**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 3, 2021**

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 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**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**ALSO PRESENT: A. ARDITO, AUDITOR; A. MONAHAN, CFO**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom, seconded by M. Medea to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 19, 2021.

For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, M. Medea, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Abstain: L. Janas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by C. Smith to approve the list of bills in the amount of $594,997.69.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_\_ Dept. of Transportation – applications for NJDOT Fiscal Year 2022 State Aid grants for projects due to be submitted by July 1, 2021

\_\_Califon School Board of Education agenda for meeting on April 28th

**POLICE REPORT**

Police Chief Almer reported that there were 700 activity logs for the month of April. Councilman Janas asked the Chief about his safety concerns for pedestrians crossing County Rt. 513 and the rate of speed of vehicular traffic. Councilman Janas recommended a crosswalk for pedestrian safety which the Chief said would require County approval since it is a County road.

The Chief stated he would reach out to the County if the Council approves and if the County agrees, the Police will paint the crosswalk.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – ADOPTION OF 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Daniel acknowledged that Anthony Ardito, Borough Auditor, has joined the meeting tonight to answer any questions regarding the 2021 Municipal Budget. Total Final Revenues and Appropriations for 2021 equals $1,476,605. Having used $120,000 in surplus, the total budget reflects a 3.4% increase in the tax rate or $71 per an average assessed home of $330,060.

Mayor Daniel opened up the public hearing on the 2021 Budget and there being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-54**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the 2021 Municipal Budget as introduced on April 5, 2021 and duly advertised on April 21, 2021 and whose public hearing was held on May 3, 2021 with total Appropriations and Revenues equaling $1,476,605 is hereby approved and adopted upon final reading; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that one (1) certified copy of the adopted 2021 Municipal Budget will be forwarded and filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by C. Smith to adopt Resolution 2021-54 as read.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION – SELF-EXAMINATION OF THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BY THE GOVERNING BODY**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-55**

**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 2021 budget year, so now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Committee 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 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:

1. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated;
2. Items of appropriation are properly set forth;
3. 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Motion: Councilman E. Haversang

Second: Councilman R. Baggstrom

Committee Polled: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

1. **RESOLUTION – FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2021-04 – CANCELLING CAPITAL ORDINANCE BALANCED FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING**

**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 2021-56**

**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 adopted upon final reading following the public hearing; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Final Passage of Ordinance 2021-04 is to be published in the May 12, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2021-56 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2021-06 – SALARY & WAGE**

The Clerk read Ordinance 2021-06 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 2021-57**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2021-06 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 2021-06 will be scheduled for final adoption following a public hearing on June 7, 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Ordinance 2021-06 will be published in the May 12, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2021-57 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2021-07 – REPEALING ORDINANCE 2021-02AND REVISING AND RE-ADOPTING CHAPTER 15.16 – STORMWATER CONTROL**

The Clerk read Ordinance 2021-07 by title: **AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2021-02 AND REVISING AND RE-ADOPTING CHAPTER 15.16, ENTITLED: “STORMWATER CONTROL”, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-58**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2021-07 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2021-02 AND REVISING AND RE-ADOPTING CHAPTER 15.16, ENTITLED: “STORMWATER CONTROL”, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY** is hereby introduced upon first reading; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ordinance 2021-07 will be considered for final passage following a public hearing on June 7, 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Ordinance 2021-07 will be published in the May 12, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2021-58 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL (MCCPC) TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR PERIOD OF 5 YEARS (OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 – ANNUAL FEE: $1250**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2021-59**

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP THEREIN FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

**WHEREAS,** THE Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (“MCCPC”) was created in 1974 to conduct a voluntary cooperative pricing system with municipalities, boards of education and other public bodies located in the County of Morris and adjoining counties; and

**WHEREAS,** the purpose of the MCCPC is to provide substantial savings on various goods and services to its members through the cooperative public bidding process; and

**WHEREAS, the Borough of Califon** desires to enter into an Agreement wit the MCCPC, which is administered by Randolph Township as Lead Agency, to **renew** its membership in the MCCPC for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Borough of Califon Council of the Borough of Califon hereby authorizes the execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council by the Township of Randolph as Lead Agency dated October 1, 2021, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5). Said Agreement is for **renewal** of membership in the MCCPC for a five (5) year period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026.
2. The Borough of Califon Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of this adopted Resolution, along with an executed Agreement to Randolph Township as Lead Agency of the MCCPC.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage according to law.
4. All appropriate Borough of Califon officials are authorized and directed to perform al required acts to affect the purpose of this Resolution

Motion was made by E. Haversang seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2021-59 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Recreation Committee me 2 weeks ago and decided not to have the Memorial Day Parade this year due to Covid concerns. A larger event may be planned for the fall. In lieu of the parade, they are asking homeowners to decorate their houses and lawns with flags and there will be a memorial wall at the Park behind the Post office. American flags will go up on the polls on Main St.as usual. The first meeting of the joint Parks and Recreation Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 12th.

Councilman Haversang had no report for tonight’s meeting.

Councilman Janas reported that the April Planning Board meeting was cancelled. May 19th will be their next meeting.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Board of Education held their 2021-22 budget hearing on April 28th. The budget reflects a 3.6% increase in the tax rate - $51.34 per $100,000 of assessed value or a tax increase of $165 a year.

The enrollment for this year is 92; next year’s enrollment is estimated at 80 students because of the loss of the 8th grade. Pre-Kindergarten enrollment is estimated at 10 students and the incoming Kindergarten will have 8 students. The school is still receiving calls for potential tuition paying students. Graduation will be held on June 17th in person; outside.

Councilman Baggstrom asked if Councilwoman Smith knew the cost per pupil. Councilwoman Smith responded that she did not ask the current cost but last time it was announced it was $30,000 per pupil.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that he rode around town to determine the condition of crosswalks; a few need repainting such as on Philhower Ave., and Bank St. and across Main Street @ the trail crossing. The sidewalk depressions in front of David Rambo’s home need to be painted yellow; the DPW will be asked if they might paint them. Councilman Baggstrom will not be at the next meeting for the roads discussion but asked if we would be doing chip/seal this summer because upper and lower Raritan Drive could use a coat. Councilwoman Smith enthusiastically supported this chip seal project if it is possible to schedule it.

Councilman Collins reported that the next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for next week.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that he has received an estimate of cost from Toby Barkman for the mitigation work on the culvert in back of the firehouse. The estimate is reasonable in cost and will be reviewed by the Borough Engineer. Mayor Daniel would like to obtain 2 more quotes for comparison. Mayor Daniel will also set up a meeting with Eric Gast, home owner of 1 Railroad Ave., whose property will be impacted by this mitigation work.

Mayor Daniel reported that he has participated in a couple of webinars concerning the new Cannabis legislation. Mayor Daniel will get to Council copies of important information concerning this new legislation and then will ask that this be an agenda item for the Council meetings in June. The Council will need to decide to either opt-in or opt-out by ordinance. The deadline is August. Of the 6 licenses that will be available, the only real option for Califon would be a Retail license. Mayor Daniel asked Borough Attorney Mark Anderson to advise and provide clarity to the Mayor and Council on this law stating that currently the law is very confusing.

Mayor Daniel brought up resuming Council meetings in-person. All were in favor of holding the next Council meeting on May 17th in-person following CDC guidelines of mask wearing and 6’ social distancing. The capacity of the meeting room is 50; 25 public attendees allowed.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jane Primerano, reporter from the Hunterdon Review, asked the Clerk to e-mail her a copy of the Salary & Wage Ordinance 2021-06.

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 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator