**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 23, 2023**

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.”***

**FLAG SALUTE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Daniel led a moment of silence in remembrance of two Califon residents that recently passed away. Gary Houghland of River Road and

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero C. Smith**

**ABSENT: None**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to approve the minutes from the Reorganization and regular meeting held on January 5, 2023.

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: M. Medea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Ruggiero to approve the list of bills in the amount of $237332.09.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CHIEF ALMER- WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE**

Chief Almer reported that we had a good year last year with 7,386 reported calls which averages

600 per month. Compared to 2013 and 2014 where the average was 20- 50 per month.

They are currently working on getting their staffing up and will be hiring additional police officers as new retirements are coming in the next few months.

Discussion on the utilization of the EDS company that is now being utilized for any overtime work that is needed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

­\_1-16-23 email from Chief Morris asking municipal office to report damaged fire hydrant to Aqua Water. Located at 100 Main St.

\_Notice from the State regarding grants available for recreational projects.

\_1-19-23 email from Aqua Water advising the catch basin on Railroad Ave was repaired on Monday, January 16th.

\_introductory letter from Zachary Rich who is the Director of the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners.

**\_**1-21-23 - email from Alpha Utilities, Gen Contractor for Aqua Water advising test pits were completed on First Street.

Councilman Baggstrom asked that since we are reporting on Aqua Water Lead Line replacement, he would like to report about the meeting that was held with Aqua last Friday.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that on January 6, 2023 a meeting was held at the municipal building with representatives from Aqua Water, Alpha Contracting (the general contractor) Tom Boorady, PE , Borough Engineer, Mayor Daniel., Sgt Hade from the WTPD and clerk Mastro to discuss the roll out of the lead service line replacement project in town.

Councilman Baggstrom stated that it was a very productive meeting and that the test pits will take place beginning January 23rd. Residents will be noticed through our website, Facebook and sandwich board. Aqua has identified about 30-35 galvanized pipes that will be replaced but there are over 200 unknown which will require test pits.

This project will be done in two phases. Phase one will determine which homes need a new service line and Phase Two will be the replacement of these lines. Aqua plans on completing this by the end of spring. There will be another meeting before Phase Two begins.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPOINT MUNICIPAL CLERK, KAREN MASTRO AND DEPUTY CLERK, BARBARA THOMAS AS THE REGISTERED REDACTORS UNDER DANIELS LAW.**

Municipal Clerk K. Mastro reported the history behind Daniels Law which was signed into law on November 20, 2020.

As of 2023, municipalities must appoint a redactor for the redaction of a “covered “public servants residential address from the municipal website. This law falls within the OPRA law which brings it to the responsibility of the Municipal Clerk. There should also be a second person that is appointed and authorized to perform redactions.

Covered public servants are the following:

Active and Retired Judges

Prosecutors

Active or Retired members of law enforcement including their family members that reside in the same household.

The covered public servant can request redaction through a portal that has been set up by the DCA through the Office of Information Privacy which was set up in response to this law.

Clerk Mastro advised that both she and Barbara Thomas have attended the video information class and demonstration on this subject and have registered with the OIP as redactors for Califon.

Once the municipality has received a request, they have 30 days to respond.

Mayor Daniel made a motion for the appointment of Karen Mastro and Barbara Thomas as redactors for the Borough of Califon for any requests made through the Office of Information Privacy.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks and Recreation had their reorganization meeting two weeks ago. Leilani Meshulam has volunteered to Chair the Parks and Recreation.

The committee agreed that if they do not get enough volunteers for planned events then the events will not be able to take place.

Councilman Medea advised that Deputy Clerk, Barbara Thomas has agreed to organize and coordinate the Memorial Day Parade again this year. Councilman Medea stated that she did a great job last year.

They are planning on doing the Street Fair again this year which will be the Sunday before Columbus day.

Councilman Haversang advised that he attended the Environmental Commission reorganization meeting. The annual stream clean up will take place on April 15, 2023. The dumpster for the clean up debris will be donated by Pinto disposal. Also on April 15, 2023 the newly opened South Branch Outfitters (previously Shannon’s) will be having their grand opening. The new owners are planning on making this a grand opening with lots to see and do! Being involved in both would be a great way to spend earth day!

Councilman Haversang reported that he would like to utilize the Nellie Hoffman House property to provide usable space for visitors to the Nellie Hoffman House and Cabin by the river, hikers and fisherman. He advised that there needs to be a port a potty at this location as well as some picnic tables. Since this property is co-owned with the NJ Water Supply Authority we would have to obtain their approval before we commit to anything.

A discussion took place on what can be done to increase parking along the river for fisherman. Councilman Haversang advised that there is a small piece of land 1/3 of a mile up from Hoffmans Crossing that is Green Acres property. The Green Acres sign has been taken down and the area is not clear that it can be used for parking.

Councilman Janas advised that the Planning Board reorganization took place on January 18th with new member Ron Preblick was sworn into office for a four year class IV member.

Councilman Rich Baggstrom was sworn into office as a four year class one member and Leo Janas was appointed as a one year Class III member- governing body.

Councilman Janas advised that there was a community member present at the meeting inquiring about short term rentals in Califon.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Califon Board of Education met on the 18th of January. The enrollment is currently 87. The board approved the following tuition $5,700 for preschool,

$7000 for K through 5, $7,500 for grades 6 through 8th.

Councilwoman Smith advised that it has been reported that Califon School Students who took the PSAT’s scores were highest in Voorhees and North Hunterdon.

Councilwoman Smith advised on a separate note that the front steps to the Municipal building are very dark at night and maybe we can get some solar lights out there for safety.

Councilman Baggstrom advised that on that note, one of the steps needs to be cemented again as it is loose.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that he has met with Clerk K. Mastro and they are reviewing the current inventory of computers and are looking at replacing some desktops and a printer. Councilman Ruggiero advised that they are also looking to purchase new Microsoft software as the staff is currently using Microsoft 2016. We have to look into cloud based vs. server storage with MSI.

Councilman Ruggiero brought up the possibility publishing a digital version of the Califon Crier and have that available on our website and more importantly, getting residents to sign up for receiving it through their email. We have a subscriber /sign up on our home page of our website and we need to get the word out for residents to sign up so they can receive the Crier and any news worthy items that occur in between the bi monthly newsletter. Councilman Ruggiero advised that he does not mind doing it and does not need any assistance with it. He has a template for the newsletter and it is simple to transfer the information on the website right into the template.

The mayor and council members discussed this and all agreed to go forward with producing the Crier electronically and making it available to all who sign up.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel advised that we covered everything that he was going talk about and does not have anything to add.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm which was unanimously agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro