

## Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – February 28, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. The meeting began at 6:04pm at Firemen's Community Center 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 Kenneth Tilton.

Absent: Councilman Steven Weinstein.

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Jarrid Kantor, Borough Attorney; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond asked Vincent Strodthoff, son of Karl Strodthoff, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **North Caldwell Police Department Promotion and Installation Ceremony**

Mayor Raymond welcomed all in attendance and expressed the governing body's support of the promotions scheduled within the North Caldwell Police Department. He thanked the promotion candidates for their service to the community.

Mayor Raymond introduced Karl Strodthoff, a 23-year veteran of the North Caldwell Police Department. Council President Floria-Callori made a motion to approve Resolution R-44-2023 A Resolution Appointing Karl Strodthoff, Chief of Police, seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes. The Oath of Office was administered to Chief Strodthoff by The Honorable Marcella Matos Wilson, NJ Superior Court Judge.

Mayor Raymond introduced Michael Credico who began his service in the North Caldwell Police Department as a dispatcher in 2010 and serves in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves. Council President Floria-Callori made a motion to approve Resolution R-45-2023 A Resolution Appointing Michael Credico, Police Captain, seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes. The Oath of Office was administered to Captain Credico by Reverend Thomas D. Nicastro, Nutley .

Mayor Raymond introduced John Herbert who began his service as a dispatcher in Fairfield and joined the North Caldwell Police Department in 2010. Council President Floria-Callori made a motion to approve Resolution R-46-2023 A Resolution Appointing John Herbert, Police Sergeant, seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes. The Oath of Office was administered by The Honorable Joanne Cocchiola, NJ Superior Court Judge.

Mayor Raymond introduced Police Patrolman Luke Roszkowski who joined the department in January. Council President Floria-Callori referenced the resolution dated December 20, 2022 appointing Officer Roszkowski as Probationary Patrolman. The Oath of Office was administered by The Honorable Joseph C. Angelo, North Caldwell Municipal Judge.

Mayor Raymond called for a recess of the meeting at 6:31pm to allow for the governing body to return to Council Chambers for the remainder of the Regular Meeting.

The Regular Meeting resumed at 6:42pm.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Joshua H. Raymond, Council President Floria-Callori, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees, Councilman Kenneth Tilton, Councilman Steven Weinstein.

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Jarrid Kantor, Borough Attorney; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Raymond provided a statement regarding an environmental inspection of the Walker's home at Walker's Park. He noted that an investigation by a third-party environmental consultant was performed to inspect, document and quantify building materials suspected of containing asbestos. He added that abatement and removal of materials would be completed in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.

Mayor Raymond announced an agreement with Essex County to install a license plate reading camera in the near future. He announced the intention to enter into a contract with Essex County to install a traffic light at the Gould Avenue and Mountain Avenue intersection. Mayor Raymond anticipated a shared

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service contract and grant approval for the Shared Municipal Court, improvements to Mountain Avenue field discussed with the North Caldwell Football Club, and removal of debris in the Hilltop Conservation Area for which notices were issued to neighboring properties to thwart illegal dumping. He announced the rebid of the water meter replacement project.

### **Citizens to be Heard**

Maya Lordo, Essex County Liaison and Essex County Director of Health, presented an upcoming County events. She stated that she was working with Health Director Bill Wallace on Emergency Preparedness Plan updates.

John Chiaia, 34 Grandview Place – Mr. Chiaia requested that the governing body table the introduction of Ordinance O-3-2023 regarding the subdivision consolidation at Walker's Park. He recommended that two or three lots could be sold to fund other expenses without compromising the park.

Nick Walker, West Caldwell – Mr. Walker, grandson of the previous owners of the property now known as Walker's Park, requested that the governing body not sell the subdivided lots as voted upon by the residents in the 2019 referendum question.

Robert James Bennet, Jr., 75 Mountain Avenue - Mr. James stated his support of maintaining the Walker's Park parcel in full and objected to selling the subdivided lots.

Elliot Sommer, 143 Four Seasons Drive – Mr. Sommer asked the governing body to reconsider increasing the snow removal reimbursements to homeowners associations in town.

Hearing no further comment, Mayor Raymond closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

- A. Reorganization Meeting – January 2, 2023
- B. Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – January 10, 2023
- C. Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – January 24, 2023

Councilman Tilton abstained from the January 2, 2023 and the January 10, 2023 minutes. Said motion was carried with five (5) affirmative votes for the meeting minute of January 2, 2023 and January 10, 2023 and six (6) affirmative votes for the meeting minutes of January 24, 2023.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legal and Ordinance**

#### **ORDINANCES**

Councilman Atlas made a motion to add to the agenda Raffle License RA-3-2023 and Raffle License RA-4-2023 submitted by the West Essex High School Cheerleading Booster Club. Said motion was seconded by Council President Floria-Callori and carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-1-2023: Councilman Atlas read and opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-1-2023 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell – SLEO Class III. No comments were received from the public or the governing body. Councilman Atlas made a motion to close and adopt Ordinance O-1-2023 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell – SLEO Class III. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Tilton and carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-2-2023: Councilman Atlas made a motion to introduce O-2-2023 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14) for Calendar Year 2023. He announced the public hearing scheduled for March 28, 2023 at 6:30pm. Said motion was seconded by Council President Floria-Callori and carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-3-2023: Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-3-2023 An Ordinance Authorizing the Borough of North Caldwell to Execute a Deed of Consolidation for Certain Property Located at Block 606, Lots 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, 1.05 and 1.06 in the Borough of North Caldwell. He announced the public hearing scheduled for March 28, 2023 at 6:30pm. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Weinstein and carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-4-2023: Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-4-2023 An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Recording of an Easement to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Property Known as Walker's Pond. He announced the public hearing scheduled for March 28, 2023 at 6:30pm. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Kessler and carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution R-47-2023 A Resolution Rejecting Water Meter Replacement and Installation of Radio Frequency Meter Interface Units Bid and Authorizing the Borough of North Caldwell to Re-Bid for Water Meter Replacement and Installation of Radio Frequency Meter Interface Units Project was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Rees. Councilman Tilton voted no. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes and one nay vote.

Resolution R-48-2023 A Resolution Approving Grant Agreement for SCBA Units was read. Councilman Rees clarified that the full amount of the grant was not being used as a full replacement of units was not required at this time. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-49-2023 A Resolution Authorizing an Application for a LEAP Implementation Grant was read. Councilman Atlas noted that the grant would assist in the implementation of an expanded shared court service agreement. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Councilman Atlas read the following resolutions and applications which would be considered as part of the Consent Agenda later in the meeting:

- Resolution R-50-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Sub-Grant Agreement with the State of New Jersey, Office of Emergency Management for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Resolution R-51-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New Jersey
- Raffle License RA-1-2023 Caldwell-West Essex Kiwanis Tricky Tray
- Raffle License RA-2-2023 Caldwell-West Essex Kiwanis 50/50
- Raffle License RA-3-2023 West Essex High School Cheerleading Booster Club Class of 2025 Tricky Tray
- Raffle License RA-4-2023 West Essex High School Cheerleading Booster Club Class of 2025 50/50

## **Personnel and Technology**

Committee Updates - Council President Floria-Callori stated that a Personnel Committee meeting was scheduled to consider employee salary and budget adjustments. He announced that cellular tower bids were anticipated for bid openings on April 18, 2023.

## **Finance**

Councilman Weinstein presented the Tax Collector's Report for January 2023.

Councilman Weinstein read the following resolutions and applications which would be considered as part of the Consent Agenda later in the meeting:

- Resolution R-52-2023 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-53-2023 A Resolution Approving 2022 Budget Transfers
- Resolution R-54-2023 A Resolution Approving Budget Transfer from Snow Removal Salary and Wages and Operating Expenses to a Dedicated Trust Fund for Snow Removal Trust
- Resolution R-55-2023 A Resolution Approving Budget Transfer from the Current Fund to a Dedicated Trust Fund for Accumulated Absences Liability
- Resolution R-56-2023 A Resolution Authorizing Refund of 2022 Tax Payments Due to Disabled Veteran Exemption Granted on Block 1003, Lot 38

## **Public Safety**

Councilman Tilton presented the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for January 2023 during which 1,116 calls were placed to Dispatch and 82 summonses were issued.

Councilman Tilton presented the Fire Department Public Safety Report for January 2023 during which 23 responses to calls were completed.

## **Public Works**

Councilman Rees presented the DPW Monthly Report for January 2023 during which the booster pump motor at Wind Ridge Drive was replaced and pothole repairs were completed.

Councilman Rees presented the Construction Permit Activity Report for January 2023 during which 26 permits issued.

Councilman Rees presented the Animal Control Monthly Report for January 2023 and noted that one dog was returned to the owner.

## **Recreation**

Councilman Kessler presented the Recreation Director's Report for February/March 2023. He announced that the regular basketball playoffs were scheduled and the regular season was complete. Baseball and

softball registration was scheduled to close on March 29. He provided an update on the Firemen's Field turf installation and thanked all for the generous donations to the project. Councilman Kessler announced tennis and pickleball membership registration, employment opportunities for the Summer Fun Camp and municipal pool and upcoming events including the Annual Spring Spectacular and Egg Hunt on April 4 and Baseball/Softball Opening Day on April 22. He thanked the DPW for their effort to clean up Camp Wyanokie.

Walker's Park Renovations – Councilman Kessler noted that the discussion was addressed in the Mayor's Report presented earlier in the evening.

Councilman Kessler read the following resolutions and applications which would be considered as part of the Consent Agenda later in the meeting:

- Resolution R-57-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Recreation Referees/Umpires
- Resolution R-58-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Basketball Instructors/Trainers
- Resolution R-59-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Execute Agreements for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services

#### **Consent Agenda**

Council President Floria-Callori made a motion, seconded by Councilman Atlas, to approve all items listed for inclusion in the consent agenda:

- Resolution R-50-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Sub-Grant Agreement with the State of New Jersey, Office of Emergency Management for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Resolution R-51-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New Jersey
- Raffle License RA-1-2023 Caldwell-West Essex Kiwanis Tricky Tray
- Raffle License RA-2-2023 Caldwell-West Essex Kiwanis 50/50
- Raffle License RA-3-2023 West Essex High School Cheerleading Booster Club Class of 2025 Tricky Tray
- Raffle License RA-4-2023 West Essex High School Cheerleading Booster Club Class of 2025 50/50
- Resolution R-52-2023 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-53-2023 A Resolution Approving 2022 Budget Transfers
- Resolution R-54-2023 A Resolution Approving Budget Transfer from Snow Removal Salary and Wages and Operating Expenses to a Dedicated Trust Fund for Snow Removal Trust
- Resolution R-55-2023 A Resolution Approving Budget Transfer from the Current Fund to a Dedicated Trust Fund for Accumulated Absences Liability
- Resolution R-56-2023 A Resolution Authorizing Refund of 2022 Tax Payments Due to Disabled Veteran Exemption Granted on Block 1003, Lot 38
- Resolution R-57-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Recreation Referees/Umpires
- Resolution R-58-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Basketball Instructors/Trainers
- Resolution R-59-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Execute Agreements for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services

Said motion was 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) Trash Collection Liquidated Damages;
- B. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Park Place Drainage Easement;
- C. Contract Negotiations: (1) Green Brook Country Club, (2) NCBOE School Security, (3) Mountain Avenue and Gould Avenue Traffic Signal;
- D. Potential Contract Negotiations: (1) Shared Municipal Court, (2) HOA Reimbursements;
- E. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge Performance Bond.

Said motion was seconded by Councilman Atlas 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. 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 7:30pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six (6) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Tami Michelotti, RMC  
Borough Clerk