

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – October 26, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. The meeting began at 6:30pm via tele/video-conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 Francis Astorino, Councilman Matthew Atlas, Councilman Anthony Floria-Callori, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Arthur Rees, Councilman Kenneth Tilton.

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Semeraro, Borough Counsel; Rich Mondelli, CFO; Paul Ferriero, Borough Engineer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Council President Astorino to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi reminded all of the polling hours for the November 2, 2021 General Election and the date and time for the Annual Newcomers' Night virtual event on November 30, 2021. He announced the re-opening of Borough Hall and the option to attend Council meetings in person as of November meetings. He added that virtual participation would be continued. Mayor Alessi provided an overview of the drinking water notification and an updated response from Essex Fells.

Citizens to be Heard

Sean Glasser - 61 Beachmont Terrace

Mr. Glasser stated his support for speed control measures on Beachmont Terrace but opposed the placement of the speed table signage on his property. He asked that the sign be moved to a property line. Councilman Kessler noted that the speed table installation is a pilot program in town which is working well to date. Mr. Semeraro reviewed the sign placement and MUTCD criteria as analyzed by the Borough Engineer. He suggested that removal of signs at the speed table could be revisited once the neighborhood residents and the DPW grow accustomed to their location. He noted that signage approaching the tables is required. The Council agreed to revisit the signage placement after six (6) months.

Jason Weschke – 24 Grandview Avenue

Mr. Weschke stated his support for the proposed resolution to award a contract for drainage improvements and NJDEP permitting,

Approval of Minutes

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

- Conference Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – September 13, 2021
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – September 28, 2021

Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Councilman Atlas opened the public hearing for Ordinance O-20-2021 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Chapter 2, Entitled "Mayor and Borough Council". He noted that the ordinance amendment provides that future mayors and members of the Borough Council would not earn a salary. Councilman Atlas made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-20-2021 An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of North Caldwell, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, Chapter 2, Entitled "Mayor and Borough Council", seconded by Councilman Rees. Councilman Kessler and Councilman Tilton voted no. Said motion was carried with four affirmative votes and two nay votes.

Personnel and Technology

Councilman Floria-Callori reviewed feedback received from the Council regarding the borough logo draft. Mr. Semeraro provided an update on revisions to the proposed contract with VCOMM for improving and supplementing the Borough's cellular infrastructure.

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Resolution R-209-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Employment of Police Department Dispatcher was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Tilton. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Finance

Council President Astorino presented the Tax Collector's Report for September 2020.

Mr. Mondelli presented an update on the 2021 Municipal Budget status. He noted that the pool budget has excess revenue which could be transferred into capital outlay for pool repairs and upgrades. He reviewed the status of the water utility budget which suffered from many water main breaks during the year. He noted that an emergency appropriation would be needed prior to the end of the year to fund a shortage in water supply purchase. Mr. Mondelli added that the current budget is underfunded for legal expenses, solid waste tonnage charges and fuel costs. Anticipated FEMA reimbursements were discussed.

Resolution R-210-2021 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Tilton provided the Volunteer Fire Department Public Safety Report for September 2021 during which the department responded to 32 calls. He extended appreciation to the volunteers for providing assistance during Tropical Storm Ida.

Councilman Tilton provided the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for September 2021 during which there were 728 calls to Dispatch and 20 summonses issued for moving violations. He encouraged all residents to lock their vehicle doors and remove key fobs in light of the increase in vehicle thefts. The Council discussed a public awareness campaign to thwart thefts.

Public Works

Councilman Rees provided the Construction Permit Activity Report for September 2021. He noted that 43 permits were issued bringing the year-to-date total to 372 permits.

Councilman Rees provided the Animal Control Report for September 2021 during which there were four (4) requests for assistance.

Resolution R-211-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract Between the Borough of North Caldwell and Ferriero Engineering, Inc. for Shenandoah Drive Drainage Improvements and NJDEP Permitting Engineering Services was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Councilman Rees noted that additional engineering analysis was needed to supplement the Suburban drainage study. Mr. Ferriero added that he would study the cause of flooding issues and find the most effective way to reduce stormwater runoff.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler provided the Recreation Director's Report for October/November 2021. He noted that 37 pickle ball memberships have been obtained to date. He announced the close of the West Essex Cowboys football season, the recreation soccer season, men's fall softball season and the fall after-school programs. Councilman Kessler announced the upcoming registration for the 2021-2022 recreation and travel basketball seasons after last year's cancellation due to the COVID pandemic. He announced upcoming events including the Halloween trick-or-treating drive-thru on October 31, Newcomers' Night on November 30 and the Joy, Peace and Goodwill celebration on December 5.

Resolution R-212-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Additional Part-Time Seasonal Employees – Soccer and Softball Referees/Umpires was read. Motion was made by Councilman Kessler, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Mr. Ferriero announced the award a \$395,000 Local Aid Grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the paving of Beachmont Terrace and Oak Place for which bids would be sought in early 2022.

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Executive Session

Councilman Tilton made a motion to pass Resolution R-213-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purpose:

- A. Contract Negotiations: (1) Essex Fells Water Supply, (2) 70 Grandview Avenue;
- B. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge Performance Bond;
- C. Personnel: (1) Municipal Court Judge, (2) Recreation Program Manager, (2) Recreation Director

with the addition of a discussion of Contract Negotiations - Real Property Acquisition, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 8:35pm.

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 Atlas, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:35pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk