**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**August 17, 2023**

Council President, Micheal Medea called the regular meeting to order at 7:012 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,**

**ABSENT: C. Daniel, C. Smith**

**MINUTES**

It was noted by Councilman Ruggiero that resident Schwarz is spelled Schwarz not Schwartz as it is documented in the minutes. Councilman Baggstrom made a motion seconded by Councilman Ruggiero to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 20, 2023, with the above correction noted.

The executive session minutes were not available.

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

Abstain: M. Medea

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by Councilman Haversang seconded by Counselman Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $812,706.59.

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

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Clerk Mastro advised before she reviews the correspondence, she wanted to let the council members know that she is looking at notification systems for the Borough. She advised that she confirmed with Washington Township OEM, Matt Lopez, that Califon residents cannot sign up for RAVE alerts for road closures, emergency notifications, etc., as RAVE uses a geo-based system and since Califon is outside of Washington Twp it will not respond.

**\_** copy of Resolution 2023-619 – Resolution opposing the removal of $200 million for Municipal Health Benefit Cost Relief, passed by the Hunterdon County Commissioners.

\_8.14.23 letter from JCP&L regarding notification of discontinuation of power for any residential accounts per the NJAC 5:70.

\_ 8.24.23- email to Hunterdon Go Safety Program Manager Ryan Fisher regarding Safe Routes to School Grant- Clerk Mastro inquired if this grant would be applicable to constructing a sidewalk to a park.

\_ 8.3.23 email regarding the County performing line striping in the month of August.

\_8.3.23 email from Mary Jude Haddock-Weiler, Highlands inquiring if Califon has any upcoming projects that would require grant funding from the Highlands.

\_8.1.23 email from K. Nuber, legal assistant of Borough attorney, asking if the council has any issues regarding state, municipal policies or legislation affecting the Borough. M. Anderson will be attending the NJLM conference, and he will bring this to the attention.

\_8.17.23 flyer regarding opposition of a cannabis growing facility plans in Lebanon Twp.

\_8.8.23 safety meeting briefing from Statewide Insurance.

\_ 7.21.23 Fun Fact from NJLM, Franklinite has been designated as NJ’s State Mineral

At this time, Council President, M. Medea moved to Public Comments on the agenda due to residents present at the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

J. Gil of 38 School Street, Califon advised that she was present to ask and determine who was responsible to assess and come up with a remediation plan for the stormwater that is running off the neighbor’s property into her yard and home.

Ms. Gil advised that she is consistently being flooded out from stormwater runoff that is coming from the property behind her house. Ms. Gil advised that the property behind her is the Califon School playground and fields.

Council President Medea advised that this is usually up to the owners of the property involved to resolve these issues. Ms. Gil advised that she has contacted the Califon Board of Education on multiple occasions, and they are not responding.

Matt Bonacore who also owns 38 School Street advised the council that he called the Borough engineer, DCA and Mayor Daniel about this issue as he feels that ultimately the town should assist in this situation. M. Bonacore stated that Mayor Daniel suggested that he could attend a council meeting to discuss this situation.

Ms. Gil showed photos and a video to council members on her phone.

Council members advised that this information will have to be shared with the Borough engineer.

Ms. Gil gave clerk Mastro her contact information.

B. Fishman of 165 School Street, advised his garbage bill has doubled since he moved here last year and was wondering if the town was thinking about getting a contract with a hauler for all the residents in town? B. Fishman advised it would be great if the town could negotiate a better price and then only have one truck picking up through town instead of five different companies.

B. Fishman also inquired about speeding on Philhower which he has noticed has increased. Councilman Baggstrom advised that we let our police chief know of his concern.

B. Fishman also inquired about whether we have a noise ordinance. A short discussion occurred concerning the type of noise. B. Fishman advised it is mainly landscaping crews that start at 7:30 or 8 am. Mr. Fishman was advised that we would have to check the code, however we believed that weekday mornings it is 7 am and weekend it is 8 am.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(Adoption upon Roll Call)

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

The Following Resolutions were approved with one roll call vote:

**RESOLUTION- 2023-63- APPROVAL OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS PERMIT APPLICATION FROM THE CALIFON FIRE COMPANY- FOR OCTOBER 8TH STREET FAIR**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-63**

**APPROVAL OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS PERMIT FOR CALIFON FIRE COMPANY**

**FOR OCTOBER 8, 2023, STREET FAIR.**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following application for Social Affairs Permit has been approved to be issued in the Borough of Califon for the one day, Califon Street Fair event on October 8, 2023; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipal Clerk or her duly authorized agent is hereby authorized, directed and ordered to sign, issue, and deliver such permit to the following licensee:

NAME Club License No ADDRESS

Califon Fire Company 1004-31-002-002 41 Main St

Califon, NJ 07830

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-64**

**AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE 3RD QUARTER TAX REMITTANCE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE AUGUST 1, 2023, TAX BILL TO THE DATE OF AUGUST 17, 2023**

**WHEREAS,** the printing and mailing of the 2023 property tax bills was setback due to the delay in the certification of the annual tax rate by the Department of Community Affairs and the Hunterdon County Tax Board:

**WHEREAS,** the 2023 tax bills will be printed and mailed to the property owners of the Borough of Califon prior to 08/01/23; and

**WHEREAS,** NJSA 54:4-66.3(d) provides that the current years taxes shall not be subject to interest until the twenty-fifth day after the tax bill for the third installment is mailed and the NJSA 54:4-64 further provides that the property taxpayers shall be given adequate notice of the date when taxes are due before interest is charged on delinquent tax payments.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE RESOLVED,** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that in accordance with the State Law, the grace period for the August 2023 property tax bill is extended to August 17, 2023, after which time said payments will be delinquent and subject to interest penalties calculated from August 1, 2022, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that interest will be charged on all tax payments received after August 17, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote – Resolutions 2023-63- 2023-64**

Councilman Janas made a motion to approve Resolutions 2023-63 through 2023-64, seconded by Councilman Baggstrom.

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

Absent: C. Smith,

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Ruggiero gave council members an update on the Street Fair event. There will be a live 5k event taking place right before the opening of the Street Fair.

Councilman Ruggiero referred the discussion of open concerts to Councilman Haversang.

Councilman Haversang advised that he is looking into whether the Highlands Council would be interested in partnering with the Borough in providing a gazebo that could be used for public outreach for the Highlands and provide a structure where small concerts could be given for the public.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that the Crier has been published. Councilman Ruggiero advised that the Califon School recently contacted him asking if they could submit news about the school in our Crier. Councilman Ruggiero advised that they just needed to email him the article and he would include it in the next publication.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that the solar speed sign on Academy was hit and is currently laying down on the ground next to the road. DPW has been contacted and asked to look to see if it is broken and if it can be erected.

July’s police calls are up at 697 and there were 23 car stops. Councilman Baggstrom reminded that residents can contact the police to do a check on their property while they are on vacation. Councilman Baggstrom advised he would write something up with this information for the Crier.

Councilman Janas reported that the Planning and Zoning Board met last night. They reviewed a new garage structure that will be replacing an old barn/garage for the historic review. It was unanimous to approve this application and the application was granted.

Councilman Haversang reported that there is a large tree branch down at the park by the pond that needs to be cut up and moved. There is also another large branch down by the Cabin by the Woods and Nellie Hoffman house that needs to be removed.

Councilman Haversang advised that if you are on the Bank Street bridge and look up stream, you can see a large mound of debris that has accumulated from the storms which is contributing to the flooding down Main St. Councilman Haversang advised that the water is coming down the brook and when it meets the water coming out from the drainage system on Main Street it is backing up, going over the bridge and heading down Main Street. Environmental Commission member J. Kinney has video footage from the last large rain fall that resulted in flooding on Main Street and many other areas of Califon. Discussion on who and how to get this debris removed took place.

Councilman Haversang also reported that Mayor Daniel, Chief Morris and Paul Pennella, Chief of the Califon First Aid Squad and he met recently, and they are working together to enhance recruitment for both the First Aid Squad and the Fire Company.

Councilman Medea reported that he is working with fire company member, Kyle Pickens on the beer garden for the street fair.

With no further business on the agenda, Councilman Baggstrom made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm seconded by Councilman Ruggiero. All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC

Municipal Clerk/Administrator