**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 5, 2021**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the work meeting to order at 7:00 pm for a final 2021 Municipal Budget work session. Roll Call: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith. Also present at the work session was Auditor Anthony Ardito and Amy Monahan, CFO. Mayor Daniel stated that right now we are at an increase of $83 per an average assessed home of $330,000, representing a 4% increase in the tax rate using $115,000 in surplus. Mayor Daniel suggested that Council consider using $5,000 more in surplus to $120,000 bringing the tax increase down to 3.5%. Mr. Ardito stated that that would bring the increase down to $71 per an average assessed home. After a brief discussion, Mayor and Council agreed that $120,000 would be used in surplus to offset the tax increase; bringing it down to $71 representing a 3.4% increase in the tax rate. The resolution to be adopted in the regular meeting, introducing the 2021 budget, will reflect the change in the surplus amount. Total General Revenues and Appropriations for the 2021 budget equals $1,476,607. The 2021 Budget will be published on April 21st and adopted on May 3rd.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**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 conducted via the online platform Zoom, 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 continuing Covid-19 pandemic and the State of Emergency imposed by Governor Phil Murphy, the Borough 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**

 **ALSO PRESENT: MARK ANDERSON, ESQ.**

 **ABSENT: NONE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 15, 2021.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to approve the list of bills in the mount of $8,414.20.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Daniel altered the progression of the agenda to discuss the **STREETLIGHT PROJECT.**

Mayor Daniel turned the discussion over to Jennifer Gross, Environmental Commission member, who organized the initial pilot program with JCP&L; replacing sodium vapor lights on 12 streetlights with LED bulbs. Ms. Gross stated that she had provided up to date information on the positive features of LED streetlights to Mayor and Council; all confirming that they did receive the information. Ms. Gross stated that JCP&L is only offering sodium or LED bulbs for this program. JCP&L has been great to work with and she feels this pilot program has been successful. Ms. Gross was surprised to see that the town has a lighting section in the Land Development Ordinance prohibiting sodium lighting. Ms. Gross and Councilman Collins pointed out that the papers had been wrong in publishing that the EC recommended replacing the bulb on the pole on the bridge back to sodium. Councilman Collins reported that it was correctly stated in the minutes that it was in fact the Lynch’s who were requesting that the bulb be reverted back to sodium due to unacceptable glare into their home. When asked by Mayor Daniel of the EC involvement in this project, Councilman Collins stated that the EC, while having endorsed the pilot streetlight project, has not had sufficient purview of the project; therefore, there will be a great deal to review and research by the EC going forward, if they decide to continue with the pilot program. The program is complicated and may need additional resources such as the Borough Engineer, Planner, Planning Board to become involved and work with the EC. Until then, Councilman Collins stated that the main issue for tonight’s meeting is having Council take a roll call vote to have the bulb on the streetlight on the bridge changed back from an LED to a 50W sodium vapor bulb so that the Lynch’s issue can be resolved. Councilman Janas confirmed Councilman Collin’s recommendation.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-45**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the streetlight #NJ55CA on the bridge; one of the 12 streetlights that were changed from a sodium vapor bulb and replaced with an LED bulb as part of a JCP&L streetlight pilot program, will be reverted back to the original configuration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that streetlight #NJ55CA on the bridge will be reverted back to its original configuration using a 50W sodium vapor light; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOVED** that this action is necessary for the purpose of resolving the issue of the residents at 94 Main St., who have complained of excessive glare into their home and onto their property from the new LED bulb recently installed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk is hereby authorized to submit to JCP&L, in writing, a directive that the bulb on streetlight NJ55CA be reverted back from the new LED to the original sodium vapor bulb at 50W.

Motion was made by J. Collins seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2021-45 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councilwoman Smith thanked all involved in this project for their efforts and hard work and deemed it a great and worthwhile project.

**POLICE REPORT**

Councilman Baggstrom asked Police Chief Jeff Almer if there were any issues during the recent Scavenger Egg Hunt sponsored by the Recreation Committee. Chief Almer answered that the event went smoothly with no problems. Councilwoman Smith reported to Chief Almer that the Califon School has expressed gratitude to the Chief and the Police Department for supporting and working with the school.

Police Chief Almer reported that March had been a good month; back to full staffing.

Mayor Daniel expressed condolences to the Chief on the passing of Ted Ehrenburg, former Washington Twp. Chief of Police.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_\_** letters to Board of Utilities and Division of Rate Counsel from Commercial Utility Consultants; Lisa Hibbs, VP Operations and Government Relations; HAEC hosted an energy auction for the GEA program in Hopewell Twp. and Borough of Pennington; however, pricing received at time of auction was too high so no award was made. Another auction will be scheduled, date TBA

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTIONS (3) INTRODUCTION OF 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-46**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon is holding a meeting on April 5, 2021 for the purpose of introducing the 2021 Municipal budget and conducting other matters; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, that the Borough of Califon hereby petitions the director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2021 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on April 5, 2021.

**SUMMARY OF REVENUES 2021**

1. Surplus Anticipated General Revenues $ 120,000
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenue 360,051
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes 37,500
4. (a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes 959,056
5. (b) Addition to Local District School Tax

Total Amount to be Raised for Taxation

For Support of Municipal Budget 959,056

**Total General Revenues 1,476,607**

**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS 2021**

 **BUDGET**

1. Operating Expenses

 Salaries & Wages $ 231,042

 Other Expenses 745,120

1. Capital Improvements 256,500
2. Debt Service 112,986
3. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes 130,959

 **Total General Appropriations $ 1,476,607**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2021-46.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2021-47**

**WHEREAS,** the 2021 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 5th day of April, 2021; and,

**WHEREAS,** during the fiscal year 2021 the Borough of Califon has been allocated a state grant for various programs in the amount of $224,000.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2021 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of **“Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:”**

**NJDOT Grant – Cokesbury/Crestmore/Cloverhill/Limerock Rds. $ 220,000.**

**Clean Communities Program 4,000.00**

 **Total: $ 224,000.00**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to adopt Resolution 2021-47 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2021-48**

 **WHEREAS,** under provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, a municipality shall introduce the Local Municipal Budget no later than March 30th of the fiscal year; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Borough of Califon has delayed the introduction of the 2021 Municipal Budget past the statutory deadline; and

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, that the Borough of Califon hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to allow a delayed introduction of the 2021 Califon Borough Municipal Budget; and

 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 803, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0803.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2021-48 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2021-04 CANCELLING CAPITAL BALANCES**

**The Clerk read Ordinance 2021-04 by title: AN ORDINANCE TO CANCEL CAPITAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:**

**RESOLUTION 2021-49**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2021-04 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE TO CANCEL CAPITAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY** is hereby introduced upon first reading; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ordinance 2021-04 will be considered for final adoption following the public hearing on May 3, 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that “Notice of Ordinance 2021-04” is hereby scheduled to be published in the April 14, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2021-49 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION – PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION – ORDINANCE 2021-02 – STORMWATER CONTROL**

The Clerk read Ordinance 2021-02 by title: **AN ORDINANCE REVISING AND RE-ADOPTING CHAPTER 15.16, ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL”, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Mayor Daniel opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-02. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-50**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2021-02 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE REVISING AND RE-ADOPTING CHAPTER 15.16, ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL”, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** is hereby adopted upon final reading following the public hearing; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Final Passage of Ordinance 2021-02 is to be published in the April 14, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by J. Collins seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2021-50 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION – PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION – ORDINANCE 2021-03 – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Clerk read Ordinance 2021-03 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BY ESTABLISHING A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE, AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THOSE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-51**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Ordinance 2021-03 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE REVISING AND RE-ADOPTING CHAPTER 1516, ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL”, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** is hereby adopted upon final passage following the public hearing; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ordinance 2021-03 will be published in the April 14, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2021-51 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Scavenger Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Recreation Committee was so successful that it may become an annual event.

