**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**September 21, 2023**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 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, L. Janas, M. Medea J. Ruggiero,**

**ABSENT: E. Haversang, C. Smith**

**Also, Present Via Zoom: Borough Attorney, Mark Anderson**

**Chief J. Almer**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were tabled until October 5, 2023.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by L. Janas to approve the list of bills in the amount of $32,174.89.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Clerk Mastro advised that she has been in contact with a representative from GO Hunterdon and they will be do a site visit of the sidewalks in downtown Califon for safety review.

Clerk Mastro and tax assessor, Penny Holenstein met with Suburban Consulting engineers about the tax map digitalization project. The project is going smoothly and the estimate that the final product will be ready at the end of the 1st quarter of 2024. P. Holenstein advised that she will arrange with Hunterdon County for us to have access to these digital maps as we do not have the ARC View GIS Software that is required. A list of easements and deeds that are needed by the engineers was given to Clerk Mastro and P. Holenstein to provide Suburban.

\_email from Everbridge – 9/18/23- the cost of the software for emergency notification would be $5,400 the first year and $5000 every other year following.

\_email to CPS advising them there would be crosswalk coverage at Main and School Street for the Halloween lunch break.

\_ Note from resident M. Feldman concerning condition of Guinea Hollow Road.

\_email from NJDEP , 9/21/23 opportunity for Ms4 Stormwater Program Coordinator Training on Oct 8th or Oct 18th. This is required for the SPC but is also available for people who would like to review this information.

\_email from Hunterdon County Clerk, M. Melfi advising there will be an open house to celebrate their new offices on October 17th.

\_letter from Califon Historical Society approving the roof replacement on the Califon Municipal Building dated 9/20/23.

\_email from M. Romano, a student who has reserved the park for filming a documentary for a school project. He will also be filming at Victorian Square Mall and has permission from the landlords.

\_\_email from Califon Public School advising of storm water inlet being clogged on School Street.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION- OPPOSING H.R. 3372, WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH A 10-YEAR “PILOT PROGRAM FOR STATES TO TEST 91,000 POUND TRUCKS**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION 2023-65**

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| **STATE OF NEW JERSEY** |
| **COUNTY OF HUNTERDON** |
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| **BOROUGH OF CALIFON** |

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| **Resolution  2023-65** |
| Opposing H.R. 3372, Which Would Establish a 10-Year “Pilot Program for States to Test 91,000 Pound Trucks |
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| **WHEREAS,**H.R. 3372, was introduced in the House of Representatives on May 16, 2023, and would create a program for states to ‘test’ 91,000-pound trucks on their roads; and   **WHEREAS,**this increase to 91,000 pounds, represents a nearly 14% increase over the current large rigs which are approximately 80,000 pounds in weight; and   **WHEREAS,**a 2023, joint study prepared by the *National Association of Counties* and *National Association of County Engineers,* found that 72,000 local bridges across the country can’t safely handle 91,000-pound trucks and that it would cost $61 billion to replace them; and   **WHEREAS,**according to the USDOT, even with a 6th axle distributing the load, 91,000-pound trucks would only pay for [about 55%](https://highways.dot.gov/public-roads/marchapril-2001/dots-comprehensive-truck-size-and-weight-study-summary) of their damage to roads and bridges; and   **WHEREAS,**since Congress last raised truck weights, the number of trucks registered in the U.S. and the miles they drive have [increased by 91%](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/policy/rpt_congress/truck_sw_laws/truck_sw_laws.pdf); and    **WHEREAS,**Hunterdon County is home to numerous small and historic bridges that currently cannot handle existing heavy trucks that are on roadways; and   **WHEREAS,**existing truck traffic presents numerous challenges to Hunterdon County’s 26   municipalities including its numerous, small, historic downtowns; and **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**that the Califon Borough Council hereby opposed H.R. 3372, and calls upon its federally elected representatives to oppose this legislation; and    **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to U.S. Representative Tom Kean, U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker; the Board of Hunterdon County Commissioners.  Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2023-65.  For: R. Baggstrom, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero  Opposed: None  Absent: E. Haversang, C. Smith  **MOTION CARRIED**   1. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE - 2023-05- FIRST READING**   Mayor Daniel recused himself.  Council President M. Medea read by title Ordinance 2023-05.  **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05**  **UNIFORM FIRE CODE ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON**  **WHEREAS,** the Uniform Fire Safety Act (P.L. 1983, c.383) was enacted for the purpose of establishing a system for the enforcement of minimum fire safety standards throughout the State of New Jersey; and  **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has promulgated minimum fire safety standards which have been made part of the Uniform Fire Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-1 *et seq*.); and  **WHEREAS**, the Uniform Fire Safety Act authorizes municipalities to provide for local enforcement of these standards and to establish local enforcement agencies for that purpose; and  **WHEREAS,** it is in the best interest of the Borough of Califon to have the Uniform Fire Code enforced locally;  **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, in the County of Hunterdon and the State of New Jersey, as follows:  **Section 1. LOCAL ENFORCEMENT**  Pursuant to Section 11 of the Uniform Fire Safety Act (P.L. 1983, c.383), the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-1 *et seq*.) shall be locally enforced in the Borough of Califon.  **Section. 2. AGENCY DESIGNATION**  The local enforcing agency shall be the Washington Township (Morris County) Office of Fire Prevention. The Washington Township (Morris County) Office of Fire Prevention shall hereinafter be known as the "Local Enforcing Agency".  **Section 3. DUTIES**  A. The Local Enforcing Agency shall enforce the Uniform Fire Code in all buildings, structures, and premises within the established boundaries of the Borough of Califon other than one and two unit owner-occupied dwellings used exclusively for dwelling purposes and buildings, structures, and premises owned or operated by the Federal Government, Interstate Agencies, or the State.  B. The Local Enforcing Agency shall faithfully comply with all the pertinent requirements of the Uniform Fire Safety Act and the Uniform Fire Code.  **SECTION TWO**:  Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication of Notice of Final Passage in the manner provided by law.  Council president asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-05 on first consideration.  Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by J. Ruggiero.  For: R. Baggstrom, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero  Opposed: None  Absent: E. Haversang, C. Smith  **ORDINANCE INTRODUCED**  Second Reading and public hearing date scheduled for October 5, 2023.   1. **RESOLUTION -2023-66- TAX PAYMENT REFUND FOR B 4 L 18**   **RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON**  **Hunterdon County, New Jersey**  **RESOLUTION 2023-66**  **TAX PAYMENT REFUND**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  | |  |  | |   **WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, in a letter dated September 21, 2023, has recommended to the Califon Borough Council that the necessary administrative action be taken to authorize a refund to the following, as per the attached, for a total of $2,811.17.  **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Califon Council of Califon Borough, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, that the amount of $2,811.17 be and the same is hereby refunded.  Motion was made by M. Medea seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2023-65.  For: R. Baggstrom, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero  Opposed: None  Absent: E. Haversang, C. Smith  **MOTION CARRIED**  **COMMITTEE REPORTS**  Councilman Medea reported that Parks and Recreation met last Wednesday, and the focus was the Street Fair. There will be a logistics meeting next week. The Fair is from 11 am to 4pm with the 5k run/walk occurring before the fair. Cm Medea encouraged members to tell any runners or walkers to sign up for the 5k as they are looking for more participants.  Councilman Janas reported that the Planning/Zoning board met last night, and they completed the memorialization of Historic Review Resolution for the construction of a one-story pole style garage and the demolition of the older block garage.  Councilman Janas reported that there was also an informal discussion with a Califon owner who is interested in purchasing a Califon property that is currently assessed as a commercial property. The potential buyer would like to change it to dual use, commercial and residential. The interested party was advised that he would need to obtain an attorney and may need a variance.  Councilman Baggstrom reported that there were 641 calls four arrests. One DWI, one traffic warrant and 2 other arrests.  Councilman Ruggiero reported that he discussed with Councilman Haversang the proposals we have received for camera installations all which would require cell service and thus a contract with a cell provider. Councilman Ruggiero reported that Councilman Haversang has offered to loan the Borough a couple of trail cams to use for a little while to see if that is something we may want to do instead of a costly installation and cell contract. Chief Almer advised that they have used these trail cameras before, and they work fine. The only down side is that they use up battery life very fast.  Discussion took place on placement which will be a challenge. Councilman Ruggiero advised that the Sparta police use trail cams and advised that they work fine. The cost is about $150 per camera and not cellular contract.  Councilman Ruggiero reported that the Crier will be out next week.  **MAYORS REPORT**  Mayor Daniel reported that he and Clerk Mastro met with the administrator of Tewksbury, Kevin Pyatt, Supervisor of DPW and the CFO last week to go over some of the issues in town and determine what is part of the interlocal and what would be considered outside of the interlocal. The main issue is the stormwater flooding and the amount of work that the DPW has been doing to respond to these storms and their aftermath.  Our interlocal agreement is up for renewal at the end of this year and these issues will need to be taken into consideration with the renewal.  Mayor Daniel reported that we will be meeting with the engineer very soon to discuss the stormwater issues across town. Mayor Daniel reported that we are going to have to come up with a plan and will have to see if there are grants out there to help respond to this need.  Mayor Daniel opened the Meeting up for any Public Comment  There were no comments from the public.  L. Janas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm seconded by R. Baggstrom.  All In Favor  The meeting was adjourned.  Respectively Submitted,  Karen Mastro, RMC, CMR |
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