

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – June 13, 2023

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. The meeting began at 6:31p.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 Robert Kessler, Councilman Kenneth Tilton, Councilman Stephen Weinstein.

Absent: Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Arthur Rees.

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Jarrod Kantor, Borough Counsel; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Borough Engineer, Paul Ferriero; Karl Strodthoff, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond asked Chief Strodthoff to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2023 Municipal Budget

Public Hearing for 2023 Municipal Budget Amendment - Mayor Raymond opened the public hearing for the Municipal Budget Amendment. No one from the public came forward. On a motion by Councilman Weinstein, seconded by Council President Floria-Callori, the public hearing was closed. There were no comments from the Council members.

Resolution R-130-2023 A Resolution Adopting the 2023 Municipal Budget was read. On a motion by Councilman Weinstein, seconded by Councilman Tilton, said motion was carried unanimously with four (4) affirmative votes. Mayor Raymond thanked CFO Rich Mondelli, Finance Committee Chair Councilman Weinstein and the Finance Committee for their efforts to ensure a zero increase in municipal taxes for 2023.

Citizens to be Heard – Agenda Items Only

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

No one from the public came forward.

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

Councilman Kessler departed the meeting at 6:39pm.

Items for Discussion

Gould Avenue Facilities Planning – Councilman Floria-Callori shared an overview of the potential improvement opportunities for the Gould Avenue/Liberty Field facilities. Mr. Ferriero reviewed a concept plan overlay of the complex including a pathway to connect Walker's Park to the main complex, a DPW garage, expanded parking lots, expanding recreational facilities and refurbished tennis and pickleball courts. He noted that surveying of the wetlands would be needed to identify any restrictions on the property. Council President Floria-Callori suggested the creation of a subcommittee to discuss funding and timelines for future improvements.

Walker's Park Trails – Mr. Ferriero provided an update on the permit applications for walking trails. He noted that no significant impediments were anticipated.

September Regular Meeting Date – The Council was in favor of revising the September Regular meeting date to Wednesday, September 27, 2023 due to a conflict with the North Caldwell Board of Education Bond Referendum election scheduled for Tuesday, September 26. Ms. Michelotti would re-notice the meeting date and time accordingly.

Estimated 3Q2023 Tax Rate and Bills – Mr. Mondelli proposed that third quarter 2023 property tax bills be issued as estimates as the final tax rate would not be certified until late July. He anticipated a 2.216 tax rate.

Sale of BANS – Mr. Mondelli presented the plans for a \$9 million note sale in July for which an official statement would be prepared as recommended by Bond Counsel and the Borough's Registered Municipal Accountant. Councilman Weinstein noted that the Borough's tax rate would remain flat although

property taxes may increase due to increases in budgets of North Caldwell Board of Education, West Essex Board of Education, Essex County and County Open Space Trust Fund.

Liquor License Annual Renewals – Ms. Michelotti reviewed liquor license renewal applications submitted by the two (2) consumption licensees in the Borough. Resolutions would be presented at the next meeting.

Solid Waste Collection Bids – Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed the bids received for collection of solid waste. He noted that industry changes have increased costs and decreased vendor interest in providing rear and/or side yard collection. The Council discussed the benefits and detriments of curbside collection and the option for residents to maintain rear/side yard collection for a premium price.

Maintenance Bond Return: Brookside Terrace Road Improvements – Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed the completion of the paving project and the subsequent return of the expired maintenance bond posted by the contractor. A resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

Contract Extension with Wireless Consultant - Mr. O’Sullivan noted that an extension of the contract with VComm for cellular service consulting is needed to complete the cell tower construction and leasing projects. A proposed contract and authorizing resolution would follow at an upcoming meeting.

Shared Court Professional Services Compensation – Mr. O’Sullivan noted that salaries of court personnel would be amended to reflect the assumption of Verona Municipal Court as of June 1, 2023.

NCPD Administrative Assistant – Chief Strodthoff presented the resignation of Police Department Administrative Assistant Daniella Iannelli. He planned to fill the vacancy with part-time employment of former employee Lisa Voelker.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ordinance – Mr. O’Sullivan presented a request from the Emergency Management Coordinator to revise the Borough ordinance from the current residency requirement to reflect that the residency of the appointee be “within a reasonable proximity” to the Borough. An amending ordinance would be introduced at an upcoming meeting.

Speed Calming - Chief Strodthoff presented a resident petition requesting speed hump installation on Hickory Drive. Mr. O’Sullivan noted that speed hump and signage installation was already budgeted for and that design plans were already in progress. Chief Strodthoff added that a resident requested traffic calming measures for East Greenbrook Road. A traffic study would be conducted as soon as traffic monitoring equipment could be borrowed from Cedar Grove.

Public Auction Results – Mr. O’Sullivan announced that \$44,000 in revenue was collected from the sale of Borough equipment through public auction.

Additional Baseball/Softball Umpires, Additional Pool Staff – Mr. O’Sullivan presented additional recreation part-time, seasonal staffing.

Recreation Program EUS Contracts: Late Summer/Fall Youth Tennis Clinics, Summer Soccer Day Camp, Multi-Sport Day Camp – Mr. O’Sullivan presented the extension of a tennis contract and additional camp contracts.

Recreation Program Fees: Women’s Softball Summer League Team Fees – Ms. Michelotti reviewed the shift in fees from individual softball players to team fees that would be paid by participating players per game. She noted that registration of individuals is not conducted through CivicRec but that the Recreation Department was to obtain waiver agreements for each player outside of the traditional registration process.

Notre Dame Church Calendar Raffle Application – Ms. Michelotti reviewed the raffle license application for the 2024 Notre Dame Calendar Raffle. The Council had no objection to the raffle.

2Q2023 Community Newsletter – Council members provided suggestions to the draft newsletter. The intended date of distribution was set for June 28, 2023.

Action to be Taken

Council President Floria-Callori made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tilton, to approve all items listed below as consent agenda. Said motion was carried unanimously with three (3) affirmative votes.

- Resolution R-131-2023 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-132-2023 A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Tax Collector of the Borough of North Caldwell to Prepare and Mail Third Quarter 2023 Estimated Tax Bills

- Resolution R-133-2023 A Resolution Establishing 2023 Employee Salaries
- Resolution R-134-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Deputy Municipal Court Administrator for the Shared Municipal Court of Essex Fells, North Caldwell and Verona
- Resolution R-135-2023 A Resolution Amending Resolution R-13-2023 Authorizing the Salary of Municipal Prosecutor of the Shared Municipal Court of Essex Fells, Verona and North Caldwell
- Resolution R-136-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the North Caldwell Police Department
- Raffle License RA-7-2023 Notre Dame Church Calendar Raffle Application

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

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

Elliot Sommer – 143 Four Seasons Drive: Mr. Sommer requested clarification of curbside trash collection for residents of Four Seasons at North Caldwell. Mr. O’Sullivan stated that there would be no change in collection services for the Four Seasons residents.

Jane Selzer – 41 Four Seasons Drive: Ms. Selzer stated that rear and side yard trash collection was not cost effective and recommended that residents bring their trash containers to the curb as done for recycling.

John Chiaia – 34 Grandview Place: Mr. Chiaia stated his support for rear and side yard trash collection. He recommended that the Borough extend the current contract with the current vendor and make a greater effort to solicit more attractive bids in the future.

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

Council Commentary

Councilman Tilton suggested that the solid waste collection options be included in the next quarterly newsletter.

Council President Floria-Callori requested a status on options for staffing for Human Resources. Mr. O’Sullivan stated that third party vendors and shared services were being reviewed as potential solutions.

Councilman Weinstein noted the need for transparency regarding solid waste collection discussions prior to awarding a contract.

Executive Session

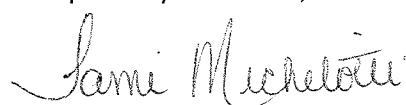
On a motion by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Weinstein, Resolution R-137-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting:

- A. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Green Brook Country Club, (2) Hidden Ridge, (3) Lindsley Road Re-Zoning, (4) MOU with Four Seasons for ALPR cameras;
- B. Personnel: (1) Department of Public Works, (2) Police Department

was read. Mr. Kantor requested the addition of Attorney/Client Privilege discussion regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with the HOA of Four Seasons at North Caldwell. On a motion by Council President Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Weinstein, said motion was approved unanimously with three (3) 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 7:36p.m. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC
Borough Clerk