

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – September 8, 2020

The Conference Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The meeting began at 7:30pm via teleconference 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.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Alessi, Council President Santomauro, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Rees and Councilman Tilton.

Also present were: Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Semeraro, Esq., Borough Attorney; Rich Mondelli, Chief Financial Officer; Paul Ferriero, Borough Engineer; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Chief Deuer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens to be Heard

Helaine Neiman - 68 Evergreen Drive

Mrs. Neiman stated her concern for traffic and speeding down her street due to the re-opening of school. Chief Deuer offered to install a solar powered speed sign to monitor speeding. He noted that street paving by Essex County that day may have contributed to delays and, therefore, rushing to school. He reviewed the County schedule for paving of Grandview and Mountain Avenues. Council President Santomauro reviewed the delays encountered by the County that resulted in an inopportune time for paving. Mayor Alessi noted that discussions were held with County officials to improve coordination of road projects. The grammar schools' limited bussing was discussed and the impact on the volume of cars dropping off and picking up students each day.

Items for Discussion

Dezi's Hospitality/Horseneck Tavern Annual Liquor License Renewal

Ms. Michelotti presented the annual Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewal application submitted by Dezi's Hospitality LLC for Horseneck Tavern. She noted that the renewal application did not alter any of the recent outdoor dining permissions granted to Horseneck Tavern in recent months. She stated that the application was in order and recommended the approval of the license renewal. She confirmed that the annual renewal deadline was extended to September 30, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual Leaf Composting Inter-Local Agreement

Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed the annual inter-local agreement from Fairfield for leaf composting. He noted that a resolution was prepared for the Council's consideration later in the meeting.

Speed Bumps

Council President Santomauro reviewed speeding complaints and a request by residents on Spruce Road for a speed bump. Chief Deuer noted that the hill prevents speed humps and tables. Mr. Ferriero noted that speed bumps are problematic and are not allowed on public streets. He instead offered that speed humps be considered and reviewed their benefits, detriments and requirements. He suggested that he prepare a layout of speed humps on the streets in question for the Council's review. Councilman Tilton stated his opposition to speed bumps as they require maintenance and cause vehicular repairs.

Road Opening Permits

Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed two requests submitted by PSE&G for road opening permits due to gas line replacement work. He noted that Borough ordinance requires approval of the Mayor and Council for such permits to be granted. He added that resolutions were prepared for the Council's consideration later in the meeting. Mr. O'Sullivan added that the ordinance may require some revisions which will be reviewed by Mr. Semeraro.

Roadway Paving Projects

Mr. O'Sullivan provided an update on the milling and paving road improvements on Skyline Drive, Coventry Lane and North Terrace. He stated that residents on those streets would be notified of the work schedule.

Mr. O'Sullivan reviewed the Brookside Terrace (Section 3) and Robin Hill Road and Deer Trail Road paving projects that would be funded through a NJDOT grant. He announced that the bid opening for the two projects was scheduled for September 30, 2020. Councilman Kessler referred back to the road opening permits discussed earlier and asked about policies for opening of newly improved roads. Mr.

O'Sullivan stated that PSE&G was notified of the Borough's repaving schedule to avoid any openings of newly paved roads. He suggested that the Borough ordinance be revised to include a protected street list and provide for more strict restoration guidelines. Councilman Chiaia suggested that future notifications to residents provide the caveat that driveway aprons may be affected by curb-work as part of paving improvements.

Walker's Pond Sediment Removal Project

Mr. O'Sullivan noted that the contract was awarded to T.R. Weniger for the sediment removal project and that submissions were filed for water-lowering and fish-salvage permits. He stated that the bid amount was under the Engineer's estimate for the project and included significant mitigation plantings. Mr. Ferriero confirmed that a pre-construction meeting was scheduled with mobilization planned for the beginning of October.

Credit Card Payment Platform for Recreation Programs

Councilman Kessler stated that some challenges were realized with the processing of recreation program fees through PayGOV via Community Pass. He reviewed a similar platform offered by Community Pass through Capture Point which would improve service and provide a cost savings of \$550.00 per year. He recommended that the Borough provide PayGOV with the required 30-day termination notice and enter into a contract for the Capture Point services through Community Pass. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the resolution would be deferred to the following meeting for consideration by the Council.

Recreation Baseball Fall Clinic

Councilman Kessler offered a fall baseball clinic opportunity for children on Saturdays and after school during the week. He noted that a resolution would follow later in the meeting to add the fall clinic program.

Action to be Taken

The following resolutions were read by and moved by Council President Santomauro as a Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Councilman Chiaia abstained from Resolution R-142-2020 but voted in the affirmative for all other resolution. The motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes for all resolutions listed below with the exception of Resolution R-142-2020.

- Resolution R-143-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Interlocal Service Agreement with the Township of Fairfield for Composting of Leaves
- Resolution R-144-2020 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills
- Resolution R-145-2020 A Resolution Approving a Budget Transfer from Water Fund Salaries to a Dedicated Trust Fund
- Resolution R-146-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Application of PSE&G to Install Gas Service at 39 Brookside Terrace
- Resolution R-147-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Application of PSE&G to Install Gas Service at 242 Smull Avenue
- Resolution R-148-2020 A Resolution Fixing Fees Pertaining to Recreation Programs – Recreation Baseball Clinic

Resolution R-142-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Liquor License #0715-33-003-003 to Dezi's Hospitality LLC dba/Horseneck Tavern was carried with five affirmative votes and one abstention.

Executive Session

Resolution R-149-2020 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) KHOV release, (2) Multi-Way Stop Sign, (3) Pulte/Hydrogeological Study; B. Personnel: (1) NCPD, (2) Borough Hall, (3) Municipal Court; C. Contract Negotiations: (1) Pulte/Hydrogeological Study, (2) Lindsley Heights, (3) 620 Mountain Avenue was read. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes. Council President Santomauro announced that the Governing Body may return to public session after Executive Session discussion.

The meeting was re-opened to Public at 9:03pm.

Mayor and Council Conference Meeting – September 8, 2020

Resolution R-150-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Four Seasons at North Caldwell Performance Bond No. 5037660 and the Waiver of a Maintenance Bond was read. Mr. Semeraro explained that the project was reviewed by the Borough Engineer and that maintenance bonds can no longer be imposed as per a change in Municipal Land Use Law. He added that the review was legally acceptable and he agreed that it was appropriate to release the bond. Motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Astorino. Councilman Chiaia abstained. Said motion was carried with five affirmative votes and one abstention.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by the Council, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:05 pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk