

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the reading of the following Sunshine Law announcement: *“I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Califon Borough Council has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the annual notice in the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat.”*

FLAG SALUTE

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. BAGGSTROM, E. HAVERSANG, L. JANAS,
M. MEDEA (arrived 7:35 pm), C. SMITH
ABSENT: J. RICCIO**

OEM COORDINATOR – GEORGE WASELESKI

George Waseleski was present at tonight’s meeting to introduce himself to the Council as the new OEM Coordinator, filling the vacancy left by the January 1, 2019 resignation of Beth Wolfmayer. Mr. Waseleski is a resident of Califon; a current member of the Califon First Aid Squad and was a fireman in Linden NJ, having retired 5 years ago. His son, Zak Waseleski will be the Deputy OEM Coordinator and will be working beside him on emergency services in town. Their offices will be downstairs in the Municipal Bldg. and Beth Wolfmayer will be working on OEM training with them before she moves out of town. Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Waseleski for coming tonight and thanked him for taking over this position.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief, Jeff Almer, forwarded the monthly police statistics to the Police Commissioner reported that there are no problems. Chief Almer sent the results of a second survey conducted on School St. and it has been determined that there are no speeding issues on School St. Another survey will be conducted in April/May of this year. Chief Almer reported that there are now 3 Pedestrian Crossing signs at three locations, thanks to Tara and Ryan at GoHunterdon, who provided the signs. Councilwoman Smith asked about the recent incidents of car jackings in the area that has been reported in the news. Chief Almer stated that one car was stolen in Califon but that one was recovered. The perpetrators are coming from New York but, although this has been an active and continuing problem for a few months, incidents have slowed down. Chief Almer reminded Mayor and Council that there are still tickets available for the comedy show in Mountain Lakes on February 15th.

2019 BUDGET DISCUSSION – ANDREW COPPOLA AND AMY MONAHAN

Amy Monahan, CFO for Califon and Andrew Coppola, CFO for WT were present to briefly review the appropriations for the 2019 Municipal budget. Mr. Coppola did not have the revenue

sheet ready for tonight's meeting but did an overview of all line items, plugging in 2019 figures where appropriate; 2% salary increases; 2% increases for all Interlocal Services Agreements, etc. Mr. Coppola asked Council to consider brush pickup costs this year as it far exceeded the budgeted amount in 2018; increasing animal control fees and what increase if any needs to be made to celebration of public events. The appropriations and revenue sheets will need to be reviewed and discussed at a budget work session. Mayor and Council discussed and decided on a holding a budget work session at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 19th preceding the next Council meeting at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Daniel thanked Ms. Monahan and Mr. Coppola for their time and effort on the budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by L. Janas to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 22, 2019.

For: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: J. Riccio

MOTION CARRIED

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$149,778.10.

For: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: J. Riccio

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

__ e-mail resignation from Councilman Joseph Riccio effective 2/4/19

__ email from Julie Shelley from NJWSA; will call with start date for taking down ash trees on Winters property and grant opportunities available from Highlands

__ SWAC Agenda for meeting on February 5, 2019 at 7:30 pm

__ Green Acres Program – compliance inspection on Hoffman Estate conducted by Green Acres found to be in compliance with the exception that the Green Acres sign was not posted. Signs have been received and will be posted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH JOSEPH TAURIELLO, ESQ. – SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR UNITED TELEPHONE VS. CALIFON

Mayor and Council discussed the Borough Attorney's opinion that Califon hire Joseph Tauriello, Esq. as Special Counsel to represent our interests in the ongoing litigation having to do with

United Telephones failure to pay their business tax to the Borough of Califon for the past 6 years due to their claim that 51% of the town's residents do not have land lines. Mr. Jost has explained that Mr. Tauriello represented Hopewell in the case of Hopewell vs. Verizon and Hopewell did prevail. It is Mr. Jost's opinion that Califon would be best represented by Mr. Tauriello, who has agreed if Council elects to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Mr. Tauriello.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-35

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – SPECIAL LITIGATION COUNSEL

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon has a need to acquire SPECIAL LITIGATION COUNSEL services as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one year; and

WHEREAS, JOSEPH TAURIELLO, ESQ. has submitted a proposal, indicating that he will provide Special Litigation Counsel services for the anticipated hourly rate of \$175 for these special services; and

WHEREAS, JOSEPH TAURIELLO, ESQ. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that JOSEPH TAURIELLO, ESQ. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Califon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit JOSEPH TAURIELLO, ESQ. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the required certificate for the availability of funds has been filed by the Chief Financial Officer providing that legally appropriated balances are available to cover the amount of the contract as required by N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.5 and that fees for the aforementioned Special Litigation Counsel services shall be made available by appropriate inclusion in either an annual municipal budget which includes current, revenue sharing and utility provisions by budget amendments for Federal program spending.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, authorizes the Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Califon to enter into a contract with JOSEPH TAURIELLO, ESQ. as described herein as Special Litigation Counsel on behalf of the Borough of Califon for the year 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in the Hunterdon Review; Califon Borough's legally designated publication.

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2019-35 as read.
For: R. Bagstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: J. Riccio

MOTION CARRIED

B. MAYORAL APPOINTMENT – STEPHANIE RUGGIERO AS MEMBER OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF DAVE BOLLES; TERM TO EXPIRE ON 12/31/19

Upon the recommendation of Amanda Altavilla, Chair for the Recreation Committee, Mayor Daniel formally appointed Stephanie Ruggiero, resident of Hoffman Drive, to the membership of the Recreation Committee. Ms. Ruggiero will fill the unexpired term of recently resigned member, Dave Bolles, whose term will expire on 12/31/19.

C. RESCHEDULE COUNCIL MEETING THAT IS CANCELLED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH DUE TO PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY

Mayor and Council agreed to cancel the regularly scheduled Council meeting on Monday, February 18th and reschedule the meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm. Mayor Daniel reminded Council that earlier in the meeting they established a 2019 budget work session to be held preceding the Council meeting on the 19th at 7:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR LAND SURVEY SERVICES WITH DMC ASSOCIATES FOR PREPARATION OF AN EXISTING ROADWAY SURVEY OF MAIN ST. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,725.00

Mayor Daniel explained that this survey is necessary for the implementation of the S. Main St. resurfacing project which will be funded by a NJDOT grant awarded to Califon in February 2018 in the amount of \$240,000.

The Clerk will contact Borough Engineer, Tom Boorady, to see if the cost of this survey is to be paid out of the grant funds.

Mayor Daniel stated that he is trying to set up a meeting on the afternoon of February 24th with Mr. Boorady, Councilman Medea and the DPW to do visual inspections of Main St., as well as inspecting portions of some of the stormwater project areas.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-36

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon received notification on February 26, 2018 that Califon was awarded grant funding through the NJDOT's Fiscal Year 2018 Municipal Aid program for the Main St. Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$240,000; and

WHEREAS, it is now required that the Borough of Califon Engineer begin design work on the Main St. Resurfacing Project necessitating a roadway survey be done subsequent to the design work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon hereby approve funding in the amount of \$5,725.00 for payment of services to DMC Associates, Inc. Land Surveyors for the preparation of an existing roadway survey of Main St. (Philhower Ave. to Academy St.) in the Borough of Califon; Project Length 1650+/-Linear Ft.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to adopt Resolution 2019-36 as read.
For: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: J. Riccio

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks Committee will reorganize on Thursday, February 27, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

Councilman Medea is still trying to connect with a colleague about questions concerning the historic preservation commission and the historic district ordinance under consideration.

Councilman Medea will have a report at the next meeting and asked that it be on the agenda.

Councilman Medea will be attending the SIF Reorganization meeting this week.

Councilman Haversang reported that the Recreation Committee will have a meeting on February 13th. The Easter Egg Hunt will be the first activity of the Rec Committee and hopefully plans to bury the time capsule will be scheduled for that day as well with Memorial Day being the alternate day for time capsule burial by the 8th grade class.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board reorganized at their meeting on January 23rd. The Planning Board approved a resolution for the installation of an inground pool on Guinea Hollow and approved two resolutions 2 recommendations of the HPC. The next PB meeting will be held on February 27th.

Councilman Janas reported that the Board of Education will move ahead with the public meeting to be held with the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has scheduled February 13th and February 26th for their next two meeting at the school.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Board of Education met on January 23rd. MaryJane Medea was named "Teacher of the Year". Dr. Roberto, Chief School Admin. Has been named Director of Special Services and will teach 4 training sessions over the course of 2019.

Califon School is now on Twitter.

Rita Lemly, member of the Steering Committee, presented a status report on their work to the BOE at this meeting.

The BOE attended a retreat where they discussed implementing individual student plans. Following a short discussion, Mayor and Council determined that it will ultimately be the responsibility of the school to hire professionals to do a financial assessment of the various options for the future of the school.

Councilman Baggstrom read the Police report for the month of January. Councilman Baggstrom reported that he will try to make the SWAC meeting tomorrow night.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Daniel reported that he and Councilwoman Smith attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities seminar for Elected Officials held last Saturday. NJSLOM is following the cannabis legislation which, if enacted, will require municipalities to vote to be in or out and that decision will hold for 5 years. Other issues discussed during the seminar were regarding the 2% cap; COAH, Energy Tax Receipts and the Minimum Wage legislation.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator