**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 20, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Borough of Califon Council was called to order by Mayor Charles Daniel at 7:35 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 Borough of Califon 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.”***

***Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the State of Emergency imposed by governor Phil Murphy, the Borough of Califon Council will hold their regularly scheduled monthly Council meetings conducted remotely through a web-based platform called Zoom until the Borough is fully opened and operational to the public. Public notification regarding access to the Zoom Council meetings will be posted on the Borough website and Facebook. Adequate notification of this change of format has also been provided to both 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**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 5, 2020.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by M. Medea to approve the list of bills in the amount of $100,928.81.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and filed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_\_** Mayor Daniel spoke about the alarming amount of spam mail that he has been receiving on his e-mail address and urged Council to be on the alert for spam; particularly because the spam circulating has been very authentic looking; be sure to check the e-mail address of the sender.

**\_\_** e-mails from Matt Downs at Columbia Gas re: plans to conduct maintenance work on gas line that crosses Main St./Columbia Trail’ may need permit from town if opening on Main St. or Hunterdon County if opening near trail. Confirmation that they will not be opening road or area near trail; all work to be outside the road right of way.

\_\_ passage of A-2991 will clarify the Legislature’s intent to permanently apply the business personal property tax on local exchange telephone companies that were subject to the tax as of April 1, 1997.

\_\_ letter from DEP to Phillip Euler, 23 First St. regarding Coles Mill Dam; directive for Mr. Euler to retain a licensed professional engineer to conduct an inspection of the Coles Mill dam and provide a detailed report to the DEP; Div. of Dam Safety & Flood Engineering; by November 30th, 2020.

\_\_ Notice of Violation issued to Ed and Stacey Latus; 121 Philhower Ave.; Block 31 lot 8 for violating Califon’s Land Use ordinance; 16.16.020 Regulations for R-2 Zone; Short Term rentals are not a permitted use, as well as the Governor’s temporary ban on short term rentals

\_\_ Prevention Resources, Inc. re: The Impacts of Marijuana on Communities

\_\_ Press Release from Kim Rodgers on behalf of the Anti-Racism Coalition of North Hunterdon; Califon renews Resolution condemning Hate and Hate Groups

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **DECISION – UPGRADE STREET SIGNS**

Councilman Baggstrom led this discussion asking Council members if they had been able to view the photos he sent to everyone that Councilman Haversang had sent to him. They were samples of street signs that Councilman Haversang noticed and photographed while traveling.

Not enough Council members have seen the photos so Councilman Baggstrom will re-send. Upgrading signage; particularly on Main St. at the crosswalk, will be an agenda item for the Council meeting on November 2nd.

1. **STATUS – STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT FROM SODIUM TO LED**

The Clerk reported the good news that, in conversations with Lynne Geiger from JCP&L, she has determined that there will be no cost to the town for the installation of the streetlight replacement to LED on 12 streetlights in the Borough. Initial conversations proposed that the costs might be as high as $1200.

The Clerk explained that she has been working with Jennifer Gross and Lynne Geiger to work out the wording on the letter that JCP&L has requested confirming the details of this project that involves changing 12 streetlights with LED lighting. Ms. Gross is having conversations with Ms. Geiger concerning the wattage of the new lighting and the potential for shields on each streetlight directing the light down for pedestrians. It appears that the wattage will be established at 50W, which Ms. Gross has confirmed will be more that sufficient after visiting a similar streetlight project in Belvidere. The open question now is whether or not to put shields on each light and whether there will be a cost involved. Once all the details are confirmed, the letter will be drafted and sent to Ms. Geiger at JCP&L and the project will commence.

1. **RESOLUTION – TRICK OR TREAT – OCTOBER 31ST**

Mayor and Council discussed Halloween and Trick or Treating during this year’s pandemic.

