**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 6, 2023**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 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, L. JANAS, M. MEDEA, J. RUGGIERO, C. SMITH**

**ABSENT: E. HAVERSANG**

**ALSO PRESENT: BOROUGH ATTORNEY, MARK ANDERSON**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman L. Janas advised that under his committee reports, it refers to Councilman Medea where it should be Councilman Janas.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to approve the minutes of February 6, 2023 with the above changes.

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

Absent: E.Haversang

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by M. Medea to approve the list of bills in the amount of $13,396.06

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

Opposed: None

Absent: E. Haversang

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_**March 1st- email from the County advising of Columbia and Landsdown Trail Resurfacing Schedule.

\_Feb 16th- email K. Psyatt. DPW, he advised that he checked on the bushes along the road at 7 Scheffer Court and advised that they should be trimmed back 18” to 24” as they are in the road way causing people to cut into the circle.

\_Feb 1st- email from P. Jones of Groendyke Insurance regarding property damage claim of 12-2-22. Re status- The liable party appears to have a limited policy of 5k and two property damage claims to pay. Patty is looking into making an underinsured claim on our policy however we have $1000.00 deductible

\_Feb 13th- letter from TC Energy advising that they will be doing repairs and maintenance to their testing unit that adjacent to the Fire Company and the Columbia Trail. They will advise the date as soon as it is known.

\_Feb 15th – email from Alison DeMarco of Califon Public School regarding Community Day that will take place on June 1st.

\_DCA Marriage Application Reimbursement Information Sheet- showed council what Deputy Clerk completed for the January marriage license reimbursement request for fees that were not collected due to law that waives fees through June of 2023. Municipalities can seek reimbursement of the $3.00 of fees lost from this bill. We submitted a request for $15.00 to be reimbursed for marriage licenses issued from July to November.

\_Feb 15th- notice from Tewksbury Township of Ordinance adopted for Flood Damage Prevention.

\_Feb 24th- email from Highlands Council advising of grants available to municipalities for the new MS4 permit / Tier A transitions.

\_March 2- letter Municipal Clerk, K. Mastro sent to the US Dept of Homeland Security/FEMA- Grant Program Director supporting the grant submitted by the Hunterdon County Fire Chief’s Association Regional Radio Grant.

At this time, Mayor Daniel moved the Public Comment agenda item up and asked if there was anyone who would like to make a public comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

William Heerwagen of Washington, New Jersey and employed by Califon Borough as the Fire Marshal, addressed the Mayor and Council. Mr. Heerwagen asked if the Borough is going to enter a inter local services agreement with Washington Township for the fire marshal position as he was advised? Mr. Heerwagen expressed his thoughts on the work he has done in this position over the past five years.

Mayor Daniel thanked Mr. Heerwagen and advised we would take it under consideration.

No further public comments were made.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **South Branch Outfitters- Lindsey Beates**

Lindsey Beates introduced herself and advised that she and her husband, Abraham were the new owners of what was Shannon’s Fly and Tackle Shop. Lindsey stated that they are excited to be a part of Califon’s business district and look forward to collaborating with their fellow small business owners as well as members of the Borough’s Parks and Recreation.

Lindsey advised that they are currently planning a Fishing Derby on April 15th that will occur at the Califon Island Park and will be partnering with Raritan Headwaters Association in the Annual Stream Clean Up. They are planning on having a grand opening at the shop and a fishing derby at the park, after the stream clean up. They are in the process of obtaining vendors, exhibitions, demonstrations and food trucks.

Lindsey advised she has already met with Councilman Haversang and Clerk Karen Mastro and will be getting the necessary applications completed for this event.

Lindsey stated that this Fishing Derby will also be their Grand Opening of the Shop which will be celebrating 50 years this year.

1. **Port o John- Nellie Hoffman Property**

Clerk K. Mastro advised that Councilman Haversang asked if we could get a port o john placed on the Nellie Hoffman Property for the upcoming Stream Clean Up volunteers and for people fishing along River Road. Clerk Mastro advised that she emailed Julie Shelley of the NJ Water Supply Authority and she was in complete support.

N.J. Events, our current supplier of port o johns, scouted the area and they will be able to place the structure at the top of the driveway.

We will give this a trial run for three months and then reassess. Open Space funds will cover the cost of rental. Discussion over the concerns of vandalism and misuse took place. Agreed we will have to see how it goes and re-address after the first three months.

1. **Agenda Item Removed – This will be placed on a future agenda.**
2. **Review of Changes to Fire Code 2.24 by Chief Liam Morris**

Members of council reviewed Chief Morris’s request for additions to our Fire Department/ Fire Chief Code 2.24.020. Council asked clerk to find out if this request is to make us in compliance with the NJ statute? Councilman Janas asked if this is consistent when there is a response to both fire and police?

Clerk Mastro advised she would forward these questions to Chief Morris and will advise.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution** **2023-31**- Resolution providing for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, Et seq.

**RESOLUTION 2023- 31**

**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 personnel issues;

discussion of shared services contract negotiations;

attorney-client discussion with the Borough Attorney.

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;

as to discussions with the Borough Attorney, since the attorney-client privilege has no specific expiration date, the minutes may be disclosed by the Borough Council when it determines that the public interest no longer requires confidentiality.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by C. Smith to move the meeting into executive session.

All In Favor

*Note Item F. on the agenda was removed.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks and Recreation will be meeting next Wednesday. The Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt is back on the Calendar as some volunteers came through to organize it as well as assistance from the Califon 8th Grade class.

Councilman Medea advised that he completed a plan for the Veteran’s Memorial down at the Califon Memorial Park. Councilman Medea showed council members

the landscape drawing of plantings for the memorial and advised that he would like to be able to use some of the Borough’s Open Space funds for the purchase of and installation of these plants. Mike estimates that the cost for this would run about $4,000.00.

Councilman Janas advised that the Planning and Zoning Board met on February 15th for a planning session. They are looking into the Air B and B regulations and addressing what we currently have in our code and what we would possibly want to have. They are also revisiting the Historic Preservation Plan and are in the process of collecting all the documents on what has been done in the first phase of their plan.

Forms and fees are also being reviewed for possible updating.

Councilwoman Smith advised that the Califon Board of Education met on February 15t where it was advised there are currently 87 students enrolled. The Califon School held a dance on February 10th where students from Lebanon Twp and Tewksbury are invited to attend. They had 125 kids attend this Valentines Day dance which was very successful!

Councilman Baggstrom reported that he could not attend Friday, March 3rd’s meeting with Aqua but has been advised that the rollout is going well.

Councilman Ruggiero reported that he met with clerk Mastro last week.

The three new desktops are here, two have been set up and the third was DOA. We are waiting for parts from Dell.

Discussed adding more information to the website.

Discussed the benefits of potentially moving to a Google Workspace/ Gmail as Washington Township, our email support, has advised that Washington Twp will be moving over to Gmail/ Google Workspace this year. Califon can continue using its current email but next year we will have to decide to either go with Gmail or find another vendor.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that his school exclusively uses Google Workspace and Gmail and has no issues with its performance. He stated that it would streamline our files and migration with our current documents as well as conversions from Microsoft to Google docs should not be an issue.

Discussion among council over their dislike of our current email took place.

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**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that he and clerk Mastro met with the Borough engineer, Tom Boorady to discuss the requirements for the Tier B to Tier A stormwater conversion.

The requirements for Tier A are vast and it will end up costing the Borough additional money to fulfill these new requirements. Mayor Daniel advised that there is grant money available to assist the Borough.

Mayor Daniel advised that Aqua has almost completed their test pits and only found around 27 galvanized pipes that will need to be replaced. These are located throughout the Borough and not in just one area. Aqua will begin with the replacements right away.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jane Primerano of the Hunterdon Review asked if the inter local agreement the Borough is looking at has only to do with the Fire Marshal position?

Mayor Daniel advised yes.

With no further business to attend, Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 seconded by Councilman Baggstrom.

All In Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro