

## Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – October 25, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2022. The meeting began at 6:32pm 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 Anthony Floria-Callori, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees and Councilman Kenneth Tilton.

Absent: Councilman Matthew Atlas.

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

Mayor Alessi asked Matthew Rubino to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Installation of NCPD Patrolman Matthew J. Rubino**

Mayor Alessi administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Police Officer Matthew J. Rubino. Mayor Alessi welcomed Officer Rubino to the department.

Mayor Alessi called for a brief recess at 6:39pm. The meeting resumed at 6:41pm.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alessi invited residents to visit the Borough website to learn more about organ donation and noted a North Caldwell resident who is in need of kidney transplant. He announced the annual hydrant flushing and leaf collection dates. Mayor Alessi noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday, November 7 to avoid conflict with the General Election. He welcomed new residents to attend Newcomer's Night on November 1 at 7pm. Mayor Alessi thanked the Walker's Pond Conservancy members for organizing the Fall Festival event on Saturday, October 22, 2022. He expressed appreciation to the Department of Public Works for completing various stormwater drainage repairs.

Mayor Alessi introduced Borough Engineer Paul Ferriero to provide an update on the Walker's Park improvements permits. Mr. Ferriero detailed the improvements encompassed in the permits for which the NJDEP is seeking clarification and submission of additional analyses and surveys. He noted that the pending improvements are viewed by the DEP as an extension of the pond dredging activity. Mr. Ferriero would report back after he has further discussion with the DEP.

Mr. Ferriero departed the meeting at 6:58pm.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

**John Chiaia, 34 Grandview Place** – Walker's Park Conservancy Chairman John Chiaia shared the current uses of Walker's Park and the potential future uses. He thanked the volunteers, sponsors and attendees of the Fall Festival event.

**Manny Portnoy, 9 Four Seasons Drive** – Mr. Portnoy expressed concern for pedestrian safety and irregular traffic patterns at Elm Road and Mountain Avenue. Mayor Alessi noted that he had discussed the issue with Essex County representatives and Caldwell's Mayor Kelley. Alternatives to the existing blinking light were discussed.

**Elliott Sommer, 143 Four Seasons Drive** – Mr. Sommer offered to share his experience with the resident in need of a kidney transplant. He asked for a completion date for the crosswalk signage at White Rock Road and Hilltop Drive. Mr. O'Sullivan anticipated completion within two weeks. Chief Deuer explained that enforcement falls under Verona's jurisdiction.

Mr. Sommer requested a response to his request for a revision in municipal services reimbursement to the Four Seasons HOA regarding snow removal. Mr. Semeraro provided a summary of the update provided at the last meeting on this topic.

**Sheila Fant, 18 Squire Hill Road** – Ms. Fant expressed appreciation for the Borough's response to traffic and pedestrian safety issues at the intersection of Squire Hill Road and Sunset Drive. She stated that traffic issues had decreased. She asked that "No Parking/Standing" signage be installed to maintaining safety.

**Jennifer Giunta, 26 Sunset Drive** - Ms. Giunta noted that cones placed at the intersection are helpful in preventing cars from entering and turning around in the dead end of Sunset Drive.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

- Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of September 13, 2022
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of September 27, 2022

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

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legal and Ordinance**

**Ordinance O-13-2022:** Councilman Floria-Callori made a motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance O-13-2022 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. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion passed with five (5) unanimous affirmative votes.

No one from the public came forward. There were no comments from the governing body. Councilman Floria-Callori made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance O-13-2022 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. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion passed unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

**Ordinance O-14-2022:** Councilman made a motion to introduce Ordinance O-14-2022 An Ordinance Amending and Modifying Chapter 3 Administration of Government, Article XV Department of Police. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for November 22, 2022 at 6:30pm. Councilman Rees seconded the motion. Said motion passed unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

**Resolution R-174-2022** A Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for No-Cost Stormwater Consulting was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion passed unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

#### **Personnel and Technology**

Committee Updates: Councilman Floria-Callori presented positive feedback received from telecommunications carriers in response to letters from the governing body. He noted that meetings with T-Mobile and AT&T were planned.

### **Finance**

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

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

- Resolution R-175-2022 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-176-2022 A Resolution Approving Budget Transfer from Snow Removal Salaries and Wages and Operating Expenses to a Dedicated Trust Fund
- Resolution R-177-2022 A Resolution Approving Budget Transfer from Current Fund to a Dedicated Trust Fund

Said motion was seconded by Councilman Rees and passed unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes. Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that the dedicated trust funds were already established.

### **Public Safety**

Councilman Tilton presented the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for September 2022 during which 688 calls were placed to Dispatch and 49 tickets were issued.

Councilman Tilton presented the Fire Department Public Safety Report for September 2022 during which the department responded to 25 calls. He expressed appreciation to the public for their support of the NCFD's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Councilman Tilton reminded residents to keep holiday decorations away from heat sources and to use caution when using candles.

### **Public Works**

Councilman Rees offered the Department of Public Works monthly summary for September 2022. He stated that water leak detection is ongoing. He reviewed recent pothole patching and road paving repairs completed by the DPW. He announced the completion of the Mountain Avenue Field sidewalk and staircase replacement. Councilman Rees reminded residents to remove leaves from catch basins in front of their properties and not place leaf bags in the street.

Councilman Rees offered the Construction Permit Activity Report for September 2022 during which

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35 permits were issued bringing the total to 309 to date.

Councilman Rees presented the Animal Control Report for September 2022 during which there were five (5) calls for which \$850.00 in fees were collected. He noted that fees are not collected for revenue but rather to cover costs of animal control services.

#### **Recreation**

Councilman Kessler offered the Recreation Director's Report for October/November 2022. He announced that over 300 children were participating in recreation soccer. He stated that the West Essex Cowboys football playoff games were underway and the field hockey teams were undefeated. The cub scouts enjoyed their annual campout on Mountain Avenue field.

Councilman Kessler noted that registration was still open for recreation basketball and that tryouts were being conducted for travel basketball. He welcomed ski trip registrants to express interest in bus service to secure the 30 person minimum. Men's softball was finishing the season and men's basketball open gym would begin in the coming weeks. The next Seniors luncheon was planned for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and donations for the annual food drive benefitting Toni's Kitchen were being accepted.

Councilman Kessler provided an update on the Firemen's Field improvements and welcomed donations toward the project. He thanked the sponsors, volunteers, participants, NCPD and NCDPW for their support of the Fall Festival at Walker's Park. He announced the Annual Joy, Peace and Goodwill holiday celebration planned for Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Camp Wyanokie Report for September 2022 – Councilman Kessler provided an update on the dam improvement project as required by the NJDEP. He noted that the commission was operating in a positive financial status.

Council President Astorino requested that future Walker's Park events be presented by the Recreation Committee with sufficient advance notice. He inquired about additional donations for the Fireman's Field project. Councilman Kessler stated once they are received a resolution would need to be approved accepting these funds.

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#### **Executive Session**

Resolution R-178-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purpose:

- A. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Multiculturalism;
- B. Contract Negotiations: (1) West Essex Regional School District Class III School Resource Officer, (2) Essex Fells Water, (3) Caldwell Sewer Utility Contract;
- C. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge

was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 8:50pm. Council President Astorino and Councilman Kessler were unable to join the meeting remotely at this time.

Councilman Floria-Callori made a motion to table Resolution R-170-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the Caldwell Sewerage Utility for Treatment and Disposal of Sanitary Sewage and Resolution R-171-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the Borough of Essex Fells for Wholesale Water Supply. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Rees and passed unanimously with three (3) affirmative votes.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Rees, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:52pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with three (3) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC  
Borough Clerk