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**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 18, 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, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea,**

**C. Smith**

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT: Mark Anderson, Borough Attorney**

Councilman Baggstrom and Councilman Haversang attended the meeting via Zoom.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by J. Collins to approve the meeting minutes of the January 3, 2022 Reorganization and Regular meeting with the following corrections:

\* Place Councilman Leo Janas last name into the swearing in ceremony.

\*Councilman Medea advised that under his committee report about the memorial gift in

honor of Gerry Sabatini, resident Mark Gibson was not looking to the Borough for

monetary contributions, but was rather inquiring if the Borough could receive a donation

Of equipment at the Califon Island Park baseball field.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by M. Medea to approve the minutes with the above corrections noted of the January 3, 2022 meeting.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $ 244,644.46.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_\_** Email – The New Jersey Governor’s “We Value Our Veterans” Community Award Brochure- explains that this is a program available to municipalities to participate in actions that honor veterans, earning points for different actions with the goal of becoming a registered municipality that recognizes veterans.

\_Revised mailbox resolution – Sample resolution that some Hunterdon County municipalities are adopting that caps the replacement cost of mailboxes damaged or destroyed while plowing at $50.00.

\_Arbor Day Foundation- Community Tree Recovery Program- offering up to 1000 free tree seedlings to municipalities. This was given to the Califon Environmental Commission.

\_email from Elizabethtown Gas – advising the municipality can be notified of a list of any resident/customer whose gas service has been discontinued due to nonpayment. Elizabethtown gas will not discontinue any service until after March 15, 2022. By the town receiving this list they may be able to promote the resident with area programs that could assist them. The town can sign up for this information or not. It was the consensus of the council to sign up for this information.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

1. **RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF 2022 Maintenance Service Agreement Between Califon Borough and Stryker Heating and Cooling -$ $890.00 per year.**

**RESOLUTION 2022-30**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon hereby approves the Agreement between the Borough of Califon and Stryker Heating, Cooling and Plumbing for maintenance/inspection services on air conditioning and heating systems in the Califon Municipal Building; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 4 annual inspection services will be provided at a cost of $890.00 per year; at a rate of $222.50 per each inspection; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the term of this Agreement will be from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign and fully execute the Agreement with Stryker Heating and Cooling.

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Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by E. Haversang to adopt resolution 2022-30 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMAN’S ASSOCIATION FOR WALTER ADER**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-31**

**RESOLUTION- APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMAN’S ASSOCIATION FOR WALTER ADER**

**WHEREAS,** the members of the Califon Council and Mayor have received and reviewed the applications to become members of the New Jersey Fireman’s Association by Walter Ader,

**WHEREAS,** it is agreed by all members that we are fortunate to have young members of our volunteer fire company become active in this worthy association,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Council support the application of Walter Ader into the NJ State Fireman’s Association.

Motion was made by E. Haversang seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2022-31 as read.

For: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

**C. BUDGET SESSIONS-** Mayor Daniel suggested that we form a budget subcommittee like last year and meet with the CFO. These budget workshops could be scheduled before the council meetings. Mayor Daniel advised that he believed we should be able to introduce the budget in March and adopt it in April and this would be within the guidelines of the state. The subcommittee can be made up of two council members and the Mayor, the CFO and the Municipal Clerk. It was decided that the first meeting will be on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:45pm, before the council meeting.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

Roof Repair Estimates- We have two estimates for the repair of the roof where water seeped in and caused minor water damage to the mayor’s office One estimate is from Alte Roofing - $1, 275 and the second is from Babich Roofing- $785.00. Clerk K. Mastro advised that she asked

Other contractors for estimates but these were the only two we received.

M. Medea stated that the two estimates we have are very different approaches on what and how this roof area is repaired. You cannot really compare the two. It was decided that we should get at least one additional estimate for comparison. This area has not leaked since the initial leakage.

Clerk K. Mastro inquired as to whether a repair bill such as this would require an adoption of a resolution or just a vote to incur the expense. Borough attorney M. Anderson replied that a resolution would be needed along with a certification of funds by our CFO.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee had their Reorganization meeting last week. There is a similar membership as last year with similar activities planned for this year. The one activity that was born out of the COVID-19 pandemic that they will be keeping is the scavenger hunt. This was a big hit with everyone and they are planning on doing it again this year instead of the easter egg hunt. M. Medea advised that they are trying to get someone to step up and assist with the Memorial Day parade but no one has stepped forward.

They have someone who would like to take over the Street Fair Committee but need someone for the Memorial Day event.

M. Medea advised that member Mathew Taylor will be stepping up to assist in the Parks. M. Medea advised that he has been doing it for years and he would like someone who is utilizing the park on a regular basis and sees what needs to be done. M. Taylor has small children and is at the park on a more regular basis and would be perfect to head up what is needed etc.

M. Medea advised that resident, Mark Gibson set up a Go Fund Me campaign and they have raised over $5000.00 for the batting cage they would like to donate to the park. M. Medea advised that they still have to figure out where it is placed, insurance. Would it be subject to vandalism? He advised that it is not like the old cages but it is set up by the coach and the netting is placed over the frame when you are going to use it. Will need more specific information. M. Medea advised that they advised it doesn’t have to be a batting cage. They would be happy to donate maybe new bleachers or possibly have dugouts installed. Mayor Daniel asked who is the biggest user of the baseball fields? M. Medea advised Lebanon Township Athletic Association. Suggested that we speak with them to see if they would like a batting cage and would they take control of maintaining it (storing the net off season….)

E. Haversang added that the Parks and Recreation also said they would like to do an outreach meeting to the residents, possibly in Zoom format.

Councilman L. Janas advised the Planning and Zoning will be meeting tomorrow night for their reorganization meeting.

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Councilwoman C. Smith advised that the Califon Board of Education met on January 4, 2022 for their reorganization and Chris Keiser was appointed President and Mike Reaves was appointed Vice President both for 3-year terms.

Councilman R. Baggstrom advised that the yearend report shows that the police had a total of 7792 cases in Califon, in 2021. This includes everything from motor vehicle to property checks.

About 55% were motor vehicle stops and these were up 20% from 2020.

The report also included awards and accolades to various officers

J. Collins advised that the Environmental Commission had its reorganization meeting on January 11, 2022. He stated that they will be participating in the April Stream Clean up and are working on possibly coming up with a reusable shopping bag promoting local shops and the reuse/ recycle. J. Collins advised that in NJ plastic bags will be banned in retail stores beginning May.

J. Collins advised that member Becky Pickens has volunteered to be a part of the Open Space committee and meet with members of the Planning Board to express our ideas.

J. Collins also advised that he has done some homework in regards to the cannabis legislation in New Jersey. J. Collins advised that the state has yet to issue one license. The state has solidified the application process but there is still much that needs to be done.

There are four classes of licenses but the state has described 7 business types which are:

Cultivators, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, distributors, delivery and testing laboratories. When a business goes to the state to be licensed there are two types of licenses that can be granted. A provisional license which means they do not have a home yet/ a place or an annual license. The only way you can get an annual license is if you have a letter from a town advising you have met the towns requirements. If anyone is interested in having a cannabis business then they are told to apply for a provisional license.

J. Collins is the lead person in the cannabis subcommittee which councilman L. Janas is a member as well as Mayor Daniel.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel advised that the Califon tax collector, Laura Amada has resigned as she took a position in another municipality. At this time our CFO, Amy Monahan who use to be our tax collector will be taking over as the tax collector and the CFO. Califon has a shared service for both the CFO and the tax collector with Washington Township. Washington Twp will be hiring a full-time assistant for Amy so that she is not overburdened.

Mayor Daniel advised that we had received $50k from the American Rescue Plan and will be receiving another $50k this year. We will have to decide on what we will use these funds for and must advise the Treasury department during the first quarter of this year. Mayor Daniel advised that the Department of Treasury has opened the door for small municipalities. There is a provision where a municipality must have lost 10 million or less in revenue and if so, you can use the American Rescue Plan money for governmental needs- typically infrastructure. Mayor Daniel advised that you cannot use this money for projects which we have already gone out for bid or financed. Mayor Daniel advised that he will be attending a webinar at the end of this month on this program and the budget committee will be working on this as well.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

With no further business to come before the Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith, seconded by R. Baggstrom and unanimously accepted to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mastro