**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**May 16, 2022**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:38 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, L. JANAS, M. MEDEA**

**C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: E. HAVERSANG**

**ALSO PRESENT: M. ANDERSON, BOROUGH ATTORNEY (**via Zoom),

**POLICE CHIEF, JEFF ALMER, DONALD FRIEBERGS.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Donald Friebergs, President of the Califon Historical Society presented photos of a Califon Historic District sign which the Historical Society was able to obtain through a grant. The sign is made of metal and over 3 feet wide. D. Friebergs advised that he would like to see this sign posted by the Hoffman house and the Cabin by the River on River Rd.

D. Friebergs also advised that the Historical Society would like to put a folklore sign about the bridge in Califon being the inspiration for the novel, *The* *Greatest Gift*, which then became the famous *It’s a Wonderful Life* movie. This sign would be placed on the right side of the bridge under the sign identifying the South Branch of Raritan River.

Discussion took place regarding other signs that could be placed in the Borough identifying locations and its history.

D. Friebergs asked the Council if he can proceed with the placement of these two signs as discussed? Council was polled and all members were in favor.

Mayor Daniel asked for Public Comment be moved up the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Daniel asked Chief Almer if there was anything he would like to share with the Council members? Chief Almer advised that the police department is just finishing up with their three-week campaign in Califon and the results of this campaign were in line with previous statistics.

85

38 mph was the highest speed during this time and speeding is not a widespread issue based upon their findings.

The council members all thanked Chief Almer for the quick response in having police presence, on Main Street, especially during the early morning hours. C. Smith advised that she noticed a big difference, which was probably due to police presence alone.

Mayor Daniel asked if there were any questions from the public. There being no questions, the meeting moved to approval of minutes.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by C. Smith to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 2, 2022.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

Abstain: R. Baggstrom

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $5,159.76.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_**email- May 4th- Kevin Pyatt advising that they did road maintenance on Bank Street. Cleaned up ditches on both side of the road that was not allowing water to drain properly.

\_email-May 4th- County Board of Elections. Notice of training for Municipal Clerks and Deputy Clerks on the new voting machines that will be used on June 7th. Training set for Tuesday, May 17th. Both Municipal Clerk K. Mastro and Deputy Clerk B. Thomas will be attending.

\_May 13, 2022- Open Space and Recreation Plan- Draft Goals and Objections from Borough Planner, J. Kyle,

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Daniel asked the Borough attorney if the Resolution approving the Self – Examination of the Budget should be before the Resolution to adopt the municipal budget and M. Anderson, advised that it should be before the adoption of the budget. These agenda items were moved accordingly.

1. **RESOLUTION- SELF EXAMINATION OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BY GOVERNING BODY**

86

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-45**

**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 2022 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.

87

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: R. Baggstrom

Second: M. Medea

Committee Polled: R. Baggstrom, J. Colins, L. Janas, M. Medea, C. Smith

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION- ADOPTION OF 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Daniel asked if there were any questions from the Council or public concerning the 2022 budget. There being no questions the following Resolution was adopted;

**RESOLUTION** **2022-46**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the 2022 Municipal Budget as introduced on April 18, 2022 and whose public hearing was held on May 16, 2022 with total Appropriations and Revenues equaling $1,501,240 is hereby approved and adopted upon final reading; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that one certified copy of the adopted 2022 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 2022-46 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea advised that plans for the Memorial Day parade are all in order and he is just looking for volunteers to assist for the setting up at the park and help on the day of the event. Pastor David Edwards from the United Methodist Church will be saying the prayer and Bill Kibler will

88

be speaking. Mayor Daniel will also be speaking and reading the names of Califon residents that have served their country in the armed forces and are no longer with us.

M. Medea advised that we will not have any live music this year as the High School could not perform. He is going to ask his daughter if she will sing the national anthem.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that he will see if he can get a bagpiper to perform as he is a member of an Irish Service order that has members who play the bagpipes.

Councilman Janas advised that the next Planning and Zoning meeting will be this Wednesday, May 18th at 7:30. Discussion of the Open Space and Recreation plan will continue with members of the Council, Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation present. Members of the public will be encouraged to attend the June 16th meeting.

Councilwoman Smith advised that the Board of Education meeting for Califon school took place on Wednesday, May 11th. Graduation for both Kindergarten and 8th grade will take place outside on June 21st. The Califon school’s bell is currently damaged and cannot be rung until repairs are made. C. Smith advised that Califon School was removed from the school choice program not eliminated from School Choice funding as the May 2, 2022 minutes state.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that the court report shows little activity. The paving project is going well and should be completed by the end of the week.

Councilman Collins advised that the Environmental Commission is holding off on offering bags to residents as the town just received over 100 reusable bags from the Hunterdon County, Clean Communities to be given out to residents. The Environmental Commission will be hosting a presentation about rain gardens on June 14th, at the municipal building. The EC was advised that Trout Unlimited performed a Phase One environmental study on the county property around the Califon Island Park and Weiss Mill dam remnants. The council should expect correspondence from the EC regarding this property in the near future.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that resident, Niki Brandner of 59 Railroad Ave showed him an Ash tree that borders her property but is on the lot owned by the NJWSA and Califon Borough. This tree is dying and located right next to a telephone pole containing power lines. Mayor Daniel asked that the clerk contact Julie Shelley at NJWSA and arrange for an inspection and obtain estimates for removal.

Mayor Daniel advised that the borough engineer, Tom Boorady met with the homeowner of 121 Philhower concerning the spring coming from his back yard and flowing onto the street, sidewalk and neighboring property. Recently the homeowner covered a pipe in the back which made the water flow into a manmade channel, like it had done previously. Mayor Daniel advised that the engineer advised that there is an improvement but that the homeowner will have to speak with a contractor about putting in a new drainage system in the foreseeable future.

89

Councilman Janas asked the mayor if the engineer inspected the land the borough owns on First street next the river? Mayor Daniel advised that no he did not.

Councilman Medea stated that we should wait before we decide to do any remediation of this area as the Open Space and Recreation Plan is still in the planning stages and the Coles Mill dam will affect this area as well.

Mayor Daniel advised that he had nothing further to report and asked if there were any comments from the public. With no comments and no further business to attend, a motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC