

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 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: R. BAGGSTROM, J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG,
L. JANAS
ABSENT: M. MEDEA, C. SMITH**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by J. Collins to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 15, 2019 with the following correction: Add Councilman E. Haversang as absent at this meeting.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, L. Janas

Opposed: None

Absent: M. Medea, C. Smith

Abstain: E. Haversang

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes from the meeting held on May 6, 2019 were tabled due to lack of sufficient quorum for approval. Tabled to the meeting on June 3, 2019.

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by J. Collins seconded by E. Haversang to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$111,684.08.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas

Opposed: None

Absent: M. Medea, C. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

__ list of roads completed for brush chipping as of Monday, May 20th received from Brian Connor, Tewksbury Twp. DPW

__ JCP&L to conduct Annual Vegetation Management Aerial Patrol beginning May 20th and 21st

__ Califon Municipal Court report for month of April

__ Califon School – interview and appointment of candidate for open seat through December 2019

__ DEP; letter to James and Brigit Gilmartin – Classification Exception Area/Well Restriction Area; 75 Main St.; Gilmartin’s Service Station

__ e-mail from Amanda Altavilla; request for more volunteers for Memorial Day along with confirmed volunteers

OLD BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – IN SUPPORT OF PATH TO PROGRESS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC AND FISCAL POLICY WORKGROUP

Mayor and Council had previously read the lengthy document drafted by the legislature under the leadership of Senate President Steve Sweeny entitled “Path to Progress”. The report is designed to recommend ways to fix fiscal problems in New Jersey and restore fiscal stability. The legislature is asking for a resolution of support for the recommendations as outlined in the document. Mayor Daniel explained that the document has 27 bills attached to it; some of which are huge undertakings such as pensions and benefits; school regionalization, etc. Mayor and Council engaged in a lengthy discussion as to whether or not they could adopt the model resolution in support of the Path to Progress document and its recommendations. At this time, the Mayor and Council agreed that there were some areas that they could support but as for the larger issues of pension and school regionalization; they could not support at this time with the limited information available. The Mayor and Council could not grant a blanket support for all of the measures.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2019-58

WHEREAS, New Jersey faces a daunting fiscal crisis; and

WHEREAS, for two decades, while county and municipal governments made the proper pension payments, New Jersey governors from both parties severely underfunded the pension system for teachers and State government workers; and

WHEREAS, while local government pension systems are funded at the national average, the State’s unfunded liability for pensions and retiree health benefits now tops \$150 billion – four times the size of the State budget; and

WHEREAS, actuaries project the State will have to increase its pension contribution from \$3.2 billion in this year’s budget to \$6.7 billion to reach the Actuarially Required Contribution (ARC) by FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, health care costs continue to rise and New Jersey and its local governments cannot sustain the unparalleled platinum-level benefits that they provide to their employees; and

WHEREAS, the State has held municipal aid flat, moved the energy Tax Receipts out of the Property Tax Relief Fund, and with the sunset of Chapter 78 relief and the 2% arbitration cap; and

WHEREAS, the State must bring pension and health care costs under control in order to hold down property taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Califon expresses its support for the recommendations of the Path to Progress report issued by the New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Assemblyman John Dimaio, Assemblyman Erik Peterson and Senator Mike Doherty, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Steve Oroho, Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald, Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor-Marin, Senator Tony Bucco, Senator Troy Singleton, Senator Dawn Addiego, The Governor of the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Counties and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom, seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2019-58 as read.

For: 0

Opposed: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas

Absent: M. Medea, C. Smith

MOTION NOT CARRIED

B. DISCUSSION – PARK GARBAGE PICK-UP CANCELLATION BY WASTE MANAGEMENT; DECISION ON PORT-O-JOHN STATUS WHILE BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION THIS SUMMER

Mayor and Council discussed the subject of Waste Management cancelling the garbage pick-up at the Park and the one garbage can on Main St. as of June 7th. The Clerk reported that no other sanitation vendor will provide this service as all who were contacted declined. After discussing, Mayor and Council concluded that there will now be a “Carry in-Carry out” policy for the Park. A vendor will be hired to remove the 10 garbage cans and recycling containers after June 7th and before the bridge is under construction. The vendor for the Port-o-johns will be asked to remove the port-o-johns before the bridge construction begins on June 17th. They will be contacted in August to resume service of one port-o-john in September; at the conclusion of the bridge project.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – OPPOSITION TO DEP’S PROPOSED CATEGORY 1 WATER UPGRADE

Mayor Daniel explained that he and the Borough Clerk spoke with William Kibler, Exec. Director of the Raritan Headwaters regarding this Resolution who advised that Califon NOT adopt this Ordinance. The Mayor explained further that a portion of the S. Branch of the Raritan River in Califon has been newly designated as a C-1 water upgrade for trout production; from the bridge down to the Hoffman Crossing bridge. Mayor Daniel stated that we already have a 300 ft. buffer zone due to being 100% in the Highlands Preservation area. Mr. Kibler told Mayor Daniel that it is a good thing for Califon to have this new C-1 water designation and advised that the Council not consider adopting this resolution being considered. The towns that are opposed to the C-1 designation are opposed because in some towns; such as Raritan Twp., the new designation may cause economic problems. Mayor Daniel stated that in Califon this new designation will have little economic impact and will help to keep the water clean for trout production. Council unanimously agreed that they would not consider this resolution and asked that it be taken off the table.

B. ESTABLISH SUMMER COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Mayor and Council established the following Council meeting schedule for the months of July and August:

One meeting per each month: July 1st and August 19th
Cancel meetings for July 15th and August 5th

The papers will be notified of this alteration to the Council meeting schedule.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Haversang reported that the camp-out at the Park scheduled the night before the Trout Fest had to be cancelled due to rain. The Trout Fest went well; 30 kids in the morning and 10 adults in the afternoon. The heavy rains the night before made the water muddy but fishing was for the most part successful. Pizza was available all day.

There was a meeting of the Recreation Committee on May 8th to begin plans for the Street Fair. Memorial Day parade is set for Monday, May 27th. Califon Fun Days will run from July 8th thru the 12th at Califon School.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board had no meeting in April or May; both were cancelled for lack of business.

Councilman Janas reported that the school Steering Committee met for a public info session on May 13th. 6 people attended and there were 3 tables set up with information and people asked many questions. It was explained to those present that the Steering Committee is working on “cost” issues and all scenarios and options that may be available for the school’s future.

Councilman Janas reported that BOE President, Mark Cantagallo, has resigned and the BOE will need to appoint someone to take his place until December 2019. The Steering Committee would

prefer to wait to fill Mr. Cantagallo's seat on the Steering Committee until his seat on the BOE has been filled

Councilman Baggstrom read the Police Report for April; 611 traffic stops. The Municipal Court report for April was read. Councilman Baggstrom asked Councilman Haversang if he know of any events the Fire Co. will be holding for the 4th of July now that they will no longer be having the annual Carnival. Councilman Haversang stated that he knew of nothing planned. Councilman Baggstrom reported that he has observed that the blacktop on Limerock Lane is crumbling and in bad shape. He will ask the DPW to fill as best they can until permanent road improvements can be made.

Councilman Collins reported that he is working with the Mayor to get the Environmental Commission membership filled and working cohesively as a group.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Daniel spoke to Council about taking over the "James Ball Citizenship Award" that was given at every 8th grade graduation over the years by recently deceased resident Cathy McVicker. The 8th grade recipient received a plaque and \$50.00; something that the Mayor would like to continue under the new name of "Mayor and Council Citizenship Award". Council agreed that they would support this idea of an annual award at the 8th grade graduation. Mayor Daniel is going to try to get the 8th grade class to the Park to bury the time capsule, after graduation.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

There being no further business to come before Council, motion was made by E. Haversang seconded by R. Baggstrom and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator