

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – April 26, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, April 26, 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 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 Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Councilman Floria-Callori to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi announced the award of a \$300,000 federal grant in response to our Congressionally Directed Spending Request from 2021. These funds will be used at the Skyline Drive Water Tank for pre-disaster mitigation projects. Mayor Alessi announced Essex County's Household Hazardous recycling on May 7th and Computers and Electronics recycling on May 21. He noted the ban on plastic bags in the state which would become effective on May 4th.

Mayor Alessi congratulated newly inducted Eagle Scouts, Al Paciccio and Ethan Miskulin. He presented a proclamation for National Donate Life Month to resident Keith DeLeo in memory of his wife Crystal DeLeo who donated her organs upon her recent death.

Citizens to be Heard

Councilman Floria-Callori requested that a proclamation and recognition be presented to Bunny Jenkins upon her departure from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Approval of Minutes

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

- Special Budget Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of February 26, 2022
- Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of March 8, 2022
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of March 22, 2022

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

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Ordinance O-7-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance 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.

No one from the public came forward.

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

Ordinance O-8-2022

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-8-2022 An Ordinance Amending §45-1 Regarding Animal Control Fees.

No one from the public came forward.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-8-2022 An Ordinance Amending §45-1 Regarding Animal Control Fees. Councilman Rees seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-9-2022

Mr. Semeraro stated that Labor Counsel had performed an analysis of the proposed ordinance which should be discussed in Executive Session prior to introduction. The introduction of the ordinance was tabled until later in the meeting.

Donation of Borough Property

Councilman Atlas presented a request from the West Essex First Aid Squad for the donation of a Borough vehicle queued for auction. Mr. Semeraro would prepare a resolution for the following meeting.

Mayor Alessi added a notification of frequent coyote sightings in town.

Personnel and Technology

Committee Updates: Councilman Floria-Callori announced that further enhancements to the new Borough website would continue and he welcomed suggestions. He stated that meetings with V-Comm continue to identify a solution to improved telecommunication infrastructure.

Resolution R-79-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Employment of Police Department Dispatcher was read. Councilman Floria-Callori made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Finance

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

Resolution R-80-2022 A Resolution Requesting Approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider for Outside Employment of Municipal Police was read. Council President Astorino made a motion, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

2022 Municipal Budget

Resolution R-81-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Reading of the 2022 Municipal Budget by Title was read. Council President Astorino made a motion, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Mayor Alessi opened the public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget. No one from the public came forward.

Resolution R-82-2022 A Resolution Amending the 2022 Municipal Budget was read. Council President Astorino made a motion, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-83-2022 A Resolution Adopting the 2022 Municipal Budget was read. Council President Astorino made a motion, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-84-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Council President Astorino made a motion, seconded by Councilman Atlas. 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 March 2022. He noted that 758 calls were received by Dispatch and 48 summonses were issued.

Councilman Tilton presented the Fire Department Public Safety Report for March 2022 during which there were 15 calls. He reminded all to support the NCFD by attending the Annual Pancake Breakfast on June 5th and the 100th Anniversary Celebration on September 24th.

Councilman Tilton announced two fundraisers for the North Caldwell Police Foundation including the Peter Hollander Clay Event and a golf outing on November 3rd.

Public Works

Councilman Rees offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for March 2022 during which 35 permits were issued. He noted that 92 permits were issued to date in 2022.

Councilman Rees offered the Animal Control Report for March 2022, during which two (2) calls for service were received, totaling \$242.52 in overtime for Animal Control officers. He noted that the services of the West Orange Animal Shelter were not used during the month.

Stormwater Drainage Improvements – Sunset Drive: Councilman Rees reviewed the proposal from Ferriero Engineering, Inc. He stated that a pipe replacement solution would first be completed prior to executing a more intensive study.

Recreation

Recreation Director's Report for April/May 2022: Councilman Kessler stated that the baseball and softball Opening Day was scheduled for April 30th. He noted that there are 29 teams and he thanked the team sponsors for their support. He encouraged residents to create a family profile on the CivicRec recreation program portal.

Councilman Kessler thanked West Essex High School Key Club members for volunteering to make the Annual Spring Spectacular a success for the 275 children who participated. He noted that spring after-school programs were underway. He announced the availability of employment opportunities at the municipal pool.

Councilman Kessler presented a request from the Travel Baseball and Softball President, John Morgan, to use the Liberty Field Snack Bar to sell pre-packaged goods during games. The Council agreed to allow the use of the building.

Resolution R-85-2022 A Resolution Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs – Couples Pool Membership, Pickleball Guest Fees was read. Councilman Kessler made a motion, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-86-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Refunds of Recreation Program Fees was read. Councilman Kessler made a motion, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Executive Session

Resolution R-87-2022 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

was read. Councilman Atlas made a motion to amend the resolution to include the discussion of Attorney/Client Communication with regard to Personnel – Borough Holidays. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes. Resolution R-76-2022 as amended in the preceding 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 7:56pm.

Ordinance O-9-2022

Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-9-2022 An Ordinance Amending §10-1 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding Public Holidays. He noted that the public hearing would be held on May 24, 2022 at 6:30pm. Councilman Atlas made a motion, seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously 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 Councilman Floria-Callori, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:58pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk