**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

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.”***

***Note this meeting was also available to attend via Zoom which was noted on the Califon Website and Calendar.***

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. Baggstrom, (via** Zoom) **E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith**

 **ABSENT: J. Collins**

**ALSO PRESENT: Mark Anderson, Borough Attorney** (via Zoom)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by E. Haversang to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 7, 2022.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: J. Collins

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $5,065.19.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: J. Collins

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_**email from Califon Fire Company advising that they have their legal team reviewing the agreement Aqua has provided them for using their property in the temporary water tank project.

\_email-2-22-22- from Lisa Hibbs of Commercial Utility advising that they would like to submit a new bid to the BPU in the next couple of weeks. If the market is favorable, they would release the bid to suppliers in April for an energy auction in late April or early May for a start date of October 2022. If the market is not favorable, they would postpone the release of the bid until something favorable comes.

\_ email-2-14-22 from Kevin Pyatt, road supervisor, DPW- regarding leaves clogging up drain on School St.

Recommended having the residents clean up the leaves on their property and not place them in the street. He will take a look at drains on School and Lime Rock.

Councilman Baggstrom spoke about the storm drains on School and School and Lime Rock being visibly blocked by debris. He suggested that maybe we consider an additional street sweeping late fall early winter to collect debris in the street before it flows down to storm drain.

\_email 2-21-22, Harrington Contractors- requesting closure of Main Street by 72 Main for the installation of septic system- They have contacted the WTP and will have an officer directing traffic.

 At this time the Council meeting was placed on hold due to unknown hackers that came into the zoom meeting, and caused a disturbance. The Zoom meeting was ended and Councilman Baggstrom and Borough Attorney Anderson attended the remainder of the meeting on speaker phone. No members of the public were present on the Zoom meeting at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Clerk, K. Mastro advised that the DPW was looking at having brush pick up the week of May 23rd. Councilwoman Smith asked if they would have enough time to sweep the streets before Memorial Day on May 30th. K. Mastro advised she would inquire with the DPW if this would be enough time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea advised that the infield mix will be ordered shortly and the Washington TWP DPW will get the fields ready for spring baseball season. Councilman Medea he would be meeting with resident Mark Gibson on Thursday to further discuss the possibility of having a batting cage installed at the park. He advised that he has also spoken with coaches of the LTAA baseball/softball league about the needs of the baseball park. Dugouts or new bleachers may be a better option as there are some concerns about the maintenance of the batting cage.

Councilman Medea advised that the “parkette” behind the post office is still without an official name. He stated that Gary Winters sent him an email regarding the history of this lot and that at one time it was owned by Lila Burd, and there was a confectionary store there.

Discussion commenced about the possible names. Councilman Janas suggested perhaps Burd Commons which was received favorably. Mayor Daniel advised that he feels that we should honor the request from the person who donated this land to the Borough of specifically not naming the park after her or her family.

Councilwoman Smith advised that it would be great if at some time we could install a plaque, with a photo of what was there and tell a little history of this location.

Councilman Haversang advised that the annual Trout Fest planning is underway and it is set for Saturday May 14, 2022.

Councilman Janas advised he attended the Planning Board Reorganization and regular meeting on Wednesday, February 16th. Councilman Janas advised that they discussed the final draft of the Master Plan Reexamination Report and agreed to set the hearing date for March 16, 2022.

Councilman Janas advised that they will now move forward with the Open Space and Recreation

Plan. Councilman Janas advised that the Highlands was inquiring if Califon was planning on expanding the Historic District or if our review and study in this area is deemed complete.

Dennis Bertland Associates completed the study back in 2015. Califon was satisfied with keeping the historic district that was defined and not expanding any further.

Councilwoman Smith advised that enrollment was up to 87 students. Califon school was awarded the Golden Sneaker Award this year. The school is 100% walking district and participates in the Walking School Bus initiative.

The tuition rate increase was approved. K-5th grade is $7000.00, 6-8th grade is $7,500.

The mask mandate will be lifted March 7, 2022.

A parent will be donating nets for the fields.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that he covered the roads portion earlier and that the police reported 35 traffic stops this month and 800 calls.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that Califon Fire Company Chief, Liam Norris contacted him recently requesting a small meeting with some of the fire company members. No set agenda. Mayor Daniel agreed that would be a good idea and asked Councilman Haversang if he could attend as well. Councilman Haversang agreed.

Mayor Daniel advised that our CFO, A. Monahan, will be meeting with the Borough auditor on Monday, February 28th to obtain clarification regarding the use and parameters of funds the Borough received from the American Rescue Plan.

The next budget review will take place March 7, 2022 at 6:45 pm.

Mayor Daniel would like to introduce the budget on Monday, March 21, 2022.

Mayor Daniel advised that we received a DOT grant for $204,000 for the Philhower, Bank and River Road (part 2). The cost of these three roads comes to $878,321.

Mayor Daniel reported he spoke with the Borough engineer about removing Philhower from the project and just finish River Road and do Bank Street. By removing Philhower the costs are brought down to $545,351.

Councilman Janas inquired if the state would then withdraw or reduce our grant if we reduce our project. Mayor Daniel advised that no he did not believe so. Mayor Daniel advised we could go for another grant in 2023 for the Philhower Ave road project.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Daniel asked the Borough Attorney if he had any comments or questions? M. Anderson, Esq advised that he did not.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

Karen Mastro, RMC