

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – January 25, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. The meeting began at 6:31pm 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, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Anthony Floria-Callori, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees, Councilman Kenneth Tilton.

Absent: Council President Francis Astorino

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Semeraro, Borough Counsel; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

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

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi provided results from the 2022 rabies vaccination clinic held on Monday, January 24. He reminded residents to license their pets before the end of January to avoid a late fee. Mayor Alessi announced that Christmas trees would be collected through January 31. He reported that the Public Safety Committee met with the North Caldwell and West Essex Boards of Education the previous week regarding safety in schools in light of a recent national threat. He committed to working closely with the schools to ensure safety of students and all residents.

Mayor Alessi announced the distribution of property revaluation letters to all residents planned for the following week. He noted that the North Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department would be celebrating their 100th anniversary later in the year. He noted that Borough offices would be closed for Presidents' Day on February 21st.

Citizens to be Heard

No one from the public came forward.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Kessler moved to accept the minutes from the Conference and Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes from December 21, 2022 (without release of Executive Session minutes), seconded by Councilman Atlas. Councilman Rees abstained from voting on the Executive Session minutes. Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes for the Conference and Regular Meeting minutes and four affirmative votes for the Executive Session minutes.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-1-2022 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Rees.

Councilman Atlas noted that the ordinance expands the upper limits of some employee salary ranges. He stated that the public hearing was scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-2-2022 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Chapter 104, Article I, Section 8 Regarding Water Meters and Meter Readings and Chapter 45-1 Regarding Water Rates and Fees, seconded by Rees. Councilman Atlas described the ordinance revisions to set new rates for water meters and to allow for a quarterly distribution of new meter and installation billing. The cost of new remotely-read meters was approximated at \$495 per household for a standard 5/8" meter. He stated that the public hearing was scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-3-2022 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Chapter 54, Article III, Section 10 Regarding Grading Inspections seconded by Kessler. Councilman Atlas described the inspection fees that would be charged to the property owners that are making the revisions to their property.

Resolution R-35-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Pulte Homes, LLC Performance Bond No. 59BSBHR2006 was read. Councilman Atlas stated that posting of a maintenance bond required before the performance bond would be released. Borough Engineer Paul Ferriero confirmed that the Borough would soon adopt the roadways which would allow for the imposition of parking rules and stop sign placement.

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Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Councilman Rees and Councilman Tilton voted no. Said motion was carried with three affirmative votes.

Personnel and Technology

Councilman Floria-Callori presented the 2021 Year-End Technology Report. He noted the year's accomplishments including the new Borough logo, emergency notification system, modems for police vehicles and access control for Borough buildings as well as progress toward improved cellular service.

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Councilman Floria-Callori as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Kessler:

- Resolution R-36-2022 A Resolution Authorizing an Increase in the Hours for Finance Department Administrative Assistant
- Resolution R-37-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Employment of Police Department Dispatcher

Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Finance

Councilman Atlas presented the Tax Collector's Report for December 2021.

Councilman Kessler provided an update on the Strategic Five-Year Plan since the January 5th meeting. He communicated Council President Astorino's request to categorize all committee and department requests by their importance and vitality so that financing of those plans could proceed in February. The Council discussed the timelines associated with potential improvements to the municipal pool and Firemen's Field.

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Councilman Atlas as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Rees:

- Resolution R-38-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-39-2022 A Resolution Approving 2021 Budget Transfers

Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Tilton provided the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for December 2021 during which there were 702 calls to Dispatch and 11 tickets issues. He noted that 9,050 calls were handled by the Dispatch Department in 2021. He encouraged all residents to secure their vehicles to prevent thefts.

Councilman Tilton provided the Fire Department Public Safety Report for December 2021 during which there were 22 calls. He noted 324 incidents during 2021. He reminded residents to clear their home's exterior vents of snow during the winter. He announced the NCFD's 100th Anniversary for which a celebration was being planned.

Public Works

Councilman Rees provided the Construction Permit Activity Report for December 2021. He noted that 23 permits were issued which brings the year-to-date total to 456. He stated that permit revenue is approximately \$100,000 less than 2020.

Councilman Rees provided the Animal Control Report for December 2021 during which there were two calls accounting for \$200 of overtime cost incurred for the month.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler provided the Recreation Director's Report for January-February 2022. He noted that some cancellations and rescheduling due to the pandemic were necessary during the recreation and travel basketball season. He announced that the ski trip program was underway and that baseball and softball tryouts were on the horizon. Councilman Kessler welcomed registrants for tennis and pickle ball beginning on March 1. He announced that employment opportunities were available for lifeguards at the municipal pool for the 2022 season.

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Councilman Kessler as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Atlas:

- Resolution R-40-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2021-2022 Recreation Basketball Season – Instructors/Trainers
- Resolution R-41-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2021-2022 Recreation Basketball Season - Scorekeepers
- Resolution R-42-2022 A Resolution Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs

Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-43-2022 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 Contract Negotiations: (1) Bloomfield Avenue Re-Zoning Request, (2) Police Dispatch, (3) Marketing of Recyclables, (4) Plenary Retail Liquor License Bid;
- B. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge Performance Bond;
- C. Contract Negotiations: (1) Essex Fells Water Supply

was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried with five affirmative votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 8:11pm.

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 8:11pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tami Michelotti".

Tami Michelotti, RMC
Borough Clerk