The Clerk reminded Mayor and Council that at the last meeting it was determined that Halloween and trick or treat would be held at the discretion of the homeowners and parents following the guidelines of the CDC and the State of NJ Dept. of Health. At the last meeting, Council adopted a resolution to establishing a curfew to run from Friday, October 23 through and including Saturday, October 31st from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All information has been posted on the website. After reviewing sample resolutions from Milford Boro and Holland Twp., Mayor and Council agreed to adopt a resolution establishing the date and times for trick or treat in town along with a reminder about the curfew.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2020-67**

**WHEREAS,** the Borough of Califon Council wishes a safe Halloween for all Califon residents in and visitors to the Borough; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that **“TRICK OR TREAT”** in the Borough of Califon shall be held on Saturday, October 31, 2020 between the hours of 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that due to concerns about Covid-19, participation in “trick or treating” will be left to the discretion of homeowners and parents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if homeowners and parents so choose to participate in “trick or treating”, all participants shall adhere to the Executive Orders as dictated by Governor Murphy for proper social distancing; wearing of safety masks; and proper hygiene following the guidelines and best practices as outlined by both the Center for Disease Control and the State of NJ Dept. of Health; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in an effort to discourage loitering, malicious damage and vandalism in the Borough of Califon, there will be a **Temporary Curfew** from **Friday, October 23, 2020 through and including Saturday, October 31, 2020,** during which time, all persons under the age of eighteen (18), unless accompanied by an adult responsible for them, must be off the streets and public ways of Califon Borough, for each night of the curfew from 9:00 pm through 5:00 am.

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by J. Collins to adopt Resolution 2020-67 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – AWARD MUNICIPAL CONTRACT TO RUBINETTI – 2020 LEAF COLLECTION**

**RESOLUTION 2020-68**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Peter Rubinetti Private Disposal is hereby approved to be the vendor for the 2020 Leaf Collection program in Califon Borough; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough of Califon and Peter Rubinetti Private Disposal will enter into a Municipal Purchase Contract for the Borough-wide curbside pick-up and disposal of leaves as follows:

4 collection dates on the following Mondays: November 16th; November 23rd; November 30th; and December 7th at a cost of $1550 per load; leaves to be placed in bio-degradable paper bags and left at curbside for collection.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2020-68 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that Trout Unlimited hosted a tree planting event at Island Park last weekend, in an effort to stabilize the streambank. Over 100 trees were planted with volunteers from 2 chapters of Trout Unlimited and the Califon Environmental Commission. Tubes were placed over the saplings to prevent damage from deer. Councilman Medea reported that the event was very well organized and very successful. He will write a thank you note to Trout Unlimited.

Councilman Haversang reported that there was a Recreation Committee meeting on Wednesday that he had to miss. As previously reported, the Rec sponsored Music Fest has been cancelled dur to lack of interest. Councilman Haversang noted the colorful pumpkins surrounding the Christmas tree that the Rec Committee organized. He noted that the town still has not named the town property donated by Silva Burd a few years ago. The Rec Committee is considering lights on the wreaths that adorn the bridge at Christmas time. Councilwoman Smith and Councilman Haversang asked to consider if there could be lights on the bridge as well as on the wreaths.

The Rec Committee is considering live streaming the Christmas tree lighting ceremony this year.

Councilman Haversang reported the sad news that Amanda Altavilla will be leaving as Chair of the Rec Committee at the end of this year and we will need a new person to step into the position for 2021.

Councilman Haversang reported that Trout Unlimited had a State Council meeting on Sunday and they discussed the donation to Califon for the Weis Dam project. The Clerk reported that The Memorandum of Understanding has been received and Councilman Haversang confirmed that the checks will be forthcoming.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning Board cancelled their meeting on October 28th.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Board of Education will meet tomorrow night. Councilwoman Smith reported that residents have posted on Facebook questions about why the Borough does not have a dog park. Councilman Medea responded that there is a liability issue for the town; clean-up would be a problem and there is not enough space in the park for a dog park. He confirmed and Councilwoman Smith concurred that there are many in the surrounding area.

Councilman Baggstrom asked Councilman Medea if he had a chance to speak to the County about the depression in the road at the corner of Main St. and upper Raritan Dr. Councilman Medea stated that he reached out but has not heard back and will try again. Councilman Baggstrom happily reported that he became a grandfather today with the birth of a 10 lb. granddaughter named Sloan Isabel.

Councilman Collins reported that Mark Anderson, special Counsel for the Weis Dam project,

wrote a letter to Tom Mathews, County Engineer, but has not heard back from him as yet.

Councilman Collins reported that the Board of Health met on October 7th and approved a waiver for the septic system at 32 Main St.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel had no further report for tonight’s meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**NONE**

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas and unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator