

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 1, 2019**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 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: J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG, L. JANAS, M. MEDEA,  
C. SMITH  
ABSENT: R. BAGGSTROM**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Daniel opened “Comments” to give time to Matthew and Amber Taylor to ask Council about the status of the ongoing driveway issue at 38 Hoffman Drive. Mayor Daniel explained that construction began without a proper driveway permit and when flagged, the property owner submitted the application with plans to the Borough Engineer. There have consequently been 3 re-submittals of plans to the Borough Engineer by the property owner; however, none of the submittals show that the driveway conforms to the requirements of the driveway ordinance and therefore, the Borough Engineer has not approved the permit. Mayor Daniel told the Taylors that the Borough Engineer is scheduled to speak with the property owner tomorrow to communicate his denial of the permit. The Taylors’ thanked the Mayor and Council for the update.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by E. Haversang to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 18, 2019.

For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by C. Smith to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$554,679.85.

For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

## CORRESPONDENCE

- \_\_ NJLM Urgent Alert – Bills# A4497 and S2703 – bills regarding Cannabis legislation
- \_\_ Dept. of Transportation; awarded \$150,000; NJDOT 2019 Municipal Aid Program for River Road Improvements Project
- \_\_ reminder – Financial Disclosure Statements due at the end of April; can begin filing on April 5<sup>th</sup>; Karen Mastro, Dep. Clerk to send out instructions and the notice on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>
- \_\_ e-mail regarding Jennifer Farmer’s proposal for support of a town-wide project to construct a town pool; Ms. Farmer may be at the meeting tonight
- \_\_ Notice of Public hearings for the “Highlands Plan Conformance Procedures”; April 25<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 on May 21<sup>st</sup>
- \_\_ e-mail to Sandra from joint-use department of JCP&L regarding installation of outlet for decorative lighting on pole on Borough property in back of Post Office
- \_\_ 2019 Hunterdon County Ident-A-Shred on the following dates: Saturdays April 6<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>; 9:00 am to Noon
- \_\_ Petition of Appeal – Califon vs. United Telephone
- \_\_ Veteran’s Newsletter “It’s Your Benefit” received from Rich Booth, County Certified Veterans Services Officer for all local Veterans
- \_\_ Anthony Kearns, County Prosecutor; last day will be Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>; join for a walk-out ceremony on the Justice Complex at 3:00 pm.
- \_\_ Aqua N.J. request to BPU for rate increase
- \_\_ Municipal Court report for month of February
- \_\_ Hunterdon County Energy Co-op Program; meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 pm.
- \_\_ Highlands Council; availability of funding in the Highlands Open Space Partnership Funding Program; matching grant program; application deadline, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## OLD BUSINESS

### A. RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2019-03 – HISTORIC DISTRICT REGULATIONS

The Clerk read Ordinance 2019-03 by title: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, TO REPEAL EXISTING SECTION 16.16.080 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE ENTITLED “HISTORIC DISTRICT REGULATIONS” AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW SECTION 16.16.080, ALSO ENTITLED “HISTORIC DISTRICT REGULATIONS”, THAT SUBSTANTIALLY REVISES AND SUPPLEMENTS THE REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN EXISTING SECTION 16.16.080**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

### RESOLUTION 2019-48

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2019-03 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

**OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, TO REPEAL EXISTING SECTION 16.16.080 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE ENTITLED “HISTORIC DISTRICT REGULATIONS” AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW SECTION 16.16.080, ALSO ENTITLED “HISTORIC DISTRICT REGULATIONS”, THAT SUBSTANTIALLY REVISES AND SUPPLEMENTS THE REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN EXISTING SECTION 16.16.080** is hereby introduced upon first reading; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ordinance 2019-03 will be considered for final passage following the public hearing on May 6, 2019; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Ordinance 2019-03 is to be published in the April 10, 2019 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2019-48 as read.  
 For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith  
 Opposed: None  
 Absent: R. Baggstrom  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. DISCUSSION – COUNTY ENERGY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC COSTS**

The Clerk reported that the County of Hunterdon will be the lead agency in a new Energy Cooperative Program that is a shared purchasing program for electric power designed to aggregate the energy bills of voluntarily participating local government entities to reduce the cost of basic generation services. This County program is applicable to local government electric costs; not residential service. Concord Energy Services will implement and manage the program for the County. The Clerk has informed the County that Califon is interested in participating even though no one was available to attend the information session on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mayor and Council concurred that they would like to participate and will await word on the rate established when the County participates in the online reverse auction platform.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION 2019-49**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the Borough of Califon agrees to join the County of Hunterdon, as lead agency, in the Hunterdon County Energy Cooperative Program; a shared purchasing program with other Hunterdon municipalities for electric power applicable to local government electric costs; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council agree to having Concord Energy Services of Voorhees NJ; a licensed energy agent and consultant, to implement and manage the program, as the County of Hunterdon has authorized also; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized by the Mayor and Council to be the authorized representative for Califon Borough for signature and full execution of documents related to this agreement.

Motion was made by E. Haversang, seconded by L. Janas and to adopt Resolution 2019-49 as read.

For: J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**B. DISCUSSION – AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING IN THE HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM – APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>**

Mayor and Council discussed the most recent correspondence received from the Highlands Council, dated March 1, 2019, announcing the availability of funding in the Highlands Open Space Partnership Funding Program, which is a matching grant program offering up to a 50% match for eligible projects in the Highlands Region. Following a short discussion, it was determined by Mayor and Council, that there is no open space available in Califon that would benefit from this funding program.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that there was an extensive tree removal project at the park which removed numerous dead and decaying ash trees as well as some others. Woodglen Tree Service chipped the wood leaving numerous piles of chips which Councilman Medea will ask the DPW to spread out along the river bank. Grooming of the fields by WT DPW begins April 1<sup>st</sup> and baseball and softball practices have already begun. Councilman Medea will also ask the DPW to clean up the debris left by the removal of 6 trees near the bridge that had to come down for the new bridge construction.

Councilman Haversang reported that the Recreation Committee will meet on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>. The Family Camp-out will be held on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by the annual Trout-Fest on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board cancelled their meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting of the school Steering Committee will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The community outreach meeting of the Steering Committee, which was cancelled once due to an emergency, is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. A mailer about this meeting has gone out to the public. At this meeting, there will be a discussion on the objectives of the Steering Committee as well as a period for questions and answers. Following this meeting, the Steering Committee will set up a structure to move forward with fact finding.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the next Board of Education meeting will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Councilman Collins reported that he met with Deputy Clerk, Karen Mastro, to brainstorm ideas on how to resurrect the now defunct Environmental Commission. Councilman Collins will reach out to the one active member, Mary Lou Lloyd, to discuss ideas to move the EC forward. Mayor Daniel hopes to recruit some active membership so that they can work effectively on some projects that he has in mind.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that the vote on the Cannabis legislation was stalled in Trenton and they are back to negotiations, with particular attention being paid to changing the expungement section. Mayor Daniel stated that this legislation will most probably pass eventually to legalize recreational marijuana and, when that happens, municipalities will have to decide on whether to opt in or out.

Mayor Daniel reported on an e-mail he received from Jennifer Farmer proposing that the town get behind the idea of a community pool in an effort to raise revenue for the town to offset the ongoing school problems with enrollment and the high property taxes in town. She is suggesting that the pool be constructed in the area of the current school playground. Ms. Farmer has distributed a mailer outlining her proposal throughout the community and at the Califon school. Mayor Daniel told Ms. Farmer to form a Committee, with she as the Chairperson, to research details of this proposal, which Mayor Daniel stated was a huge undertaking for a small municipality like Califon. Mayor Daniel asked Ms. Farmer to take this to the new CSA, Dr. Roberto, at Califon school to determine if there is school interest and support for this concept.

Mayor Daniel shared that he once worked for a municipality that had constructed a pool and it had to be closed because they lost money on it.

Councilman Medea cautioned that Council should not be involved in any Committee set up to look into this idea. Councilman Medea stated that this is not a viable option due to obvious zoning issues/parking issues, etc.

Jennifer Farmer arrived in the audience at 8:35 pm to address the Mayor and Council regarding her proposal.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jennifer Farmer reiterated the details of her proposal to construct a pool in the playground of the school; in an effort to attract residents to live in the Califon community and hopefully to bring in more children to solve the low enrollment issues that have been plaguing the Califon school over the last two years. Ms. Farmer explained that there are multiple federal grants available to build a pool, which she feels would bring in much needed revenue to help offset the rising property taxes; bring the community together again, boost real estate sales and support school enrollment. Ms. Farmer told Mayor and Council that she is looking for support from the Mayor and town officials, in order to move forward with conducting a feasibility study that will require many hours of work and research. Ms. Farmer is on the agenda for the next BOE meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Daniel and Council members stated that the next step should be for Ms. Farmer to

find out from Dr. Roberto at the school if the BOE would support this idea. Mayor Daniel cautioned Ms. Farmer and Council that this is a huge endeavor for the town and the town does not have adequate staffing to manage a project of this magnitude.

Ms. Farmer stated that, at the very least, she would also like to see level sidewalks in town for safe pedestrian travel.

Chris Keiser, resident of 35 Academy St., addressed Mayor, Council and Ms. Farmer stating that a committee of interested residents in town should do the front-end work on this concept; not Mayor and Council. As an installer of pools, Mr. Keiser stated that larger municipal pools are losing membership and money, in part because there are many more private pools being built at private residences. As a member on the BOE, Mr. Keiser said there are multiple problems with the proposed site of this proposed pool; School St. extension - it is a private road and neighbors will complain about noise and safety concerns; use variances will most likely be needed; stormwater runoff issue, etc.; and it is unlikely that the BOE would approve such a plan.

Mayor Daniel concluded the comments from the public by asking Ms. Farmer to come back to Council and share the results of her presentation to the BOE and Dr. Roberto. If favorable, next steps will need to be discussed.

Mayor Daniel advised Council that he would be on vacation and not in attendance at the next Council meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Council President Medea will preside at the meeting.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator