

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – March 28, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. The meeting began at 6:34pm 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, Councilman Kenneth Tilton.

Absent: Councilman Steven Weinstein.

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Jarrid Kantor, Borough Attorney; Rich Mondelli, CFO; Mark Katyriniak, Borough Engineer; Karl Strodthoff, Police Chief (arrived at 6:38pm); and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Raymond asked Kevin O'Sullivan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Raymond called for a moment of silence in remembrance of the lives lost in the Nashville, TN school shooting on March 27, 2023. He announced that New Jersey Transit would be fulfilling bus service on some of the routes serviced by DeCamp. He announced the upcoming Essex County Cherry Blossom Festival.

Recognition of Recreation Basketball Championship Teams

Mayor Raymond and the Borough Council recognized the Recreation and Travel Basketball championship team members and coaches for the 2022-2023 season.

Citizens to be Heard

Alba Pennise, 7 Soder Road – Ms. Pennise thanked the Police Department for their service and requested that alerts be sent to residents during police chase/search activity so that residents are aware to stay indoors. Council President Floria-Callori reminded residents to lock their vehicle doors, remove key fobs from vehicles and sign up for CivicAlert notifications.

Eddie SanGiacomo, 32 Beachmont Terrace – Mr. SanGiacomo asked about consequences for vehicle thieves. Chief Strodthoff noted that the NCPD follows State laws. Councilman Tilton provided some statistics on North Caldwell arrests and announced the local legislators' efforts to appeal for harsher consequences for offenders. Council President Floria-Callori described some of North Caldwell's efforts to thwart the motor vehicle thefts and other crimes.

Mayor's Recognition

Mayor Raymond presented Women's History Month proclamations to Sgt. DePoe, Officer Schlette, Borough Clerk Tami Michelotti, Municipal Court Administrator Ashley McMillion and North Caldwell Board of Education Superintendent Linda Freda in recognition of their contributions to the Borough.

Approval of Minutes

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

- Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – February 14, 2023
- Special Town Hall Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2023
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – February 28, 2023

Councilman Rees abstained from the February 14, 2023 meeting. Said motion was carried with four (4) affirmative votes and one abstention for the February 14, 2023 meeting and with five (5) affirmative votes for the February 25, 2023 and February 28, 2023 meetings.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

ORDINANCES

Ordinance O-2-2023: Councilman Atlas read and opened the public hearing for Ordinance 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. No comments were received from the public or governing body. Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the hearing and adopt Ordinance 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. Said motion was seconded by Council President Floria-Callori and carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-3-2023: Councilman Atlas read and opened the public hearing for 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.

Robert James Bennet, 75 Mountain Avenue – Mr. Bennett referred to the intention of the Open Space referendum in 2019 through which the subdivided lots would not be sold. He asked that the voters' wishes to maintain the Walker property as a park be honored.

Nick Walker, 198 Westville Avenue, West Caldwell – Mr. Walker, grandson of Woody and Carleigh Walker, presented his grandparents' intention for the Borough to maintain the property as a park for all residents to enjoy. He asked that the subdivided lots be consolidated to maintain the tranquility and character of the property.

Beth Shapiro, 8 Tanglewood Road – Ms. Shapiro stated her support for honoring the referendum results by maintaining the 17-acre parcel in its entirety for use by all residents.

Councilman Atlas stated his support of the ordinance which would allow for improving the property as a park with walking paths and footbridges as envisioned through the referendum.

Councilman Rees stated his understanding that the park was intended to encompass the entire 17-acres.

Councilman Floria-Callori asked Borough Engineer Mark Katyriniak for estimated deed submission and NJDEP permitting timelines. Mr. Katyriniak stated that following the lot consolidation, permit application would be advanced to the NJDEP with an estimate of 90-120 days for a decision to be rendered.

Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the hearing and adopt 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. Said motion was seconded by Councilman Tilton and carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-4-2023 Councilman Atlas read and opened the public hearing for 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. No comments were received from the public or governing body. Councilman Atlas made a motion to close the hearing and adopt for 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. Said motion was seconded by Council President Floria-Callori and carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-5-2023: Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-5-2023 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 45 of the Code of the Borough of North Caldwell Regarding Sewer Fees. He announced the public hearing set for April 25, 2023 at 6:30pm. Council President Floria-Callori seconded the motion which was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Ordinance O-6-2023: Councilman Atlas introduced Ordinance O-6-2023 An Ordinance Amending the Annual Compensation of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of North Caldwell. He announced the public hearing set for April 25, 2023 at 6:30pm. Council President Floria-Callori seconded the motion which was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution R-64-2023 A Resolution Accepting Bid and Awarding Contract for Mowing and Trimming of Municipal Facilities within the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas and seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-65-2023 A Resolution Authorizing Online Auction of Borough Property was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas and seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

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

- Resolution R-66-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract between the Borough of North Caldwell and Petry Engineering, Inc. for Engineering and Surveying Services for Beachmont Terrace and Oak Place Road Improvements
- Resolution R-67-2023 A Resolution Authorizing a Change Order with Shaw Industries, Inc.
- Resolution R-68-2023 A Resolution Authorizing a Change in Custodians of Petty Cash Funds
- Resolution R-69-2023 A Resolution Authorizing a Change in Monetary Amount of a Petty Cash Fund

- Resolution R-70-2023 A Resolution Authorizing a Change in Custodian of New Petty Cash Fund.

Personnel and Technology

Council President Floria-Callori announced the bid opening scheduled for April 18, 2023 for Cell Tower installation and operation.

Council President Floria-Callori read the following resolutions which would be considered as part of the Consent Agenda later in the meeting:

- Resolution R-71-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Employment Agreement with Police Chief Karl Strodthoff
- Resolution R-72-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement with Police Captain Michael Credico
- Resolution R-73-2023 A Resolution Authorizing Employment of Police Department Dispatcher.

Finance

Resolution R-74-2023 A Resolution Introducing the 2023 Municipal Budget was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Resolution R-75-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Deferral of Regional District School Tax was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Resolution R-76-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Deferral of Local District School Tax was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Rees. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) 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-77-2023 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- *Resolution R-78-2023 A Resolution Approving 2022 Budget Transfers
- *Resolution R-79-2023 A Resolution Authorizing Refund of 2022 Tax Payments Due to Disabled Veteran Exemption Granted on Block 203, Lot 6.

Public Safety

Councilman Tilton presented the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for February 2023 during which 870 calls were placed to Dispatch and 62 summonses were issued. He reminded residents to keep their homes and cars locked and to remove valuables from vehicles.

Councilman Tilton presented the Fire Department Public Safety Report for February 2023 during which 12 responses to calls were completed. Mutual aid was received from Fairfield Fire Department for a fire on Coney Road. Councilman Tilton announced the annual Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Sunday, June 4, 2023.

Public Works

Councilman Rees presented the DPW Monthly Report for February 2023 during which pipe, catch basin repairs were completed. Lead pipe replacement planning is ongoing. Topsoil, sod and conduit were installed at Firemen's Field in preparation for Opening Day.

Councilman Rees presented the Construction Permit Activity Report for February 2023 during which 43 permits were issued.

The Animal Control report was tabled until the following month.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler presented the Recreation Director's Report for March/April 2023. He thanked the basketball coaches for volunteering during the season and congratulated the championship teams. He announced the next Seniors Meeting scheduled for April 5, 2023 and the Spring Spectacular and Easter Egg Hunt on April 4, 2023. Councilman Kessler welcomed residents to participate in Earth Day weekend events including a scavenger hunt. He announced the opening of registration for pool membership and open employment opportunities for summer positions. Councilman Kessler extended his appreciation to the Department of Public Works for their efforts to improve Camp Wyanokie in advance of the camp season.

Councilman Kessler provided an update on Firemen's Turf Field improvements for which a soft-opening was scheduled for April 2nd with the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Baseball/Softball Opening Day on April 22nd.

Quarterly Newsletter – Councilman Kessler requested final comments from the Council on the quarterly newsletter draft prior to distribution on Thursday, March 30th.

Resolution R-80-2023 A Resolution Amending Fees for 2023 Summer Fun Camp was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was unanimously carried with five (5) affirmative votes.

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

- Resolution R-81-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Recreation Referees/Umpires
- Resolution R-82-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Basketball Instructors/Trainers.

Consent Agenda

Councilman Atlas made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tilton, to approve all items listed for inclusion in the consent agenda. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Mayor Raymond extended appreciation to resident Jenny Daly for her interest in forming an Earth Day event which has 70 registrants to date. He thanked DPW and the Recreation Department for their assistance with the event. He thanked Mr. O’Sullivan for his help with the Women’s History Month proclamations.

Executive Session

Council President Floria-Callori moved Resolution R-83-2023 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. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) OPMA, Social Media, OPRA, (2) Green Brook Country Club.

Said motion was seconded by Councilman Atlas and was carried unanimously with five (5) 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 7:45pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti, RMC
Borough Clerk