**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**September 07, 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**

**Attend Via Zoom: L. Janas**

Also present: Borough Attorney, Mark Anderson, Associate to Borough Attorney, Kristen Nuber

Noting residents in attendance, Mayor Daniel moved the agenda to Public Comment.

Resident Kaitlyn Schobert of 42 Main Street advised that she is still concerned with the speeding on Main Street and would like to see it be addressed again with a possible more permanent solution. Ms. Schobert said that the police presence has increased and has thanked our police for their efforts. Ms. Schobert advised that she was interested in possible having a permanent flashing speed sign closer to the top of Main St.

Ms. Schobert expressed her concern over the safety of the sidewalks by Rambo’s, Hardware Store, and Railroad Ave.

A short discussion of the steps that could be taken to help alleviate the speeding took place.

Mayor Daniel advised that we must look at all options and discuss with Chief Almer.

Jim Bell of Clover Hill Drive stated that the Washington Township Police have done a great job but wanted to know if we could request that they are here daily? Councilman Baggstrom stated that they are here on a regular if not daily basis.

Julia Gil of 38 School Street advised that herself and the other owner of this house, Matthew Bonocore were present at the August 17th council meeting to discuss the stormwater issues they are experiencing on their property. Mayor Daniel advised that we will be scheduling a time to meet with the Borough engineer, and we cannot promise anything, but we will ask him to look at their area of concern.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilman Baggstrom seconded by Councilman Haversang to approve the minutes of August 17, 2023.

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

Abstain: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Smith seconded by Councilman Janas to approve the Executive Session minutes of July 20, 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 Councilwoman Smith seconded by Councilman Haversang to approve the list of bills in the amount of $30,160.19.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

\_ Email flyer from the Federal Highway Administration announcing a webinar on “Effective Structures for Wildlife Crossings” on September 14, 2023.

\_letter from Samuel Mushman dated August 30, 2023, requesting repairs to be made to the side wall of the stone channel at 31 Main Street.

\_email from E. Haversang advising he would like to become a member of the State Dam Removal Coalition as an individual resident as well as a representative of the EC and PARC. He would like to know if this would be ok with the Council.

* Discussion concerning this matter took place and it was decided that there would be no conflict.

\_ email from Rep. Thomas Kean’s office, 8-31-23, asking if they could use Califon Commons behind the post office for two hours to set up a Mobile Office hour on Tuesday, September 12th.

* Short discussion occurred and it was unanimously agreed to allow Rep Kean’s office to set up a mobile office for the purposes of providing answers and information to residents about services. No electioneering

\_email, 8-24-23 from Kevin of DPW advising milling was done on Raritan Drive for some of the bad spots.

**NEW BUSINESS-** Preliminary discussion regarding security at the Califon Island Park

Councilman Ruggiero advised Council members that the Borough received three estimates for the installation of cameras at the park. Cm Ruggiero advised that the hub would have to be installed on the top/upper of the pavilion. Two of the estimates have three cameras to be installed and one has 5. Based upon suggestions from other municipalities and the price, the estimate from Sawyers appears to be the most favorable.

There would be an ongoing charge as the units would have to run off cellular which would mean we would have to set up a cellular account and incur monthly charges.

Discussion took place concerning this topic. Cm Ruggiero advised that through his investigation with another town’s police department and how they work with the local schools he would like to see this happen in Califon. It was agreed that this is something we need to seek input from our police force before proceeding any further.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Medea reported that Sunken Silo will be the sponsored beer at the Califon Street Fair.

Tag Sale is moving forward for Saturday and there is hope that the rain will hold off.

Councilman Haversang advised that the next Environmental Commission meeting is September 12, 2023.

Councilwoman Smith advised that the Board of Ed met on August 23rd. The new enrollment is 83 with three tuition paying students. Work Family Connection will be back at the school offering after school care until 6 pm for preschoolers and up.

Councilman Janas advised that the next Planning Board Meeting will be on September 20, 2023.

Councilman Baggstrom advised he has nothing to report.

Councilman Ruggiero had nothing further to report.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that the Hunterdon Energy Coop went out to bid again and did not get a lower price than JCP&L. We will continue to wait until the market gets better.

Mayor Daniel asked if there was any further public comment.

Resident Bruce Morrow advised that the September 9th Classic Car Show has been postponed until September 24, 2023. Mr. Morrow also informed the Council that the Car Show Committee will be taking over the Toys for Tots campaign since the insurance agency that used to offer this program has since moved. Clerk Mastro offered the Municipal Building as a drop off place for Toys for Tots.

Resident Jim Bell from Clover Hill Drive asked if the town would reimburse him for a double payment made on his property taxes? Clerk Mastro and Mayor Daniel advised that they were not aware of this matter and if payment is to be made, it would have to be through a Resolution. This will not take place until the next meeting date.

With no further comments to be made Mayor Daniel read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**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

attorney-client and matters of litigation discussion with the Borough Attorney and

Matters as it relates to public safety.

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

It is anticipated that the 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 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.

Councilman E. Haversang made a motion to accept the Resolution as read and close the public meeting. Councilwoman Smith seconded this motion.

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

Opposed: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Council meeting was closed for Executive Session at 8:35pm

The Public meeting was opened at 9:07 pm after the Executive Session. With no business to attend, Councilwoman Smith made a motion seconded by Councilman Baggstrom to adjourn the public meeting at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC