

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 2, 2020**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting of the Borough of Califon Council 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  
M. MEDEA, C. SMITH  
ABSENT: NONE**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mark Hartman, President of Wilmark Builders, asked the Mayor and Council for a status of the deeds for his 6-lot subdivision behind Walgreens Pharmacy. Mayor Daniel asked Clerk, Laura Eidsvaag, to explain the results of her research. Clerk Eidsvaag explained that she and Borough Attorney, Peter Jost, have the same documentation showing that the deeds were delivered to the Borough offices on September 4, 2019 and then hand delivered to the Borough Attorney; who was asked to review and approve them and who, in turn, sent them to the Borough Engineer, Tom Boorady for his review and approval. Ms. Eidsvaag further explained that both professionals approved the deeds and they were sent back to the Borough offices. On September 19, 2019, Mr. Hartman picked up the deeds from the Clerk to bring to his attorney, Mr. Robertson, who was to file the deeds with the County of Hunterdon. On September 19, 2019, Borough Attorney, Peter Jost, sent an e-mail to Attorney Robertson confirming that Mr. Robertson had agreed to record the deeds with the County and Mr. Jost would be recording the 4 easements. Ms. Eidsvaag told Mr. Hartman that he should check with his attorney because it was confirmed that Mr. Robertson he was in receipt of them for recording. Mr. Hartman thanked Ms. Eidsvaag for the clarification and said he would be in contact with Mr. Robertson the next day to make sure the deeds are recorded with the County. Mr. Hartman explained to Mayor and Council that there have been significant delays with the construction of the houses on the 6-lot subdivision resulting from ongoing problems with the water company, Aqua NJ, and with the installation of a new pole to be installed by JCP&L. Both issues look like they are soon to be resolved. Mr. Hartman confirmed that the gas line is in and that the garages for each house will need to be re-oriented for safety reasons. Mr. Hartman is still waiting for the review of the site plans by the Highlands Council.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief, Jeff Almer, reported that February was a quiet but good month with 851 logs reported.

Councilman Medea asked if the Chief was aware of the Hickory Run bridge project on County Rt. 513 scheduled to commence in May with a detour that will basically route cars and trucks down River Rd. Chief Almer reported that he was unaware of this project but will review the information from the Hunterdon County Road Dept. Chief Almer stated that this detour will undoubtedly result in speeding issues on River Rd. so he will make sure to establish speed/radar checks when the project gets underway in May.

Mayor Daniel asked Chris Keiser to address Council about a serious speeding issue on Railroad Ave. caused by a family on Railroad Ave. with three young drivers. Mr. Keiser reported that today his daughter almost got hit by one of these speeding cars as she was coming off the Columbia trail. Jennifer Weber, resident of Railroad Ave. corroborated Mr. Keiser's report and stated that she is worried for her 2 small children. Mayor Daniel, also a resident of Railroad Ave. agreed with both Ms. Weber and Mr. Keiser. Both Ms. Weber and Mr. Keiser reported that speeding by this family and their friends has been going on for a long time. Chief Almer stated that both Mr. Keiser and Ms. Weber should come to headquarters and sign citizen complaints about this family. The Chief will increase enforcement on this road and check out the situation further to ask these residents to stop the speeding for obvious safety reasons.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. BRUCE MORROW – DISCUSSION – CALIFON CRUISE NIGHTS**

Bruce Morrow addressed Mayor and Council reporting that the 2 Califon Car shows are coming up; the first is the Mopar show on Saturday, June 20, 2020 and the second is the Classic Car show on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Mr. Morrow is proposing a new event for this year; a Wednesday Cruise Night every Wednesday from May 6<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Morrow further explained that the Cruise Nights would be held at the Victorian Square Mall Parking lot and he has received permission for this event from the Wade family, owner of the property. There are plans for a DJ at the event and a \$20.00 registration fee. Mr. Morrow anticipates about 60 to 70 cars and the parking lot has room for at least 80 cars. There will be overflow parking at the Paul May building and also at Staiano's Furniture. Mayor Daniel asked the Police Chief if he foresees any issues with this event. Chief Almer said to be sure to obtain the ok from the businesses up at the mall, ensure access for emergency vehicles, as well as monitoring whether or not there are complaints about noise from the planned music. Mayor and Council concurred that this event can take place as proposed.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 19, 2020.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: None

Abstain: J. Collins

**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 \$584,860.76.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_\_ quote from USAF for removal of felled trees left along the river bank on River Rd. - \$400.00 requested by NJWSA. Council agreed to pay half of the cost

\_\_ Flyer – Califon Wednesday Cruise Night – May 6<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>; 5:30 to 8:00 pm - \$10.00  
 Annual Registration Fee to benefit the Califon Veteran’s Memorial

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that he received an amended estimate from Harrington for the work on the basketball court at Island Park. The first estimate included “adjustable hoops” for a total of \$12,500; the second estimate included “fixed” hoops for a cost of \$16,900. The repave of the court will cost approximately \$12-13,000. Councilman Medea asked Council to let him know what they wish to spend on this project. Considering the cost involved for the two projects from Harrington, Mayor Daniel asked Councilman Medea to obtain two more quotes because we have to be cognizant of the bid threshold of \$17,500. Councilman Medea asked if it might be possible to fund the cost thru the Morris County Co-op; once we are approved for membership by the State. Councilman Medea will speak with Kevin at the DPW to see if any of this project could be funded through the co-op to take advantage of the reduced co-op pricing. Councilman Medea asked if the CFO would get him a balance of funds in the Open Space Tax line item.

Councilman Haversang reported that the Recreation Committee hosted an open house at the Municipal Building to recruit new membership. It was a disappointing turnout; only one person showed and she was the person running a 5K in May looking for help with her event. There was a short discussion on the real need for additional membership to help with and possibly chair some of the Recreation events during the year.

The Recreation Committee sponsored Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.  
 The Trout Fest will be held in May.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board met on February 26<sup>th</sup> and heard an appeal for 44 Main St. The PB attorney, Mark Andersen noted that the applicant did not provide any documentation to negate the zoning officer’s ruling that there is a violation. If the applicant decides to proceed with a variance application, that will be heard on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Planner, James Kyle, has asked to see the latest revision to the Master Plan. The Mayor reported that the

PB Attorney, Mark Andersen called our former Planner, Betsy McKenzie, who confirmed that the Master Plan was updated in the last 10 years.

Councilman Janas reported that the school Steering Committee has not met and he has not heard from anyone as to a future meeting date.

Councilwoman Smith had no report for tonight's meeting.

Councilman Baggstrom stated that the Police Chief gave the stats for the monthly report earlier in the meeting. Dina Diamond, property owner for the house at 101 Guinea Hollow Rd., complained about the deteriorated condition of Guinea Hollow Rd. on both sides. The Clerk reported that a truck had run over the bank of her property where she had placed mulch. The DPW raked and leveled the ruts for a quick fix but will be providing a quote for more extensive work on this road. The property owner placed reflective markers in the mulched area to keep cars and trucks off of the area. Councilman Baggstrom expressed concern about the deteriorated condition of many of the roads in town, such as Guinea Hollow and Raritan Dr.

Councilman Collins reported on that the next meeting of the Environmental Commission is March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Stream Clean-up is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> and will be run by EC members Becky Pickens and Marylou Loyd. The EC/Green Team is hoping to work with the High Bridge Green Team to obtain points toward Sustainable New Jersey certification; an effort that is difficult for the two municipalities each on their own. Sustainable NJ is now awarding bonus points and cooperation points, which the EC hopes to be able to achieve with High Bridge. Councilman Collins reported on the ongoing work being undertaken concerning the Weis Mill dam. Funds will be needed going forward for studies that will need to be done before the Borough can accept the donation from the County of 14 acres of parkland extending from the site of the dam remnant to the mill race. For example, the projected cost of an environmental impact study could run \$5000 or more. Some sources of funding for these studies may be Trout Unlimited, who has expressed interest; and possibly funds from the Highlands Council. Maryjude Haddock Weiler may be attending the next EC meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The County has communicated that they want no part of funding studies prior to donating the land; the land will be donated as is. If and when these issues are resolved and if the Borough accepts the donation of lands; work on dismantling the dam would begin. Seeking funding for taking down the dam and for stream restoration would commence by entering into a Stewardship Agreement with the Raritan Headwaters.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that he has plans to speak with Bill Kibler, resident of Califon and Director of Policy at the Raritan Headwaters regarding the breach in the Coles Mill Dam and the resulting erosion on and the waters approaching River Rd.

Mayor Daniel will be on vacation and not present at the meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Janas reported that he will not be at the meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith and seconded by E. Haversang and unanimously accepted to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator