

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – March 22, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The meeting began at 6:30pm 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 Astorino, 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 Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Councilman Matthew Atlas and Councilman Anthony Floria-Callori joined the meeting at 6:35pm.

Mayor Alessi asked Council President Astorino to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi stated that flags were raised in town as a sign of support for the people of Ukraine. He announced the pledge of \$300,000 to North Caldwell from the Federal Spending Bill for security of certain infrastructure in town. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

Citizens to be Heard

No one from the public came forward.

Approval of Minutes

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

- Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – February 8, 2022
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – February 22, 2022

Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

The minutes from the Special Budget Meeting and Executive Session of February 26, 2022 were tabled until the next regular meeting.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Bond Ordinance BO-1-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for 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.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt 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. Councilman Kessler seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Bond Ordinance BO-2-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for 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 the bond would finance the purchase of new remote-read water meters and the data collection equipment for which the Borough would recover the full amount when residents submit payment for the meter replacement.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Bond Ordinance 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. Council President Astorino seconded the motion. Councilman Tilton voted nay. Said motion was carried with five (5) affirmative votes.

Bond Ordinance BO-3-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for 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 noted that pool restoration and slide installation were among the improvements.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt 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. Councilman Kessler seconded the motion. Councilman Tilton voted nay. Said motion was carried with five (5) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-2-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-2-2022 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, 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 Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-2-2022 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Chapter 104, Article I, Section 8 Regarding Water Meters and Meter Readings and Chapter 45-1 Regarding Water Rates and Fees. Council President Astorino seconded the motion. Councilman Tilton voted nay. Said motion was carried with five (5) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-4-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-4-2022 An Ordinance to Dedicate Hilltop Drive, Sagamore Road and Harvest Lane. He noted that Pulte Homes completed construction of the development and that the roads are now the jurisdiction of the Borough. Mr. Semeraro added that the ordinance is a prerequisite to Ordinance O-5-2022 regarding enforcement of those roads.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-4-2022 An Ordinance to Dedicate Hilltop Drive, Sagamore Road and Harvest Lane. Councilman Floria-Callori seconded the motion. Councilman Rees voted nay. Said motion was carried with five (5) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-5-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for 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.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt 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. Councilman Floria-Callori seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-6-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for 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.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt 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. Council President Astorino seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-7-2022

Councilman Atlas introduced O-7-2022 An Ordinance of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell. He noted that the public hearing would be held on April 26, 2022 at 6:30pm. Councilman Atlas made a motion, seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-8-2022

Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-8-2022 An Ordinance Amending §45-1 Regarding Animal Control Fees. He noted that a new fee structure would transfer the cost of sheltering and other services from the Borough to the pet owner. He noted that the public hearing would be held on April 26, 2022 at 6:30pm. Councilman Atlas made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-60-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract Between the Borough of North Caldwell and Integrated Aquatics Engineering for Municipal Pool Improvements Engineering and Design Services was read. Councilman Atlas noted the contract was for professional services and made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Councilman Tilton voted no. Said motion was carried with five (5) affirmative votes.

Personnel and Technology

Councilman Floria-Callori reviewed progress made with V-Comm regarding potential locations for telecommunication improvement infrastructure sites. He announced the implementation of the CivicRec site for recreation program and sports registrations.

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

- Resolution R-61-2022 A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of an Additional Judge of the Shared Municipal Court of the Boroughs of North Caldwell and Essex Fells
- Resolution R-62-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Maintenance Worker in the Public Works Department of the Borough of North Caldwell
- Resolution R-63-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of a Part-Time Building Inspector and Plumbing Sub-Code Official/Inspector
- Resolution R-64-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Season Employee – Recreation Department Assistant

Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Finance

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

Resolution R-65-2022 A Resolution Introducing the 2022 Municipal Budget was read. Council President Astorino announced that the public hearing was scheduled for April 26, 2022 at 6:30pm. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

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

- Resolution R-66-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Deferral of Local District School Tax
- Resolution R-67-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Deferral of Regional District School Tax
- Resolution R-68-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills

Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Tilton presented the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for February 2022. He noted that 726 calls were received by Dispatch with 51 tickets issued. He noted that NCPD is working with the Essex County Sheriff's Office to thwart motor vehicle thefts.

Councilman Tilton presented the Fire Department Public Safety Report for February 2022 during which there were 17 calls and one response for mutual aid to Cedar Grove. He reminded all to change batteries in smoke detectors. He announced the NCFD pancake breakfast on June 5 and the department's 100th anniversary celebration on September 24.

Resolution R-69-2022 A Resolution Approving the North Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department Certified LOSAP List for the Year 2021 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-46-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Used Firearms at Private Sale to North Caldwell Police Officers was read. Motion was made by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Public Works

Councilman Rees presented the Construction Permit Activity Report for February 2022 during which 25 permits were issued, with a total of 57 permits issued in 2022 to date.

Councilman Rees presented the Animal Control Report for January and February 2022.

Resolution R-70-2022 A Resolution Fixing Water Rates Pursuant to Ordinance O-1-09 was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-71-2022 A Resolution Accepting a Bid and Awarding a Contract for Mowing and Trimming of Municipal Facilities within the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-72-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Township of West Orange for Animal Facility Sheltering Services was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes. Councilman Rees stated that residents can obtain free rabies vaccinations for their pets at the shelter.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler presented the Recreation Director's Report for March/April 2022. He announced the end of the Recreation Basketball season and the start of the Recreation Baseball/Softball season including Men's and Women's softball leagues. He noted the transition to CivicRec for program and sports registrations. Councilman Kessler welcomed Seniors to the April 6th meeting and luncheon during which blood pressure screenings would be available. He announced job opportunities at the Municipal Pool and within the Summer Fun Camp program for the summer months. He noted that Baseball/Softball Opening Day was scheduled for April 30th.

Councilman Kessler presented the Camp Wyanokie Report for January/February 2022. He announced an Open House event on June 18th. He reviewed a report from NJDEP regarding the safety of a dam on the property which requires repair. He noted that revenue has increased to over \$100,000 over the last two years.

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

- Resolution R-73-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Seasonal Employees for the 2021-2022 Recreation Basketball Season – Instructors, Scorekeepers
- Resolution R-74-2022 A Resolution Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs – Summer Fun Camp Non-Resident Registration

Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-75-2022 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, (2) Essex Fells Water, (3) Shared Municipal Court, (4) Police Dispatch
- B. Potential Contract Negotiations: (1) JIF Renewal

was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 8:13pm.

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 8:13pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk