**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 18, 2022**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:33 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 in person 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.”***

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. BAGGSTROM, J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG,**

 **L. JANAS, C. SMITH**

 **ABSENT: M. Medea**

 **ALSO PRESENT: BOROUGH ATTORNEY, AMY MONAHAN, CFO**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to approve the regular and executive session minutes of April. 4, 2022.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: L. Janas

Absent: M. Medea

**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 $14, 797.54.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: M. Medea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**TAX COLLECTORS REPORT**

Review of the Tax Collectors report of March 2022 with no questions or comments.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_**dance for the cure, nonprofit organization asking for the town to participate in their breast cancer awareness month program: Dance for the Cure. Program takes place in the month of October.

\_Borough of Hopatcong notice to residents about their water service line replacement program.

\_email Brian Conner, DPW sending copies of photos taken of the old wooden bridge structure at 31 Main St, which was impeding the DPW’s ability to clean out the stormwater pipe located at this property. Letter advising of this dismantling was this sent to owner of record and the real estate agent.

\_Notice of Ordinance from Tewksbury Township regarding stormwater control.

\_email from Anthony Naccarata resident of 121 Philhower ave. Mr. Naccarata advised that he rerouted the spring that was causing severe run off his property onto the road, sidewalk and neighboring property. Mr. Naccarata would like to hold off on getting a road opening permit and excavation plans as he believes that he may have solved the run off issue. He would like to wait and see to see if this change of course has eliminated the run off.

\_email from resident James Raymond of 37 River Road, inquiring if the town would create a vehicle path from the Nellie Hoffman property to the Columbia trail for the four residents that live in the section of River Road where they do not have vehicular access to the trail in case of flooding.

Discussion concerning where the driveway is located at the Nellie Hoffman property. There is a

Rustic driveway up onto the Nellie Hoffman property to the left but it does not connect to the trail. The driveway to the right is owned by the resident of 39 River Road.

Mayor Daniel advised that he responded to this resident and that he is not sure what we can do.

At this time the mayor asked that the Public Comments be moved up the agenda so resident Kate Matlock could share her comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Matlock advised that she is attending the meeting to express her confusion about receiving a letter from the Borough Attorney, advising that the Borough will not be paying to take the tree trees down in front of her house along Pershing Street. Ms. Matlock advised that she was under the impression that the Borough had already accepted responsibility as the Borough requested an inspection of the trees along with an estimate. Ms. Matlock advised that she reviewed the Borough’s code and could not find anything that would advise the Borough would not be responsible.

Borough attorney, M. Anderson advised that what is described in his letter is based upon state law and not an interpretation of the Borough’s code.

Ms. Matlock stated that she knows that the Borough has taken down trees in similar locations in the past and does not know why her trees would also not be eligible for the town to take down.

Mayor Daniel expressed that perhaps the town gave a false impression that the Borough was going to remove these trees. We have had many areas in the town where residents are asking the Borough to remove or maintain trees.

Councilman Collins shared that different towns have different rules. Some towns have a shade tree commission others may have a tree ordinance. Collins advised that the Borough has been discussing tree claims with three different scenarios each different than the situation Ms. Matlack is describing. One involved a conservation easement, one involved land that is owned by the town and the NJ Water Supply Authority and another was on the Nellie Hoffman House, also owned by the Borough and the NJ Water Supply Authority. Collins advised that these trees on Pershing were not planted or maintained by the town. The right of way is purely access not ownership.

Discussion concerning possibly establishing a tree ordinance took place.

Council discussed and advised that we need to honor what we have learned and make this a matter of policy.

No further questions or comments were made.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Daniel advised that there is a 3% increase in taxes. This generates to a 2-cent increase which comes to $65.00 per average assessed home. Mayor Daniel advised that they strive for consistency.

1. **RESOLUTIONS (3) INTRODUCTION OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

The following Resolutions were introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION-#2022-39**

  **WHEREAS**, under provisions of N.J.S.A.40A:4-18, a municipality shall

introduce the Local Municipal Budget no later than March 31 of the fiscal year; and,

  **WHEREAS**, the Borough of Califon has delayed the introduction of the 2022 Municipal Budget past the statutory deadline; and,

  **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Committee 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 2022 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 086218-0803.

**RESOLUTION-#2022-40**

 **WHEREAS**, the 2022 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 18th

day of April, 2022; and,

 **WHEREAS**, during the fiscal year 2022 the Borough of Califon has been

allocated a state grant for various programs in the amount of $208,742.

 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that petition be made herewith to

the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2022 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 – River Road (PY Unappropriated) $ 112,500.00**

**NJDOT Grant – River Road 37,500.00**

**American Rescue Plan (ARP) 54,742.00**

**Clean Communities Program 4000.00 $208,742.00 Total**

**RESOLUTION-#2022-41**

 **WHEREAS,** the Borough of Califon is holding a meeting on April 18, 2022, for the purpose of introducing the 2022 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 2022 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on April 18, 2022.

**Summary of Revenues 2022**

1. Surplus Anticipated General Revenues $ 120,000

2. Total Miscellaneous Revenue 344,793

3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes 37,500

4. (a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes 998,947

 (b) Addition to Local District School Tax

 Total Amount to be Raised for Taxation

 for Support of Municipal Budget 998,947

**Total General Revenues $ 1,501,240**

**Summary of Appropriations 2022**

 **Budget**

1. Operating Expenses

 Salaries & Wages $ 220,443

 Other Expenses 972,661

2. Capital Improvements 46,500

3. Debt Service 97,700

4. Deferred Charges 30,100

4. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes 133,836

**Total General Appropriations $ 1,501,240**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Collins to adopt Resolutions 2022- 39, Resolution 2022-40 and Resolution 2022-41 for the introduction of the 2022 Municipal Budget. For: R. Baggstrom, J. Collins, E. Haversang, L. Janas, C. Smith

Opposed: None

Absent: M. Medea

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NJ STATE FIREMAN’S ASSOCIATION FOR ROBERT A. HERNDON**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-42**

**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 Robert A. Herndon,

**WHEREAS,** it is agreed by all members that we are fortunate to have 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 Robert A Herndon into the NJ State Fireman’s Association.

Motion was made by E. Haversang seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2022-42 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: M. Medea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **ESTABLISH SUMMER OFFICE HOURS-**

It was unanimously decided to continue with the establishment of summer office hours beginning June 1, 2022 until August 30, 2022. The office will be open from 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m.

The Deputy Clerk currently works Monday through Thursday. The Tax Collector will change her office hours from Friday 9 am to 12 pm to Thursday 9 am to 12 pm.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Haversang advised that they have decided to postpone the Trout Fest until October 7th, the Saturday before the Street Fair, (October 8th). Councilman Haversang advised that he has checked on the fishing line receptacles that he put up and that he is happy to advise that they are being used to collect fishing line that may otherwise be discarded on the ground or the river. There was not any miscellaneous garbage in any of the receptacles which was good!

Councilwoman Smith advised that she was not able to attend the last Board of Education Meeting.

Councilman Janas advised that the Planning Board will be meeting on Wednesday where they will be discussing the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that traffic stops are up as well as calls. There was one new criminal complaint filed. Councilman Baggstrom reported that the tree along Main Street by the bridge was taken down by the County on Saturday. Councilman Baggstrom reported that he saw the workers out on Crestmore, Limerock and Clover Hill putting in storm drain covers.

Councilman advised that he feels the Borough needs to make it clear concerning the tree situation.

Mayor Daniel asked the Borough attorney who would be responsible for improving on this and establishing this precedence going forward? Planning Board or Council?

M. Anderson advised that the existing ordinances would need to be looked at and establish what changes could be made and are consistent with the policy that the council wants to articulate.

Councilwoman Smith advised that the Borough should have our attorney look into and suggest changes to our ordinance. Mayor Daniel asked if this would be referred to the Planning Board? M. Anderson advised that no we would refer to the Planning Board for their review and input but it is more of a fiscal issue.

Councilman Janas asked if the County has the same relationship with right of way as the Borough? M. Anderson advised that yes, but they may have established its’ own policy.

Councilman Janas suggested that once we have made changes to our ordinance or drafted a policy, the Borough should notice residents.

Councilwoman Smith asked council members if any felt that the Borough should offer Ms. Matlock a concession in this tree removal claim. Discussion took place regarding our obligation. Mayor Daniel suggested that members think about this and we can discuss at the next meeting. Mayor Daniel stated that you can change your precedence once you found better information.

Councilman Collins advised that the Stream Clean Up is this Saturday at the Califon Island Park. The Environmental Commission members along with volunteers will also be planting about 25 trees at the park. The EC received about 175 mixed trees and will be giving them out on Saturday to interested residents. The Salem Oak will be arriving April 28th and they are trying to figure out where to plant it. The EC will be going forward with the re-usable bag program.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that Cedar Ridge installed the gabion basket last week. We had a significant rain last Thursday and then by Friday night around 10:00 pm there was a deluge and the water did go over the channel walls. Mayor Daniel advised that there was a clear improvement but we still need to do more. Mayor Daniel advised that he spoke with the Borough engineer, and we have a couple of ideas that may significantly help. One would be to remove the grates to let debris flow through, and put up a fence along the channel.

Mayor Daniel advised that the road project of paving Crestmore, Limerock, Clover Hill and Cokesbury will begin on May 2nd. Cokesbury should take 2-3 days and the other streets will take the same amount of time.

Mayor Daniel announced that the Califon Fire Company is having a beefsteak dinner on May 13th at the firehouse. It is $50.00 per person with a table of 10 for $500.00.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by C. Smith seconded by R. Baggstrom to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Mastro, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator