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**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**September 6, 2022**

Council President, Michael Medea called the regular meeting to order at 7:36 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: J. COLLINS, E. HAVERSANG, L, JANAS**

**M. MEDEA, C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: R. BAGGSTROM, MAYOR C. DANIEL**

**ALSO PRESENT: M. ANDERSON, BOROUGH ATTORNEY**

**LARRY CARSON, AQUA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Janas advised that he believed he advised in his Committee Report that the Planning Board was cancelling their August 17th meeting.

Motion was made by J. Collins seconded by L. Janas to approve the meeting minutes of August 15, 2022 with the above change noted.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Councilman Janas asked if the roof repair/replacement has been completed at the Nellie Hoffman House? Clerk confirmed that the repairs have all been made and the amount on the list of bills is the deductible.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $32,132.06.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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\_email from A. Burger of Aqua advising that the water tank repair/maintenance is complete and the tank is filling now. Should be back in service pending water quality testing.

\_ email – 8-19-22 from Councilman Collins – Aqua Water Complaint- Councilman Collins reported that Philhower Rd was completely shut down on Thursday, August 18 by contractors working for Aqua on a water main break repair. Councilman Collins advised he will bring this up during Committee Reports at the September 6th meeting.

\_email from Kirsten Nuber, of Borough attorney, Mark Anderson’s office is in receipt of the Comcast Cable TV Franchise Renewal packet. This will be on the September 19th Agenda.

\_email-9-6-22 – Highlands Council- notice of webinar on 9-7-22 on the economic sustainability plan.

\_email from Hunterdon County Planning Board- 9-1-22- Virtual Breakfast Talk on Stormwater Utilities on September 27th.

\_letter from NJ Association for Flood Management-8-30-22 invitation to their annual conference.

\_letter from Municipal Clerk, K. Mastro to Aqua- 8-22-22, requesting changes in procedures and notification of the road openings for water main repairs.

\_ email from L. Hibbs of Commercial Utility advising that the next energy auction will take place on October 25th.

\_Notice of Ordinance – from Tewksbury Township- Passage of Ordinance that regulate the carrying of firearms in township buildings and meetings.

At this time, Council President, Michael Medea asked Larry Carson, President of Aqua to address the Council on the Philhower water main repair and road closure.

Mr. Carson advised that Aqua had been made aware of a leak at around 121 Philhower Ave by a member of the Tewksbury DPW around August 9th or 10th.

Due to staffing shortage and a failure in the lines of communication, Aqua did not perform to the appropriate level of service and L. Carson offered his apology. He advised that shortly after the repair date of August 18th, his area supervisor spoke with Califon Clerk, K. Mastro and established a procedure for any and all repairs to be made in Califon. Clerk, K. Mastro must be notified once it is determined a street will be shut down or partially shut down due to repair, so the police and first responders can be notified accordingly. Also, where appropriate, a road opening permit will need to be submitted for repairs requiring any road closures, partial closures and excavating.

Mr. Carson talked about an upcoming galvanized pipe replacement program that will take place in Califon sometime this spring. Mr. Carson explained that the NJ legislature passed a law in 2021 requiring public water companies to replace galvanized pipes leading into customers homes/businesses within 10 years. Mr. Carson advised that Califon has probably 10 to 20 of these pipes to be replaced and if you have one leading into your home, you should have received a letter from Aqua advising that they will be replacing it sometime this year.

Discussion took place about how this should be communicated to our residents.

Clerk Mastro asked Mr. Carson if they could provide a press release to our office so we could post on our website and Facebook page? Mr. Carson advised he would give Clerk Mastro the contact information of someone who could assist in this area.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion on the increase in cost per truck load and per ton took place. Last year the cost per truck load was $1,500 and this year it is $1,900. In 2021 it was $85.00 per ton and this year it is $108.00 per ton. Discussion about not offering this next year and the current consensus was to try and continue to offer this service to our residents.

1. **RESOLUTION- APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH INTERSTATE WASTE SERVICES (IWS)**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2022-61**

**APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH INTERSTATE WASTE SERVICES FOR HOUSEHOLD BULK PICK UP**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon has approved the contract with Interstate Waste Services, for the removal of residential household bulk items on Monday, September 19, 2022; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost for this service will be $1,900 per load and $108.00 per ton disposal.

Motion was made by J. Collins seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2022-61 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION- REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON AND HUNTERDON COUNTY**

The County of Hunterdon will be removing several trees on the land that borders Califon Island Park. Because of the location, they will need to access the park in order to take down these dead ash trees. Councilman Medea suggested that we should put some parameters on where the tree removal trucks can drive within the park. Council members asked that this Resolution be placed on the September 19th agenda after the Borough attorney has had an opportunity to review the same.

1. **RESOLUTION- APPROVAL TO ENTER ITO THE SOMERSET COUNTY COOPERTIVE PRICING SYSTEM, #2 – SOCCP**

**RESOLUTION 2022-62**

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**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY COOPERTIVE PRICING SYSTEM #2SOCCP**

**WHEREAS,** The Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System, was created over twenty-five years ago and approved by the NJ Department of Community Affairs on November 12, 1980 and is renewed every five years, and;

**WHERAS,** Somerset County, as the lead agency, advertises for bids for its own estimated needs and for the membership of the system, and;

**WHERAS,** contracting units review the list of awarded contracts and then contact the vendor directly; and

**WHERAS,** there are no fees for membership in the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System and the membership shall be for the period ending December 31, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey the Califon Council authorizes the execution of the agreement

With the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System #2SOCCP.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2022-62 as read.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: R. Baggstrom

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CLERK’S REPORT**

Municipal Clerk Mastro advised that the County will be applying new street paint to the School Crossing Ahead on Main Street.

An inventory of the crosswalks in town was conducted.

* Bank Street and Main, Mill St & Main, River Rd & Main, Second St & Main and Philhower and Main

Will all need to be redone in 2023.

The school St Ext and the entrance to the school have crosswalks that need reapplication. It does not appear the Borough had these done as these are not public streets.

The Clerk advised that she is in the process of obtaining estimates for the removal of the 25 remaining dead ash trees at the park. Estimates will be coming from the Somerset County Coop and we have received one from Woodglen Tree Services.

Clerk Mastro advised that Deputy Clerk, Barbara Thomas is in the process of setting up an email notification system option that residents can sign up to receive emails from the municipal offices regarding happenings in town and important dates. We will place information about this new

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program on our website, Facebook and will include it on the postcards that will be mailed out for the brush pick up.

Clerk Mastro advised that she received a call last week, advising that the lacrosse goal was stolen from the park. The next day a call came in that the net that protects the pitcher was stolen from the new batting cage. Also, a sign with arrow on in it for sharp curve on River Rd was pulled out.

Councilman Medea asked Clerk Mastro to report these new issues to Police Chief Almer.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Street Fair preparations are still underway and although there will not be a 5 K race this year, they believe there will be a good turnout.

There will be a dedication of a new batting cage at the park on September 18th.

Councilman Janas advised that there was no August Planning Board meeting. The next meeting will take place on September 21st where the Open Space and Recreation Plan will be reviewed again and a draft of this plan should be available.

Councilwoman Smith reported that she attended the August 24th Califon Board of Education meeting. The enrollment is up 3 and they have 10 new students. The BOE gave a curriculum presentation of the new guidelines and how they are incorporating these into the curriculum. The Califon School will have a dance class this year, soccer team and an after-school art club.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the North Hunterdon – Voorhees will be having a referendum on the November 8th ballot for a 6 million dollars in a variety of upgrades for both schools. The North Hunterdon Voorhees board advised that there will be no tax increase as a result of this referendum.

Councilman Collins reported that he was glad that Larry Carson attended tonight’s meeting and addressed the situation that occurred on August 18th at Philhower. Councilman Collins advised that although we now have established procedure in place, we will need to follow up with Aqua to make sure that these procedures are being followed.

Councilman Collins inquired as to the status of the Phase One Environmental Study that was ordered by Trout One. Clerk K. Mastro advised that this will be on the September 6th agenda for discussion.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was made by C. Smith, seconded by M. Medea to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro