

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – April 12, 2022

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. The meeting began at 6:36pm 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; Mark Semeraro, Borough Counsel; Paul Ferriero and Mark Kataryniak, Borough Engineers; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Recreation Director Bill Maranz to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens to be Heard

Greg Filosa – 22 Maple Drive

Mr. Filosa announced a \$50,000 donation from the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation to be used for Firemen’s Field improvements. He stated that the foundation would continue fundraising efforts for the purpose which would be given to the Borough for the project.

Kevin Cordovano – 28 Cambridge Drive

Mr. Cordovano announced a \$50,000 donation from the Cordovano family foundation for the proposed Firemen’s Field improvements project.

John Morgan – 225 Smull Avenue

Mr. Morgan offered supplemental fundraising by the Travel Baseball and Softball Association for the Firemen’s Field improvements project.

Jennifer Tierney – 27 Hilltop Drive

Ms. Tierney stated her support for improvements to Firemen’s Field and referenced limitations on scheduling games at Liberty Field.

Karen Colacurcio – 3 Farmstead Road

Ms. Colacurcio stated her support for improvements to Firemen’s Field.

Kaitlyn Phillips – 8 Timber Drive

Ms. Phillips stated her support for Firemen’s Field improvements.

Mayor Alessi announced his intention to host a Mayor’s Ball to benefit improvements to Firemen’s Field and pledged \$2,500 toward the project.

Items for Discussion

Firemen’s Field

Councilman Kessler thanked the public for their support of the Recreation programs and the Borough fields. He reviewed three improvement project options for Firemen’s Field including re-sodding the field, partial turf and full turf installation. All would require new drainage systems, backstop, dugouts and fencing. The costs and the benefits as well as the bidding process and timeline of each option were considered by the Council. The Council expressed support to research funding options to turf the entire field. Mr. Ferriero would explore blending a bid process with contracting with vendors available through state contracts or coops.

Strategic Five-Year Plan

Council President Astorino announced meetings scheduled with Council Committee chairs to finalize each department’s plans and budgetary needs.

2022 Municipal Budget

Mr. O’Sullivan stated that the user-friendly budget had been posted to the Borough website since its introduction. He noted that the public hearing was scheduled for the April 26, 2022 Council meeting.

Stormwater Study and Mapping

Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed recently completed projects, those that were in progress and those for which a funding mechanism is pending. He reviewed the stormwater mapping and improvements proposal and stormwater utility feasibility proposal from Ferriero Engineering. Councilman Rees requested more time to review the proposals before awarding the contracts.

Walker's Pond Permitting

Mr. Ferriero reviewed updates on the NJDEP permitting process for improvements to the Walker property. He estimated a timeline for permit approvals and public bidding.

Juneteenth

The Council discussed the intention to recognize Juneteenth as a Borough holiday. Mr. Semeraro would review the Borough's collective bargaining agreements to determine any potential impact.

Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis - Intersection of Mountain and Gould Avenues

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that Essex County requested a traffic analysis to determine if a traffic signal would be appropriate for the intersection of Mountain and Gould Avenues. Data would be gathered by the NCPD for analysis by the Borough Engineer.

NCPD Distracted Driving Grant

Ms. Michelotti reviewed the grant award and stated that a resolution was prepared for consideration later in the meeting.

Municipal Pool Project/Contracts

Mr. O'Sullivan provided an update on initial meetings with the contractor who was running a cost-benefit analysis of options for improvements to the pool.

Recreation Refunds

Councilman Kessler stated that the Recreation Department's transition from Community Pass to CivicRec program registration software requires all negative balances to be refunded to program registrants. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that a more formal policy would be instituted for credit approvals and processing.

Recreation Program Fees: Couples Pool Membership, Pickleball Guest Fees

Councilman Kessler reviewed revisions to the program fees to correct the Couples pool membership and to add a \$10 pickleball guest fee.

National Donate Life Month

Councilman Kessler reviewed the organ donor awareness campaign during April which is designated as National Donate a Life Month. He requested that former resident Crystal DeLeo be recognized for her decision to donate her organs prior to her death in July of 2021. A proclamation would be prepared for presentation to her husband at the next meeting.

Action to be Taken

Resolution R-76-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-77-2022 A Resolution Supporting the 2022 UDrive. UText. UPay. Distracted Driving Crackdown – April 1-30, 2022 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-78-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes :

- A. Contract Negotiations: (1) Caldwell Sewer Utility, (2) Essex Fells Water, (3) Joint Municipal Court, (4) Police Dispatch;
 - B. Personnel: (1) Police Dispatch;
 - C. Attorney-Client Privilege: (1) Bloomfield Avenue Zoning;
 - D. Potential Contract Negotiations: (1) Walker's Property Use, (2) NCPD Headquarters;
 - E. Potential Litigation: (1) Stormwater Drainage, (2) FEMA Hazard Mitigation Resiliency Program
- was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Council President Astorino, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:33pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,


Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk