

## Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – January 24, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. The meeting began at 6:32pm at Borough Hall and was held simultaneously via tele/video-conference.

Mayor Raymond 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 Joshua H. Raymond, Council President Floria-Callori, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees and Councilman Steven Weinstein.  
Also present were: Kevin O’Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Karl Strodthoff, Police Captain; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond asked Captain Strodthoff to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Swearing in of Borough Council Member, Kenneth Tilton**

The Honorable Senator Kristin Corrado administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Kenneth Tilton. Councilman Tilton thanked Senator Corrado, recognized his family the dignitaries who were present and thanked the Council for the appointment to return to the Council to fulfill the Council vacancy resulting from Councilman Astorino’s resignation.

### **Professional Services Appointment**

Resolution R-32-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of Professional Services Contract for the Borough of North Caldwell - Borough Attorney/General Counsel was presented by Councilman Atlas. Mayor Raymond reviewed the RFQ and interview process through which the subcommittee recommended Jarrid Kantor of Antonelli Kantor and Rivera as Borough Attorney/General Counsel for 2023. A motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was unanimously approved with six (6) affirmative votes. Mr. Kantor thanked the governing body for the appointment and looked forward to helping further the Borough’s goals.

### **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Raymond referenced recent events in town to which the Police and Fire Departments responded without injury. He announced PSE&G construction planned on Mountain Avenue to begin the following day for a three (3) month project to lay gas lines. He encouraged residents to register for emergency alerts for notifications about road closures and other important announcements.

Mayor Raymond provided an update on a Soder Road site which was now deemed a major development and would be redesigned for enhanced stormwater controls. He encouraged all interested parties to submit Expressions of Interest for the Walker’s Park structure and attend the January 31, 2023 walk-through.

Mayor Raymond reminded residents of the following: pet registration through the end of January, Christmas tree collection through the end of January, property tax payments due on February 1, the requirement to obtain tree removal permits, the importance of protecting homes and vehicles from theft by locking doors and the need to clear snow and ice from sidewalks and hydrants within 24 hours of the last snowfall.

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment Appointments**

Mayor Raymond announced the following Mayoral appointments, with advice and consent from the Council for the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

- Two-year unexpired term due to vacancy of a Regular Member – Laura Drago
- Four-year term Regular Member – Michelle Hawley-Tsay
- Two-year term Alternate 1 – Alfredo Paulo
- Two-year term Alternate 2 – Maureen Zurlo

The appointments were unanimously approved with six (6) affirmative votes.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

**Jake Montano, 548 Mountain Avenue** – Mr. Montano presented his proposed Eagle Scout Project to install a flagpole with solar-powered illumination at Walker’s Park. He stated that the project duration was approximately two weeks and could be scheduled for early April 2023 after approval and fundraising were obtained. Councilman Kessler expressed his favor for the project and commended Mr. Montano for bringing the proposal to the Council. The Council was in agreement to allow the project. The proposal would be reviewed by the Borough Engineer to ensure DEP compliance. Mayor Raymond commended Jake on his presentation and efforts.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council President Floria-Callori moved to accept the Conference and Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of December 20, 2022 (without release of Executive Session minutes), seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried with five (5) affirmative votes and one (1) abstention by Councilman Weinstein.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legal and Ordinance**

##### **ORDINANCES**

Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-1-2023 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell – SLEO Class III by which the hourly wage for the position would be expanded to \$30 - \$45 per hour. He stated that the public hearing was scheduled for February 28, 2023 at 6:30pm. On a motion by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was unanimously carried with six (6) affirmative votes.

##### **RESOLUTIONS**

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

- Resolution R-33-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Receipt of Bids for the Land Lease for Telecommunications Improvements
- Resolution R-34-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Township of West Orange for Animal Facility Sheltering Services

Said motion was seconded by Councilman Weinstein and unanimously carried with six (6) affirmative votes.

#### **Personnel and Technology**

Committee Updates- Council President Floria-Callori informed the Council of Verizon's "COW" (Cellular On Wheels) which was being researched as a possible temporary cellular solution. He noted that collective bargaining negotiations for the both the Teamsters and PBA would be forthcoming as well as a police department promotional ordinance.

#### **Finance**

Councilman Weinstein presented the Tax Collector's Report for December 2022. He noted that year-end collections totaled \$53,089,625.50 for the Current Fund, \$266,619.15 for the Pool Utility and \$1,881,273.98 for the Water Utility.

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Councilman Weinstein as a Consent Agenda:

- Resolution R-35-2023 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-36-2023 A Resolution Approving 2022 Budget Transfers

Said motion was seconded by Councilman Atlas and was unanimously carried with six (6) affirmative votes.

#### **Public Safety**

Councilman Tilton provided the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for December 2022. He noted that 751 calls were received by Dispatch and 34 tickets were issued. He reminded residents to keep vehicles and homes secured and activate burglar alarms. He announced the closure of Mountain Avenue for PSE&G construction for a duration of approximately two months.

Councilman Tilton presented the Police Department 2022 Annual Report during which 8,914 calls were handled by Dispatch and 560 tickets were issued. Identity theft and vehicle thefts were predominant during the year.

The Fire Department Public Safety Report for December 2022 noted 23 calls of which 3 were for mutual aid. He reminded all residents to test their fire and carbon monoxide alarms.

Councilman Tilton presented the Fire Department Annual Report for the December 2021 through November 2022 timeframe during which 272 responses were made. An increase in natural gas leak responses was noted as the Board of Public Utilities requires fire personnel response for such calls. Councilman Tilton noted the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration as a highlight of the NCFD's year.

Resolution R-37-2023 A Resolution Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Borough of North Caldwell and the County of Essex for the Installation and Maintenance of Surveillance Cameras and Equipment on Traffic Signals and Essex County Rights of Way was read and moved by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler and was unanimously carried with six (6) affirmative votes.

Captain Strodthoff presented traffic and speed data captured on Mountain Avenue in response to resident complaints of speeding. Average speed was calculated at 37.1 mph on Mountain Avenue at/near the intersection of Hickory Drive and Wind Ridge Drive. He tabulated the motor vehicle incidents over the past eight (8) years at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and Hickory Road/Wind Ridge Road where speed was likely not a factor in all but one incident. Captain Strodthoff requested a property maintenance inspection of the homes on the corners by the Building Code Official to ensure visibility of drivers at the stop signs due to landscaping encroachment. He offered to move solar powered speed signs from Smull Avenue (where speed humps were recently installed) to Mountain Avenue with Council and Essex County approval. Mayor Raymond asked Captain Strodthoff to follow up with the Public Safety Committee to discuss further action. A pedestrian crosswalk was discussed as an additional option to raise driver awareness.

#### **Public Works**

Councilman Rees presented the DPW Monthly Report for December 2022 during which field improvements were made at Mountain Avenue and Liberty Fields, street paving improvements continued and stormwater repairs and pipe replacements were completed. He noted that the NCDPW performs all water main break repairs in house without incurring costs of outside contractors.

Councilman Rees presented the Construction Permit Activity Report for December 2022. He noted that 31 permits were issued in December making the 2022 total 419 permits. Year-end permit fees totaled \$212,935.

Councilman Rees presented the Animal Control Monthly Report for December 2022 during which two (2) dogs were at large and recovered.

#### **Recreation**

Councilman Kessler presented the Recreation Director's Report for January/February 2023. He noted that over 300 children were participating in basketball and he thanked the volunteer coaches and parents for their involvement. He announced that scorekeepers were still needed for the remainder of the season. The annual Ski Club trips were underway with 45 participants and parent chaperones. Firemen's Field awaits the installation of turf in February and will be ready for Opening Day on April 22. Cal Ripken baseball and softball registration opens on February 1. Councilman Kessler announced summer employment positions for Summer Fun Camp and municipal pool staff. Registration for pool memberships and camp opened in mid-March. The annual Spring Spectacular was scheduled for April 4 with a rain date of April 5.

Councilman Kessler presented the Camp Wyanokie Commission Report for December 2022. He thanked Tony Prinzo for his commitment to the Commission and noted that Mr. Prinzo secured Century Gardens Camp for day camp services which is a significant source of revenue during the quiet weekdays. Councilman Kessler extended appreciation to the NCDPW for performing an inspection and repairs to the dam at the camp. He noted that the Camp Wyanokie year-end balance is just over \$116,000.

Resolution R-38-2023 A Resolution Fixing Recreation Program Fees for 2023 was read and moved by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Weinstein and carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

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

- Resolution R-39-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Recreation Basketball Scorekeepers/Gym Monitors
- Resolution R-40-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Basketball Instructors

Said motion was seconded by Councilman Atlas and carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

#### **Executive Session**

Council President Floria-Callori made a motion to amend and move Resolution R-41-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purposes:

- A. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge;
- B. Personnel: (1) NCPD;
- C. Potential Contract Negotiations: (1) Shared Municipal Court, (2) Green Brook Country Club;
- D. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Walker's Park (added by motion).

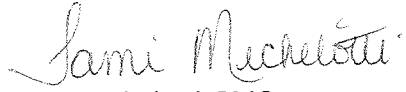
Said motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler and was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Mayor Raymond announced that no further action would be taken after Executive Session and the meeting would not re-open to the public.

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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 7:24pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tami Michelotti".

Tami Michelotti, RMC  
Borough Clerk