zoning code to eliminate the creation of irregularly shaped lots thru subdivisions as recommended by the Planning Board.

Tree Ordinance Amendment – Mayor Raymond announced the governing body's intention to revise the Borough's tree removal ordinance. He noted that public input would be welcomed. Council President Floria-Callori provided background on the most recent ordinance update and noted that further amendments were needed. Councilman Atlas added that a registration fee would be imposed upon tree

removal contractors. Councilman Kessler noted that tree removal permit applications should not prohibit residents from removing trees on their property on their own without a contractor. Pre and post-removal violation penalties were discussed. A draft of the amending ordinance would be prepared for introduction at the next meeting.

5G Ordinance – Mr. Kantor would circulate 5G Ordinance draft to the Technology Committee for consideration. Council President Floria-Callori noted that 5G implementation cannot be rejected by the Borough but guidelines can be set by ordinance.

LPR Camera Agreement with Four Seasons at North Caldwell - Mayor Raymond stated that the topic was discussed during Public Comment. Chief Strodthoff added that the ALPR Cameras would be mounted on existing light stations.

WERSD SLEO III Appointment - Chief Strodthoff updated the governing body on a candidate search for the additional SLEO III for West Essex Regional School District for the 2023-2024 school year. An appointing resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

Dispatcher Holiday Pay – Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed the compensation policy set in 2022 for Police Dispatchers and noted that holiday pay in lieu of comp time accrual necessitated a resolution for payroll. A resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

SHBP Claim Analysis and Marketing Results – Mr. O’Sullivan presented the results of a review of health benefits coverage and costs. No better options were found at this time.

Auction of Surplus Equipment – Mr. O’Sullivan presented Borough equipment that was eligible for auction. A resolution authorizing the auction would be prepared for the next meeting. Councilman Rees asked for an estimate to repair some of the equipment.

NJDOT/Local Transportation Project Fund Program Applications – Mr. O’Sullivan presented the annual grant application opportunity which would be submitted for East Greenbrook Road. He presented an additional grant through the Local Transportation Project Fund that would be submitted for Hamilton Drive East and Allen Road. Resolutions would be prepared for the next meeting.

Mountain Avenue Fog Lane – Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed the opportunity to stripe an eight-foot wide portion of Mountain Avenue to provide parking near Walker’s Park. He noted that the Essex County Engineer approved the project and hoped that the striping would result in lower vehicular speeds through the portion of roadway. Councilman Atlas requested a rendering of the proposal.

Walker’s Park Trails – Mr. O’Sullivan provided an update on the improvements project at Walker’s Park. He noted that the lot consolidation and easement were filed with Essex County, permit applications were re-filed with NJDEP which were undergoing a completeness review.

Boy Scouts of America Sponsorship – Councilman Kessler presented a request from Troop 1 requesting an entity to sponsor their charter. The North Caldwell Recreation Foundation was evaluating the request as Borough is unable to do so as a local government entity.

Pool Staffing – Councilman Kessler presented individuals recommended by the Recreation Department for part-time seasonal positions at the Community Pool. A resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

Action to be Taken

On a motion by Councilman Weinstein, seconded by Councilman Atlas, Resolution R-110-2023 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was approved with five (5) affirmative votes and one (1) abstention from Councilman Tilton.

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

On a motion by Councilman Weinstein, seconded by Councilman Atlas, public comment was opened.

North Caldwell Fire Chief Tim Peterson suggested that the Fire Company, a non-profit organization, may be able to help the Boy Scouts as a charter sponsor. Councilman Kessler would follow-up with Chief Peterson.

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

Council Commentary

Councilman Rees and Councilman Weinstein thanked the Senior Service volunteers for their service.

Executive Session

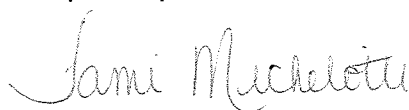
On a motion by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Weinstein, Resolution R-111-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting:

- A. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Green Brook Country Club, (2) Hidden Ridge, (3) Master Plan, (4) Development/Construction Fees, (5) Walker's Park;
- B. Personnel: (1) Construction Code Department

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 Weinstein, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:37pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC
Borough Clerk