

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 15, 2019**

Council President, Michael Medea, 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: R. BAGGSTROM, J. COLLINS, L. JANAS, M. MEDEA,
C. SMITH
ABSENT: MAYOR CHARLES DANIEL**

Council President Medea opened the meeting to Mr. William Robertson, attorney for Mark Hartman, President of Wilmark Builders. Mr. Robertson introduced Mr. Hartman to Council. Mr. Hartman will be purchasing the Wade property on the corner of Rt. 513 & 512 in back of the Rite Aid Pharmacy for the purpose of building 6 homes. Mr. Hartman advised Council that the closing is imminent; with some modifications needed to be made to the Developer’s Agreement and Performance Guarantee so that both will be under the “Wilmark” name. Mr. Hartman introduced his wife and son present in the audience and informed Council that he has been in business as a builder for 40 years. Council members had a couple of questions and wished him well in his endeavor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by C. Smith to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 1, 2019.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

Abstain: R. Baggstrom

MOTION CARRIED

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$12,369.99.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

MOTION CARRIED

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Tax Collector's Report was reviewed and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

__ Municipal Court report for month of March

OLD BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL ADOPTION OF THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Council President Medea opened the public hearing for comment on the 2019 Municipal Budget. Anthony Ardito, Borough Auditor, could not be here at the meeting tonight so, in his absence Council reviewed and Council President Medea read aloud a summary of the budget prepared by Mr. Ardito as follows:

- 1) 2019 budget allowed for employee salary increases of 2%
- 2) Contributions were once again provided for the volunteer Fire Department, Rescue Squad and other special services
- 3) The budget includes \$844,000 of grants for the Island Park Bridge Replacement and the Main Street Resurfacing/Drainage project
- 4) Municipal tax rate will increase from 59.65 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 61.26 cents; a 1.61 cent increase. This will increase the municipal portion of taxes by \$56 annually for the average taxpayer with an assessed valuation of \$328,893.
- 5) Major drivers of the tax increase are increases in required debt service payments of \$15,835 and an increase of \$7,000 in the town's contribution to the Capital Improvement Fund.

There being no further comments from the public, Council President Medea closed the public hearing.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-50

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the 2019 Municipal Budget as introduced on March 18, 2019 and duly advertised on April 3, 2019 and whose public hearing was held on April 15, 2019 with Total Appropriations and Revenues equaling \$2,028,149 is hereby approved and adopted upon final reading; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that one (1) certified copy of the adopted 2019 Municipal Budget will be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by C. Smith to adopt Resolution 2019-50 as read.

For: R. Bagstrom, J. Collins, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

MOTION CARRIED

B. RESOLUTION – SELF-EXAMINATION BY GOVERNING BODY OF THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-51

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Borough of Califon has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Borough of Califon meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2019 budget year, so now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that in accordance with N.J.A.C.5:30-7.6a & b, and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found that the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law.)
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C.5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated;
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth;
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.

5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A.40A:4-5, shall not prevent such certification.

6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to adopt Resolution 2019-51 as read.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

MOTION CARRIED

C. RESOLUTION – PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL ADOPTION – ORDINANCE 2019-02 - RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS

The Clerk read Ordinance 2019-02 by title: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE 12 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES BY ADDING SECTION 12.20.010 ENTITLED “RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS”**

Council President Medea opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2019-02. Chris Keiser, resident of Academy St., questioned the use of the word “towers” on the agenda and asked for clarification. Council President Medea explained that Verizon came to Council a year ago asking for permission to mount telecommunication “nodes” on poles in various locations on Academy St. He explained that the word “tower” was inadvertently used in error and has nothing to do with this ordinance. This ordinance is intended to protect the town’s rights for the installation of these nodes that will help bring better service to the area.

There being no further comments at this time, the public hearing was closed.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-52

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2019-02 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE 12 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES**

BY ADDING SECTION 12.20.010 ENTITLED “RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS” is hereby adopted upon final reading; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that “Notice of Final Passage” of Ordinance 2019-02 will be published in the April 24th edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by J. Collins to adopt Resolution 2019-52 as read.
For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith
Opposed: None
Absent: E. Haversang
MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

A. PROCLAMATION – RELAY FOR LIFE – MAY 3RD AND 4TH

In the absence of Mayor Charles Daniel, Council President Medea read the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION 2019-01

PROCLAMATION FOR THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY’S RELAY FOR LIFE OF HUNTERDON COUNTY

WHEREAS, Cancer is a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells which, if not controlled, can result in premature death; and

WHEREAS, Cancer is predicted to strike one out of every three Americans sometime in our lifetime with an estimated 53,500 new cases of cancer diagnosed in New Jersey for 2019; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15,860 citizens are expected to lose their battle with cancer this year; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society is the nation’s largest and most respected voluntary health organization and has funded research which has contributed to every known method for detecting cancer and techniques for treating cancer: reducing the number of cancer death by 2.6 million since 1991; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society is a voluntary community-based coalition of local citizens dedicated to attacking cancer from every angle through financial support and education awareness; and

WHEREAS, the color purple is the signature color of the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life events signifying the passion that cancer survivors and their families and loved ones feel for the eradication of this disease, and

WHEREAS, the **RELAY FOR LIFE OF HUNTERDON COUNTY** event financially benefits the American Cancer Society's research and patient support programs and educationally benefits our local citizens; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Hunterdon County is a community event that allows an opportunity to network with businesses, associates, family and friends, with the same goal of making a difference in the battle against cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CHARLES DANIEL, MAYOR of the Borough of Califon, DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM **May 3, 2019 as WISH UPON A CURE DAY**; and May 3rd & 4th of 2019 as **RELAY FOR LIFE OF HUNTERDON COUNTY Days** throughout our community. We further will encourage citizens to help fight cancer from every angle by participating in the Relay for Life event at the Roger K. Everitt Fairgrounds, 1207 Rt. 179, Lambertville, N.J. on May 3rd, 2019 starting at 6:00 pm.

B. DISCUSSION – BRUSH PICKUP

Council President Medea advised Council that he spoke with Kevin Pyatt, DPW Director and Brian Connor about the possibility of the DPW conducting the annual curbside brush pickup and chipping for this year. This meeting was followed by a second meeting with the Borough Clerk. The DPW has agreed to conduct this event with the stipulation that residents are given strict guidelines as to how much brush will be allowed for chipping. Restrictions will be set in place and strictly adhered to due to uncontrolled excesses of brush in the past that resulted in too many hours of labor and therefore over-expenditures in the budgetary line item for this annual project. Guidelines will be established utilizing some aspects of a sample from another municipality provided by Councilman Collins. These guidelines will be published in the next edition of the Califon Crier; placed on the website and posted throughout town. The DPW will be asked to conduct this event either during the week of May 13th or May 20th. A street sweeping will be conducted following the brush chipping and before the Memorial Day parade.

C. RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION – ORDINANCE 2019-04 SALARY & WAGE

The Clerk read Ordinance 2019-04 by title: **AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-53

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2019-04 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY** is hereby introduced upon first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ordinance 2019-04 is to be considered for final adoption following a public hearing on May 6, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Notice of Ordinance 2019-04 is to be published in the May 15, 2019 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2019-53 as read.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board will meet on April 24th.

Councilman Janas reported that the Califon School Steering Committee will hold a town public meeting on April 17th at the school at 7:00 pm.

Councilman Medea reported that he met with Kevin from the DPW and asked them to clean up the debris left from the tree removal at the bridge into Island Park; place more gravel in the parking lot at the Park; clean up the ballfields; and level the chips from the ash tree removal. Councilman Medea will speak with Kevin about how to get the grass mowed in the Park while the bridge replacement project is underway during July & August. Councilman Medea also commented that Waste Management needs to be contacted because the recycling containers at the Park are not being picked up regularly.

Councilwoman Smith reported that she attended the last Board of Education meeting.

Councilman Baggstrom read the Municipal Court report for the month of March.

Councilman Collins reported that the Board of Health will meet on May 1st. Councilman Collins has spoken with the Mayor and been appointed as the liaison to the Environmental Commission. He will attempt to pull new members onto the Commission to work on the various projects envisioned by Mayor Daniel.

Councilman Collins reported that the River clean-up went very well on Saturday.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chris Keiser, resident of Academy St., asked Council if they have had a chance to look further into his idea, expressed at a previous meeting of having the Borough sponsor a municipal trash collection. Mr. Keiser expressed that it is imperative for the health and safety of the residents to ensure that the town has one service provider. The multitudes of sanitation trucks in town is leading to air quality pollution issues as well as safety issues due the number of trucks all over the town. Councilwoman Smith expressed that she is concerned about the administration issues inherent in having the municipality run such a program as well as the budgetary issues involved. Councilman Baggstrom recommended we put this on the agenda for the next meeting when the Mayor will be here to discuss further.

Mr. Keiser asked about how the Council plans to rid the park of the logs that were left when the ash trees were felled. Councilman Medea said that we could use another day of tree work which

began a brief discussion of what to do with trees that need to come down in the Mill race. Mr. Keiser asked if the County would be responsible for such a project in the Mill race, which will probably involve DEP issues. Mr. Keiser also suggested that the DPW place more gravel in the parking lot of the Park; perhaps stone that was plowed during snow storms this winter.

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 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

