

## Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – April 11, 2023

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. The meeting began at 6:31 p.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, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Rees, Councilman Kenneth Tilton, Councilman Stephen Weinstein, and Council President Anthony Floria-Callori.

Absent: Councilman Robert Kessler.

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Jarrid Kantor, Borough Counsel; Rich Mondelli, CFO; Karl Strodthoff, Police Captain; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond asked resident Elliott Sommer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Executive Session

Resolution R-84-2023 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) Zoning Ordinance Amendments and Master Plan, (3) Buildings/Facilities Plan;

B. Contract Negotiations: (1) Seasonal Recreation Staffing, (2) 2023-2024 WERSD SLEO III

was read. Mr. Kantor requested an amendment to the resolution to include the discussion of Legislators' Letter of Support under Attorney/Client Privilege. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas and seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was approved unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

The public meeting resumed at 7:28pm. Councilman Floria-Callori was absent from the remainder of the public meeting.

### Citizens to be Heard

Esther Menzo, 10 Park Place – Ms. Menzo asked the Council to consider repairs to the retaining wall and brook behind her home that is compromised from stormwater erosion. Mayor Raymond noted that a meeting was scheduled for the following week to discuss the damage, the cause and the responsibility for repairs.

Ethan Lazarovitch, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox – Mr. Lazarovitch requested approval of a film permit application which may result in subsequent filming beyond the daily permitted filming hours. The governing body considered an extension to 10:00pm for subsequent outdoor filming. He stated that filming would primarily take place on Rickland Drive with Notre Dame Church parking lot and Firemen's Community Center reserved for parking and catering. The Council stipulated the requirements for notice of surrounding property owners by certified mail. Concerns or complaints from residents would be directed to the Borough Clerk for consideration by the governing body to impose restrictions. The studio would contact the Police Department for provision of traffic safety.

Elliot Sommer, 143 Four Seasons Drive – Mr. Sommer asked if any updates could be shared regarding development of the Green Brook Country Club property. Mayor Raymond stated that negotiations were ongoing and that impact to schools, traffic and infrastructure were key concerns.

Greg Filosa, 22 Maple Drive – Mr. Filosa presented proposed sponsorship banners to be installed at Firemen's Field. The governing body was in favor of the design colors, size and uniformity.

### Items for Discussion

**Legislators' Letter of Support re: MVA Thefts** – This topic was moved to Executive Session under Attorney/Client Privilege.

**Bids: Cellular, Pool Improvements, Water Meter Replacement** – Mr. O'Sullivan stated that bid openings were scheduled on April 18, 2023 for cellular service leasing and tower construction, followed by bid openings for pool improvements and water meter installation on April 19, 2023. He anticipated resolutions to award contracts at the next Regular meeting.

**2023 Capital Budget** – Mayor Raymond referred to a memo from CFO Rich Mondelli that summarized each department's requests for capital expenses. Mr. Mondelli presented the list of requests and which had been tabled, revised and approved to date for inclusion in the Capital Budget. The Council discussed

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the remaining items in the Water Utility Capital Budget and the General Capital Budget for each department.

**2023 Essex Fells Wholesale Water Rate** – Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed the rate increase announced by Essex Fells Water Department and provided an update on their temporary and permanent PFOA filtration systems.

**Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption** – Mr. O’Sullivan reviewed an application received from a disabled Veteran for property tax exemption. A resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

**Veterans Affairs Center Resolution of Support** – Mr. O’Sullivan presented Congresswoman Sherrill’s request for support of a Veterans Affairs Center in northwest New Jersey. A resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

**Municipal Property Auction Results** – Mr. O’Sullivan presented an update on the online public auction of certain Borough vehicles and equipment. A final accounting would be provided at the next meeting.

**BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative** – Mr. O’Sullivan recommended participation in the BuyBoard purchasing cooperative for the procurement of certain goods and services. A resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

**Traffic Light at Mountain and Gould Intersection** – Mr. O’Sullivan stated that the Borough Attorney was drafting agreements between the Borough and Essex County and between the Borough and the North Caldwell Board of Education to authorize construction and installation of the traffic light. A resolution authorizing the agreements would be prepared for the next meeting.

**Film Permit Application** – This topic was addressed during Citizens to be Heard.

**Pet License Summonses** – Ms. Michelotti noted that pet licensing delinquencies were eligible for summonses after several reminder notices had been issued. The Council authorized the issuance of summonses as per Borough Ordinance.

**Municipal Alliance: FY2024 Grant, DMHAS Grant Extension** – Mr. O’Sullivan stated that resolutions would be prepared for the next meeting to accept the annual Municipal Alliance grant and to authorize the extension of the DMHAS grant.

**Referee /Umpire Rates of Pay** – Councilman Weinstein presented the updated referee and umpire season employee list for authorization by resolution at the next meeting.

**NCBSA Use of Liberty Field Snack Stand** – Councilman Weinstein presented a food permit application submitted by the North Caldwell Baseball and Softball Association for sale of pre-packaged goods at the Liberty Snack Stand. The Council approved a waiver of food permit fees to be granted to the non-profit association which provides donations back to the baseball and softball recreation program.

**Recreation Contracts: Pool Utility, Tennis Court Use, Spring Tennis Clinics** – Mr. O’Sullivan presented contracts between the Pool Utility and Borough programs for use of the pool during the 2023 pool season. Resolutions would be considered later in the meeting.

**Meeting Agenda Format** – Mayor Raymond described some revisions to the agenda format that would provide a more streamlined process and more time for public comment.

Councilman Weinstein announced the Baseball and Softball Opening Day schedule of events planned for April 22, 2023. Mayor Raymond welcomed all to participate in the Earth Day Celebration scheduled for April 23, 2023.

#### **Action to be Taken**

##### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Raymond asked that Resolution R-86-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Essex Fells and the Township of Verona for Shared Municipal Court Services be tabled.

The following resolutions were moved as Consent Agenda by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Tilton:

\*Resolution R-85-2023 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills

\*Resolution R-87-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Agreements between the Borough and the North Caldwell Pool Utility

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\*Resolution R-88-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement between the Borough of North Caldwell and Mount Saint Dominic Academy for Use of Tennis Courts


\*Resolution R-89-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Execute Agreements for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services – 2023 Spring/Summer Adult and 2023 Spring Youth Tennis Clinics. Said motion was unanimously approved with four (4) affirmative votes.

Mayor Raymond announced that he completed 100 days in office and thanked everyone for working to accomplish so much in that time.

Mr. Kantor noted that a discussion of Hidden Ridge be added to the Attorney/Client Privilege discussion when the Council reconvened the Executive Session meeting. Councilman Rees made a motion to add Hidden Ridge to the Executive Session discussion, end the public session and return to Executive Session. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Weinstein and unanimously approved with four (4) affirmative votes.

The public meeting adjourned at 8:57pm. Mayor Raymond announced that the governing body would not return to the public meeting after Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tami Michelotti, RMC  
Borough Clerk