

## Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – June 28, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, June 28, 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.

Absent: Councilman Kenneth Tilton.

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

Mayor Alessi asked Kathy Shwiff of *The Progress* newspaper to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi announced the passing of Barbara Nash, longtime resident and wife of former Councilman Nash. He provided an update on COVID vaccine distribution in Essex County. Mayor Alessi announced the local fireworks displays and closure of Borough offices in anticipation of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Mayor Alessi stated that the Borough and West Essex Board of Education are moving toward the presence of officers in the schools for the upcoming school year. He noted that he is participating in NJDEP discussions regarding stormwater drainage.

### Citizens to be Heard

Jane Selzer – 41 Four Seasons Drive

Ms. Selzer reviewed the parking issues on Hilltop Drive that affect residents of Four Seasons and requested that the permanent "No Parking" signs be installed as soon as possible. Mr. O'Sullivan noted that the locations for the permanent signs had already been marked out and that installation was scheduled to begin the next day.

Elliott Sommers – 43 Four Seasons Drive

Mr. Sommers requested measures be implemented to ensure safe walking conditions for residents along White Rock Road and better visibility for drivers approaching Mountain Avenue from Elm Road. Mr. O'Sullivan noted that he had contacted Verona's administrator to discuss White Rock Road safety measures. He offered that Caldwell be contacted regarding the Elm Road intersection as it lies within Caldwell's jurisdiction.

### Approval of Minutes

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

- Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of May 10, 2022
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022

Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

### Committee Reports

#### Legal and Ordinance

**Bond Ordinance BO-4-2022:** A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$2,013,411 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,537,488 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof.

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing and noted that the ordinance accounts for an anticipated grant from the NJDOT for roadway improvements. No one from the public came forward. Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Bond Ordinance BO-4-2022 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Improvements in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$2,013,411 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,537,488 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. Council President Astorino seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

**Bond Ordinance BO-5-2022:** A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Improvements to Firemen's Field in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey Appropriating \$935,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$885,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof .

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing and noted that the field improvements will be partially funded by donations. No one from the public came forward. Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Bond Ordinance BO-5-2022 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing Improvements to Firemen's Field in and for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey Appropriating \$935,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$885,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof. Council President Astorino seconded the motion. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

**Ordinance O-11-2022:** An Ordinance to Provide for Various Capital Items as Enumerated Within for the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex and to Provide for the Funding Thereof. Councilman Atlas presented the ordinance which would provide for \$15,000 of funding. He announced that the public hearing is scheduled for July 19, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Mayor Alessi announced his appointment of resident John Krug to the North Caldwell Historic Preservation Commission as a Class C member to fulfill an opening on the Commission.

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

- Resolution R-122-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Donation of a Ford Crown Victoria to the West Essex First Aid Squad
- Resolution R-123-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Liquor License 0715-33-00 to Horseneck Tavern, LLC
- Resolution R-124-2022 A Resolution Urging the New Jersey Legislature to Amend the Budget Cap Law to Appropriate Funds for Increasing Insurance Costs
- Raffle License RA-3-2022 Notre Dame Church Annual Calendar Raffle Application

Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

#### **Personnel and Technology**

Committee Updates: Councilman Floria-Callori stated that efforts to find telecommunications providers for the improvement of cellular service continue but provider costs were found to be prohibitive. He announced that a stormwater drainage reporting mechanism was being developed for the Borough website.

Resolution R-125-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Senior Maintenance Worker in the Department of Public Works was read. A motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

#### **Finance**

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

Resolution R-126-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

#### **Public Safety**

Councilman Floria-Callori presented the Fire Department Public Safety Report for May 2022 during which there were 26 calls of which two (2) were for mutual aid. He thanked all who supported the NCFD by attending the Annual Pancake Breakfast on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He reminded residents to keep barbeques and grills free of grease that could lead to fires.

Councilman Floria-Callori presented the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for May 2022. He reviewed the various types of calls to which the department responds.

Mr. O'Sullivan requested that the Council review plans for the re-installation of the fire gong in front of Firemen's Community Center. He noted that all supplies and labor were being donated by resident, Douglass Holmes.

#### **Public Works**

Councilman Rees offered the first monthly Department of Public Works monthly summary. He presented updates on infrastructure repairs, hydrant repairs, municipal pool preparation and roadway repairs. He noted that a monthly stormwater report would be implemented next month.

Councilman Rees offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for May 2022 during which 38 permits were issued totaling approximately \$59,000 year to date.

Mr. O'Sullivan announced recently obtained FEMA approval for reimbursement of projects resulting from Tropical Storm Ida.

### **Recreation**

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Director's Report for June/July 2022. He expressed appreciation to the DPW for their work to open the municipal pool for the season. He noted program registration opening dates and provided an update of programs in progress. He noted the success of the Camp Wyanokie Open House on June 18. Councilman Kessler anticipated renderings of the Firemen's Field improvements for subcommittee review.

Municipal Pool Improvements – Councilman Kessler stated that renderings were anticipated in the next week which would be reviewed by the Recreation Committee. He added that work would begin in the fall for Spring 2023 completion.

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

- Resolution R-127-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Execute Agreements for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services Agreements
- Resolution R-128-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Seasonal Employees – Baseball/Softball Umpires
- Resolution R-129-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2022 Municipal Pool Season
- Resolution R-130-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees for the 2022 Summer Fun Camp
- Resolution R-131-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Stipend for West Essex Fireworks Gate Monitor

Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

### **Executive Session**

Councilman Rees requested the addition of Contract Negotiations – Essex Fells Water to the Executive Session Discussion.

Resolution R-132-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes:

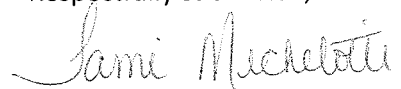
- A. Contract Negotiations: (1) Amended Fair Share Housing Agreement, (2) Shared Municipal Court, (3) Shared Police Dispatch, (4) Mountain Avenue Field Building, (5) Firemen's Field Improvements, (6) Essex Fells Water – ADDED BY MOTION;
- B. Personnel: (1) Police Dispatch Compensation and Personnel Policies;
- C. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Fair Housing Act;
- D. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge

was read and amended to include Contract Negotiations – Essex Fells Water. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 8:58pm.

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 Kessler, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:58pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC  
Borough Clerk