The new Parks and Recreation Committee will need to set up an initial meeting soon. Borough Attorney Mark Anderson reminded Councilman Medea that the membership of the new committee will need to be established at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Medea will establish a meeting to discuss plans for Memorial Day this year. There are other ideas that are being considered in lieu of a parade.

Councilman Medea reported that the Island Park is being used by LTAA for basketball, softball, baseball as well as being utilized by two groups for fitness and exercise.

Councilman Medea discussed the idea of setting up a Google calendar for park events. The Clerk will set that up so that the calendar of events is available to the public.

Councilman Haversang praised the efforts of so many on the Rec Committee who made the Scavenger Egg Hunt so successful. The tables, ordered by Jason Beard, delivered and put together a couple of weekends ago are being used in the new park off of Main St.

Councilman Haversang reported that he will contact Justin Pill, Coldspring Landscaping, to discuss mowing of this park and how to work around the tables.

Councilman Janas reported that the March Planning Board meeting was cancelled. The new meeting time for the Planning Board is the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Board of Education met on March 17th. 8th grade Graduation will be held in person. The Kindergarten round-up was held virtually on March 23rd.

The public hearing on the school budget will be held on April 28th.

Councilman Baggstrom is continuing his investigation of available budgetary monies to cover costs for the dumpster recommended by the DPW for the disposal of debris during flooding events. Paul Cortese, resident of Crestmore St. reported a streetlight pole down on Limerock Lane. Councilman Baggstrom will call JCP&L, but will need to get the pole number to report this particular streetlight. Councilman Baggstrom will take photos of any other streetlight poles that look compromised and send to JCP&L.

Councilman Collins reported that he will be having a conversation with the Environmental Commission at their next meeting about the future of the streetlight project.

The stream-cleanup is scheduled for April 17th. Volunteers are welcome.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel will meet on Friday, April 9th with Tom Boorady, Borough Engineer, Kevin and Brian of the DPW and Councilman Medea to look at the underdrain situation on River Rd. and to lift the manhole covers and investigate the condition of the baffles in the diversion chambers. David Rambo, resident on Main St. has asked that the Mayor and Engineer render an opinion on the 2 dips in the sidewalk in front of his house to determine if they represent handicapped parking spaces and to see if the town will re-paint them yellow. Mayor Daniel is hoping that Toby Barkman can meet this group at the firehouse parking lot to look into and discuss possible remediation of flooding that occurs during heavy rains at the culvert in back of the firehouse. If there is time left, they will look at Limerock/Crestmore and Cloverhill roads, as plans for this DOT grant road improvement project is slated to be awarded and hopefully started this year.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

John and Weslee Lynch thanked the Mayor and Council for their consideration and approval to change the streetlight bulb on the bridge in front of their house back to a sodium vapor bulb.

Paul Cortese, resident of Crestmore St. asked about the bid threshold in the Borough and asked if the grants the town receives for road projects includes the cost of surveys. Mr. Cortese was informed that the bid threshold for Califon is $17,500 and that the cost of surveys is outside of the NJDOT grant awards.

Councilman Haversang asked if there has been any communication with Mr. Euler, resident of First St, and the owner of the Coles Mill Dam. Mayor Daniel explained that the DEP is very involved with this dam having cited Mr. Euler with violations that need to be addressed in a tight timeline. Mayor Daniel reported that Bill Kibler, Director of the Raritan Headwaters, is very interested in removal of this dam and he will be in contact with Mr. Euler to discuss. Councilman Haversang asked what can be done with the logs causing the breech and flooding issues. Mayor Daniel will call the Director of Dam Safety at the State to discuss a course of action.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by J. Collins and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator