

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – February 22, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. The meeting began at 6:40pm at Borough Hall and was held simultaneously via tele/video-conference.

Council President Astorino 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: Council President 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; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Absent: Mayor Joseph H. Alessi.

Council President Astorino asked Councilman Rees to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

Council President Astorino delivered the Mayor's Report on behalf of Mayor Alessi. He recognized that Essex County's COVID vaccination rates are strong. He noted that utility shutoff moratorium was scheduled to end on March 15, 2022. Council President Astorino commended the North Caldwell Department of Public Works staff for their dedication in addressing several water main breaks during the cold winter months. He announced that members of the Governing Body and the North Caldwell and West Essex Boards of Education met to continue discuss safety goals in the schools.

Citizens to be Heard

Maria Petrino - 9 Hill Street

Ms. Petrino expressed concern for the revaluation and an anticipated increase in property taxes. Councilman Rees stated that he reviewed several properties in the Glenview, Ferndale, Hill and Mountain Avenue area where taxes increased significantly. He noted concern with the process of the assessment and the communication methods. He noted that he filed a complaint in an individual capacity with the Attorney General regarding the assessment method. Mr. Petrino stated that neighborhood conditions deteriorated since the addition of the dog park and stormwater runoff from construction on the Hilltop. Mrs. Petrino stated that she met with the appraisers to contest the assessment results and was awaiting a response. Mr. O'Sullivan would follow up with Professional Property Appraisers to identify the number of follow-up meetings and calls held with residents.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Kessler moved to accept the following minutes (without release of Executive Session minutes), seconded by Councilman Atlas:

- Reorganization Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2022
- Special Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2022
- Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – January 11, 2022
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – January 25, 2022

Councilman Tilton abstained from voting on the Reorganization Meeting minutes. Said motion was carried unanimously with five affirmative votes and one abstention for the Reorganization Meeting minutes and six affirmative votes for the Special Meeting, Conference Meeting/Executive Session, and the Regular Meeting/Executive Session minutes.

Committee Reports

Finance

Council President presented the Tax Collector's Report for January 2022.

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

- Resolution R-49-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-50-2022 A Resolution Approving 2021 Budget Transfers

Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Council President Astorino reminded everyone of the Special Meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2022 to discuss the 2022 Municipal Budget.

Legal and Ordinance

Ordinance O-1-2022: Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-1-2022 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell. Councilman Atlas noted that the ordinance expands the upper limits of some employee salary ranges.

No one from the public came forward.

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Councilman Atlas closed the public hearing and made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-1-2022 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-2-2022: Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for 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.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Kessler suggested that the ordinance vote be delayed until the associated bond ordinance (to be introduced later in the meeting) was decided upon at the March 22nd Regular Meeting. Councilman Kessler made a motion to close the public hearing and carry the vote for Ordinance O-2-2022 until March 22, 2022 after the associated bond ordinance is voted upon. Councilman Tilton seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-3-2022: Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-3-2022 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Chapter 54, Article III, Section 10 Regarding Grading Inspections.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas closed the public hearing and made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-3-2022 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Chapter 54, Article III, Section 10 Regarding Grading Inspections, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes

Ordinance O-4-2022: Councilman Atlas made a motion to introduce Ordinance O-4-2022 An Ordinance to Dedicate Hilltop Drive, Sagamore Road and Harvest Lane. He noted that the ordinance allows the Borough to take ownership of the roads from Pulte Homes. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-5-2022: Councilman Atlas made a motion to introduce Ordinance O-5-2022 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 99 "Vehicles and Traffic", §99-3, §99-10 and §99-15 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-6-2022: Councilman Atlas made a motion to introduce Ordinance O-6-2022 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) for the Calendar Year 2022. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Bond Ordinance BO-1-2022: Councilman Atlas made a motion to introduce Bond Ordinance BO-1-2022 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Stormwater Drainage Infrastructure Improvements and Studies in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$500,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$475,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Bond Ordinance BO-2-2022: Councilman Atlas made a motion to introduce Bond Ordinance BO-2-2022 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements and Purposes for Water Utility Improvements in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$1,225,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,225,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Bond Ordinance BO-3-2022: Councilman Atlas made a motion to introduce Bond Ordinance BO-3-2022 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements and Purposes for the Swimming Pool Utility in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, Appropriating \$450,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$450,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-46-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Handguns by NCPD Officers was read by title. A motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Tilton, to table the resolution to a future meeting to allow for further administrative review by the Borough Attorney. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Ms. Michelotti, who serves as the Zoning Board of Adjustment Secretary, presented the 2021 Annual Report of the Zoning Board of Adjustment to the Governing Body.

Personnel and Technology

Councilman Floria-Callori presented the January 2022 Technology Report. He announced the unveiling of the Borough's new website in March and updated the Council on the status of telecommunications improvements.

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

- Resolution R-47-2022 A Resolution Authorizing an Increase in Salary for Recreation Director Bill Maranz
- Resolution R-48-2022 A Resolution Appointing Brian Bifalco as Volunteer Fire Department Member

Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Tilton provided the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Report for January 2022 during which there were 787 calls to Dispatch and 69 tickets issued. He encouraged all residents to take precautions to avoid motor vehicle break-ins and thefts.

Councilman Tilton provided the Fire Department Public Safety Report for January 2022 during which there were 21 calls. He announced the NCFD's 100th Anniversary celebration planned for September 24, 2022.

Public Works

Councilman Rees provided the Solid Waste Report for 2021 which showed a decrease in paper and commingled collections from 2020.

Councilman Rees provided the Construction Permit Activity Report for January 2022. He noted that 32 permits were issued.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler delivered the Recreation Director's Report for February and March 2022. He noted the end of the recreation basketball season and ski program. He announced the start of the baseball/softball, lacrosse, tennis/pickle ball and men's softball seasons. Councilman Kessler welcomed baseball/softball team sponsorships. He announced summer job opportunities at the municipal pool and summer camp program.

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

- Resolution R-51-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Seasonal Employees for the 2021-2022 Recreation Basketball Season - Gym Monitors
- Resolution R-52-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2021-2022 Recreation Basketball Season – Scorekeepers
- Resolution R-53-2022 A Resolution Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs – Summer Fun Camp, Municipal Pool Registration
- Resolution R-54-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Execute an Agreement with CSF Soccer Academy, LLC for Spring Petite Soccer Clinic
- Resolution R-55-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Execute an Agreement with CFS Soccer Academy, LLC for Early Spring Soccer Clinic

Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-56-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purpose:

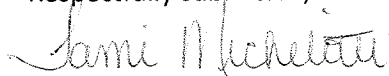
- A. Contract Negotiations: (1) Caldwell Sewer;
- B. Potential Contract Negotiations: (1) Police Dispatch, (2) School Safety;
- C. Personnel: (1) Paid Time Off.

was read. Mr. Semeraro requested the addition of an Attorney-Client Communication discussion of Zoning Issues. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 8:53pm.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Rees, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:53pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,


Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk