**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**December 7, 2023**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 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**

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

**C. Smith**

**Also, Present, Borough Attorney, Mark Anderson**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 16,, 2023, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by C. Smith seconded by J. Ruggiero to approve the meeting minutes of September 7, 2023.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by J. Ruggiero Seconded by E. Haversang to approve the list of bills in the amount of $635,649.83.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_** email from DPW K. Pyatt that they will be filling in potholes in town and will include the one at 11 Main St.

\_ letter from the State of NJ, Emergency Management Section advising that our updated EOP Plan has been received and accepted.

\_email from K. Pyatt, DPW, advising that they checked and cleaned grates behind the firehouse and the basins in town before the expected rain.

\_ email regarding Elizabethtown Gas will be bidding on December 21 for a rate increase.

\_ email from a resident of Raritan Dr. following up with the request to repair a portion of the road.

\_email 11.20.23 from the NJ Historic Preservation Office advising that our application for roof replacement of the municipal building has been approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING and FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2023-07-**

Mayor Daniel read the title of Ordinance 2023-07 and opened the meeting up for public comment. With no comments made from the public, the public comment was closed.

A motion was made by L. Janas seconded by R. Baggstrom to adopt Ordinance 2023-07.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance 2023-07 was adopted and will be published in the December 13, 2023, edition of the Hunterdon Review.

**ORDINANCE NO 2023-07**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY AMENDING CHAPTER 16.20.010, "ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANNING BOARD", TO PROVIDE FOR UP TO FOUR ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING BOARD

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that the Borough Code adopted August 24, 2000, and heretofore amended be further amended as follows:

SECTION ONE:

Paragraph E. of subsection 16.20.010, which subsection is entitled "ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANNING BOARD," is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

E. Alternate Members. The mayor may appoint up to four alternate members of the planning board. The alternates shall meet the qualifications for Class IV members. Alternate members shall be designated by the mayor at the time of their appointment as "Alternate No. 1", "Alternate No. 2", "Alternate No. 3", and "Alternate No. 4." The terms of the alternate members shall be for two years each and shall be such that the term of not more than two alternate members shall expire in any given year. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be filled by the mayor for the unexpired term only.

SECTION TWO:

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication of Notice of Final Passage in the manner provided by law.

ATTEST:

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Karen Mastro, RMC, CMR Charles Daniel

Borough Clerk/Administrator Mayor

FIRST READING: November 16, 2023

Prepared by Mark S. Anderson, Borough Attorney

PUBLICATION: November 22, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL ADOPTION: December 7, 2023

PUBLICATION BY TITLE: December 13, 2023

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION 2023-78- APPROVAL OF LIST OF ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF THE CALIFON FIRE COMPANY AND THE CALIFON FIRST AID SQUAD TO RECEIVE LOSAP BENEFITS FOR THE 2022/2023 PERIOD.**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-78**

**APPROVAL OF LOSAP LISTS FOR 2022-2023**

**WHEREAS,** the LOSAP program requires that a certified list of eligible volunteers from an emergency service organization be submitted for review by the sponsoring agency and

**WHEREAS,** said required list of members eligible to receive LOSAP benefits for the 2022-2023 was received from the Califon Fire Company and the Califon First Aid Squad, and

**WHEREAS,** the sponsoring agency has 30 days to review the submitted list and request any records deemed necessary to ensure the list is accurate and

**WHERAS,** the sponsoring agency has accepted the list as submitted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Califon Council that the list submitted by the Califon Fire Company and the Califon First Aid is hereby approved and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the eligible member list, together with a copy of this Resolution, be returned to the Califon Fire Company or the Califon First Aid for the 30-day required posting.

A motion was made by J. Ruggiero seconded by C. Smith to adopt Resolution 2023-78 as read.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION 2023-79 -CORRECTING THE 2023 ASSESSMENT TAX RECORD FOR BLOCK 2 LOT 3.07.**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-79**

**CORRECTION OF THE 2023 PROPERTY TAX RECORD OF BLOCK 2 LOT 3.07.**

**WHEREAS,** the 2023 property tax list was erroneously printed out with the incorrect amount of assessment for block 2, Lot 3.07,

**WHEREAS** in 2022, there was an appeal filed by Wade Family Partnership for the reduction in property assessment, and this resulted in a judgment changing their assessment to $187,500.00 as the total assessment for Block 2, Lot 3.07 and

**WHEREAS** the 2023 tax list did not reflect this judgment,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon authorize the tax collector to cancel the tax difference.

The following is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough of Califon at a regular meeting held on December 07, 2023.

A motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2023-79 as read.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(Adoption upon Roll Call)

“Consent Agenda items are routine and will be enacted with a single motion. A certification of funds supports any items that require expenditures; any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in the full minutes.”

1. **Resolution**-**2023-80** Municipal Alliance Grant- For Grant Year 2025 Alliance Tier 1
2. **Resolution** – Resolutions (3) for Statewide Insurance Fund:
   1. **Resolution 2023-81-**Appointment of Risk Management Consultant - Groendyke Associates
   2. **Resolution 2023-82-** Approval of Risk Management Consultant Agreement between Califon and Groendyke Associates
   3. **Resolution 2023-83-** Appointment of Fund Commissioner
3. **Resolution –Resolution 2023-84- 2024** Animal Control Agreement approval- Laura Roerig- No Price Increases.

Consent Agenda Vote for Resolutions 2023-80- 2023-84

Motion was made by C. Smith and seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolutions 2023-80- 2023-84.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Tree Lighting was rained out last Sunday, so they are looking to have it this Sunday, same time, same place. They are calling for rain on Sunday so it may be moved to Saturday.

The Menorah lighting will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 6:30 pm.

Councilman Haversang reported that he received a call from Chief Morris of the Califon Fire Company concerning the many violations that they received from the recent inspection by our fire marshal. Chief Morris reported that they have been advised that they will need a complete upgrade on their ventilation system, which is something they did not budget for and will be very expensive.

Councilman Haversang advised that on Monday, December 11th Mayor Daniel, Mark Anderson, (Borough attorney) Bill Kibler from RHA and he will be meeting with Bill Millette who is the head of Hunterdon County Open Space. They will be discussing the Weis Mill dam and land parcel the County has spoken of transferring to the Borough.

Councilman Janas reported that the last meeting of the Planning/Zoning Board was canceled. The next meeting will be held on December 13th.

Councilwoman Smith advised she had nothing to report.

Councilman Baggstrom advised he had nothing to report.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that he and Councilman Haversang installed some trail cams at the park, and he stopped by to check the footage. Councilman Ruggiero stated that some activity was captured by the camera but nothing destructive. The quality was good, and he recommends that we purchase a couple of cameras. These cameras were lent to us by Councilman Haversang.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that he attended the public meeting held at the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church that the Raritan Headwaters Association hosted. This meeting was about the privately owned Coles Mill Dam, which is now in the planning stages of being taken down. The process will not be completed for another two years.

Mayor Daniel advised that there were representatives from the DEP, the EPA, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and the NJ Fish and Wildlife. Mayor Daniel reported that the presentations were excellent and felt that the residents could get any questions they may have had answered.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Daniel opened the meeting up to comments from the public.

With no comments made, this was closed.

Mayor Daniel advised that we go into the executive session and that there would be no action taken after the executive session, so the public meeting would be closed right after this session.

Mayor Daniel referred to the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION 2023-85**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN   
ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that an Executive Session, not open to the public, shall be held immediately following the adoption of this Resolution for the purposes of discussion of contract negotiations.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the regular meeting will continue, and further public discussion and action may occur.

It is anticipated that minutes of the Executive Session may be disclosed to the public as to personnel issues after action is taken or it is determined that action will not be taken.

as to contract negotiations, when the contract negotiations are concluded or terminated, and the public interest no longer requires confidentiality.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:02 pm seconded by Councilman Ruggiero.

ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC