

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – May 10, 2022

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The meeting began at 6:32pm 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; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Mark Kataryniak, Borough Engineer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

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

Citizens to be Heard

No one from the public came forward.

Items for Discussion

Trash Collection Ordinance Amendment

Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed a proposed amendment to the trash collection ordinances in the Borough Code regarding maximum number and weight of containers. Councilman Kessler suggested the Borough's contract with the hauler be reviewed to ensure that ordinance revisions would be consistent with the agreement. Councilman Atlas stated that more time was needed to draft the amendment and that the introduction of the ordinance would be tabled to a future meeting.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion of the Mayor's Ball. Said motion was seconded by Council President Astorino and carried with six affirmative votes.

Council President Astorino made a motion to revise the order of the agenda to address Action to be Taken items before the remaining Items for Discussion in order to recognize Carsen Mansfield, candidate for the North Caldwell Fire Department, who was present. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Tilton and carried with six affirmative votes.

Action to be Taken

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Council President Astorino as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Tilton:

- Resolution R-88-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-89-2022 A Resolution Appointing Carsen Mansfield as Volunteer Fire Department Member
- Resolution R-90-2022 A Resolution Appointing Confidential Administrative Assistant for the Borough of North Caldwell Police Department.

Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Items for Discussion (continued)

2022 Capital Budget

Mr. Mondelli presented Capital Budget items based on the Municipal Budget discussion in February. He stated that a bond ordinance would be prepared for introduction at the next meeting for a total of \$2.87 million of which \$2.83 million would be the resulting debt incurred. Councilman Kessler confirmed the removal of an additional pavilion at Liberty Field and the proposed portable ice skating rink for Mountain Avenue Field from the 2022 Capital Budget in order to fund the Firemen's Field improvements. Mr. Mondelli confirmed that the Firemen's Field improvements would be bonded separately to account for the anticipated donations. Councilman Rees stated that funding for roof repairs for the police headquarters building would be tabled until the building improvements study was completed by a design and architecture firm.

Firemen's Field

Mr. Semeraro reviewed the requirements of bidding of contracts vs. use of vendors in state contracts and/or cooperative pricing systems. He confirmed that the Borough could receive contributions dedicated to the project. Mr. Semeraro confirmed that portions of the project could be executed by vendors in the coop while others may require public bidding. The project was estimated at \$935,000 which includes design costs, bidding elements, contingencies and construction oversight. Approximately \$100,000 in

donations is anticipated to date. Mr. Mondelli confirmed that a down payment of \$47,000 would be required in order for the bond ordinance to be introduced.

2022 Employee Salaries

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the annual salary increase resolution for non-union employees would be presented for Council consideration at the next meeting now that the 2022 Operating Budget had been approved.

Stormwater Mapping and Stormwater Utility Feasibility Projects

Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed the previously submitted proposals from Ferriero Engineering, Inc. for stormwater mapping, improvements analysis and a feasibility study of a stormwater utility. Councilman Rees asked to further review the details of the projects and possibly have DPW perform the analyses. Mr. O'Sullivan would follow up with Councilman Rees before resolutions are prepared for the next meeting.

Stormwater Repairs – Stephanie Drive

Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed an emergency repair that was needed on Stephanie Drive which involved a partial road collapse. He stated that proposals were obtained for the repairs and that a resolution to award a contract would be prepared for the next meeting along with certification of the emergency.

Police Department Headquarters Improvements Analysis

Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed proposals received for an improvement analysis of the police department headquarters. He stated that a resolution would be prepared for the next meeting to establish funding from the Capital Improvement Fund for the analysis of existing building deficiencies, renovation concept plans and construction cost identification.

Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis - Intersection of Mountain and Gould Avenues

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that traffic data was collected over the past several weeks for a warrant analysis by a traffic engineer. The analysis would be shared with Essex County Executive and Engineer to determine feasibility of traffic light installation.

Speed Tables

Mayor Alessi recommended that speed tables be installed on Smull Avenue as requested by residents. Councilman Kessler reminded the Council of requests from residents of Hickory Drive for speed tables that were received in the past. Mr. O'Sullivan noted the successful implementation and positive results of speed table installation on Beachmont Terrace. He confirmed that residents would be notified of proposed speed table placement and associated signage prior to the installation.

NCPD Confidential Administrative Assistant

Mr. O'Sullivan noted that this item was addressed by resolution earlier in the meeting.

NCFD Volunteer Application

Mr. O'Sullivan noted that this item was addressed by resolution earlier in the meeting.

Humane Law Enforcement Officer

Chief Deuer reminded the Council that a Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer is required since the ASPCA was dissolved. He stated that Officer Tyler Johnson had completed the required training and obtained certification as a HLEO. An appointing resolution could be considered at the next meeting.

DPW Staffing

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that a supplemental employee for the Department of Public Works had been authorized via the 2022 Municipal Budget. He added that interviews were held and an appointing resolution would be prepared for the consideration at the next meeting.

Municipal Pool Contracts

Mr. O'Sullivan presented proposed rental contracts between the Community Pool and the Swim Team, Senior Citizens Club and Summer Fun Camp for use of the pool. Resolutions would be prepared for the next meeting.

Pool Staff Compensation and Certifications

Councilman Kessler presented proposed hourly compensation rates for new and returning lifeguards, assistant pool managers and gate monitors/snack bar attendants. A resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

Pool Snack Bar

Councilman Kessler suggested the implementation of an air fryer to expand the food offerings at the snack bar. An inspection by the health officer would be required. Councilman Floria-Callori inquired about the Liberty Snack Bar operations. Councilman Kessler confirmed that verbal permission was granted by the

Council to the Travel Baseball and Softball Association to sell pre-packaged goods with no rental fee. Recreation Director Bill Maranz added that the proceeds were intended to be donated to the Firemen's Field project as per the Association. Mr. Maranz stated the intention of the Recreation Department that other organizations would have a similar opportunity during other sports seasons.

Recreation Program Fee Updates

Councilman Kessler reviewed the addition of a post-season player fee for Cal Ripken League participants.

Basketball Instructors

Councilman Kessler presented the addition of a basketball instructor.

Mayor's Ball – ADDED BY MOTION

Mayor Alessi presented two available dates at Green Brook Country Club for the Mayor's Ball. Saturday, October 8, 2022 was preferred to avoid conflicts with West Essex football home games. Mayor Alessi confirmed that a committee would be assembled and a planner would be hired to organize the event. He asked Councilman Floria-Callori and Councilman Tilton to be co-chairs of the event. Council President Astorino suggested that an emcee be chosen for the event.

Executive Session

Mr. Semeraro noted that Item E regarding Bloomfield Avenue Development should be removed from the Executive Session. Mayor Alessi noted a personal conflict of interest with the development of 21-25 Bloomfield Avenue. Councilman Rees asked for clarification of discussions that qualify for Executive Session. Mr. Semeraro provided a summary of eligible categories and confirmed that any action that results from Executive Session discussions are subsequently executed in public session.

Resolution R-91-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes :

- A. Potential Litigation: (1) Personal Injury Notice;
- B. Personnel: (1) Police Dispatch;
- C. Potential Contract Negotiations: (1) Walker's Property Use;
- D. Contract Negotiations: (1) Caldwell Sewer Utility, (2) Essex Fells Water, (3) Joint Municipal Court, (4) Police Dispatch, (5) Fuel Supply (ADDED BY MOTION)

was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried 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 8:39pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC
Borough Clerk