

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – September 28, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The meeting began at 6:32pm 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; Irene Asbury, Borough Counsel; Rich Mondelli, CFO; Paul Ferriero, Borough Engineer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; Bill Stickles, DPW Director; Mike Grasso, Water and Sewer Operator; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

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

Executive Session (Part I)

Resolution R-189-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell to Hold a Closed Session Meeting for Certain Specified Purpose: Contract Negotiations: (1) Essex Fells Water Supply was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

The Governing Body returned to public session at 7:37pm.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi announced Essex County's Hazardous Household Waste and Computers/Electronics collection day schedules. He welcomed the public to participate in the North Caldwell Police Foundation golf outing at Green Brook Country Club on October 4, 2021. Mayor Alessi announced resident Mr. Arthur Nelson's 100th birthday which would be celebrated with a proclamation at Borough Hall on October 5th.

Mayor Alessi addressed a water contamination alert issued by Essex Fells. He noted that a notification would be shared with residents in the next few days but confirmed that North Caldwell had not been feeding water supply from Essex Fells since August 25, 2021 due to water valve testing exercises.

Citizens to be Heard

Dan Gallagher – 36 Ferndale Road

Mr. Gallagher stated that he agrees with the inadequacies of the Glenview Road culvert as described in the Petry Engineering drainage report. He stated that over one foot of water fed into the brook from the land behind the Glenview Road homes.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Atlas moved to accept the minutes from the following meetings (without release of Executive Session minutes), seconded by Council President Astorino:

- Special Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2021
- Conference and Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes – August 17, 2021

Councilman Kessler abstained from the Special Meeting minutes of August 3, 2021. Said motion was carried with five affirmative votes and one abstention for the Special Meeting minutes and with six affirmative votes for the Conference and Regular Meeting minutes of August 17, 2021.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Councilman Atlas introduced 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 members of the Borough Council would not earn a salary. Councilman Rees seconded the motion to introduce the ordinance. Councilman Kessler and Councilman Tilton voted no. Said motion was carried with four affirmative votes and two nay votes.

Resolution R-190-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract Between the Borough of North Caldwell and Ferriero Engineering, Inc. for Walker's Pond Recreation Improvement

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Engineering Services was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-191-2021 A Resolution Authorizing the Release of the RPM Development-White Rock Urban Renewal Associates, LLP Cash Maintenance Bonds was read. Motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Councilman Floria-Callori. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Personnel and Technology

Councilman Floria-Callori updated the Council on progress regarding a telecommunications improvements contract. He also noted that website and Borough logo design were moving forward.

Resolution R-192-2021 A Resolution Reappointing Tami Michelotti, RMC as Municipal Clerk of the Borough of North Caldwell was read. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Resolution R-193-2021 A Resolution Awarding a Contract for Radio and Wireless Telecommunications Antenna/Tower Siting and Management Consulting Services was read. Councilman Floria-Callori noted that three RFQ responses were received and VCOMM was selected to place a new tower to improve facilities and renegotiate a lease for the Borough's existing structure. Ms. Asbury noted some amendments suggested by Mr. Semeraro. Motion was made by Councilman Floria-Callori subject to paragraph 2 in Mr. Semeraro's memo dated September 28, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Finance

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

Resolution R-194-2021 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.

Resolution R-195-2021 A Resolution of the Governing Body Certifying the 2020 Annual Audit was read. Motion was made by Council President Astorino, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Council President Astorino to delete Resolution R-196-2021 A Resolution Authorizing Special Emergency Appropriations for Infrastructure Repairs, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Council President Astorino to add to the agenda and approve Resolution R-198-2021 A Resolution Approving the Insertion of Revenue Item – Chapter 159 – American Rescue Plan Fund in the amount of \$346,505.25. Motion was seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Council President Astorino to add to the agenda and approve Resolution R-199-2021 A Resolution Approving the Funding for Radio and Wireless Telecommunications Antenna/Tower Siting and Management Consulting Services. Motion was seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried with six affirmative votes.

Council President Astorino noted that he discussed his Land Use Initiative proposal with Mr. Semeraro and asked to review the details at the next meeting.

Public Safety

Councilman Tilton provided the Police Department Public Safety and Detective Bureau Reports for August 2021 during which there were 784 calls. He noted that recent motor vehicle thefts have led to several arrests but reminded the public to lock their vehicle doors.

Councilman Tilton provided the Fire Department Public Safety Report for August 2021 during which there were 29 calls include a car fire. He reminded all to be mindful of outdoor fires.

Councilman Tilton announced the Beachmont Terrace speed table installation in the next week.

Public Works

Councilman Rees provided the Construction Permit Activity Report for August 2021. He noted that there were 33 permits issued which brings the year-to-date total to 329.

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Councilman Rees provided the Animal Control Report for August 2021 during which there were seven (7) calls with one dog bite that led to a quarantine of the dog.

Resolution R-197-2021 A Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Contract for Sanitary Sewer Line Repairs was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes. Mr. Ferriero described the repairs and confirmed that one of his firm's inspectors would be on site to monitor the repairs. Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that the American Rescue Plan funds would initially be used as the funding mechanism for the work but that the cost would be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement by the Tropical Storm Ida disaster declaration.

Councilman Rees made a motion to add to the agenda Resolution R-200-2021 A Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Contract for Storm Sewer Line Repair Services, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Councilman Rees made a motion to approve Resolution R-200-2021 A Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Contract for Storm Sewer Line Repair Services, seconded by Councilman Atlas. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Recreation

Councilman Kessler provided the Recreation Director's Report for September/October 2021. He noted that the town pool and tennis court memberships flourished during the past season. He thanked Premio Sausage and the Boy Scouts for their contributions and volunteerism at the Annual Town Picnic. Councilman Kessler announced the success of the North Caldwell Recreation Foundation's 5K Race and Color Run event which welcomed 750 participants.

Councilman Kessler thanked all participants in the West Essex Cowboys pep rally, the annual Soccerfest parade and celebration and the Seniors luncheon. He announced fall after-school programs, tennis clinics and men's softball schedules. He added that the basketball season was still being explored as use of indoor facilities was still pending due to the COVID pandemic. He announced the pilot pickle ball program that would gauge interest of residents.

Councilman Kessler announced an employment opportunity within the Recreation Department that would soon be posted to the Borough website. He also noted that part-time seasonal employees for Recreation Events are needed. He anticipated a resolution at the next meeting. Councilman Kessler deferred the discussion regarding Seniors Club Fees to the next conference meeting.

Executive Session

Councilman Atlas made a motion to return to Executive Session for the discussion of:

- B. Potential Litigation: (1) Hidden Ridge Performance Bond;
- C. Attorney/Client Privilege: (1) Equipment/Facility Safety Certification.

The motion was seconded by Council President Astorino and was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 8:39pm.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Atlas, seconded by Council President Astorino, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:39pm. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk