**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**November 7, 2024**

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**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Council President, Micheal Medea called for a moment of silence in the remembrance of:

Raymond Yanofchick who served on the Califon council from 1994 to 2002 and passed away on October 26th and;

Ron Torsky who served on the Califon council from 1994 to 1997 and recently passed away.

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. Baggstrom, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero, C. Smith**

**ABSENT: Mayor Daniel, E. Haversang**

**Amy Monahan, CFO was also present**

**Also Attending via Zoom: Borough Attorney M. Anderson**

**FIRE MARSHAL REPORT**

Fire Marshal Matt Lopez reported to the council that he wanted to stop by and discuss the progress that has taken place regarding fire prevention. M. Lopez reported that the 2018 audit letter from the state concerning several issues have all been resolved.

M. Lopez circulated photos of situations in some of the buildings that he inspected that were close to causing an accident. These have all been mitigated and M. Lopez stated that they were not caused deliberately by businesses but due to lack of fire education. Right now M. Lopez advised that he is working with a few businesses that are looking for an alternative route to address the violation or concern.

M. Lopez advised that he is almost done compiling a complete list of the Safety Data Sheets as there was not any documentation on any of the chemicals present at the hardware store as required. M. Lopez will be giving an electronic copy of the SDS to the Fire Company, so they know what and where the chemicals are on this property.

M. Lopez was asked how the relationship between businesses this year is. M. Lopez advised that for the most part business owners understand. He advised that for the first year he identified all the issues that were going on and for some the second year he worked with them to get to compliance.

Council members thanked M. Lopez for coming in and giving them this status report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Danielle from 76 Main Street asked if there was any progress on the review of short-term rentals in Califon. She advised they are waiting for approval so they can utilize a property they purchased in Califon for short term rental income.

Danielle also inquired how the silt can be taken out of the Frog Hollow Stream as during flooding the silt is deposited on her property and driveway.

The council advised that there is a special permitting process with the DEP for removal of silt and rock from this stream. The Borough engineer is in the process of filing for this permit, and we will be working with the county on debris removal in the near future.

D. Ashton, 31 First St asked what the plans for paving of First Street after this Aqua water main replacement project? D. Ashton advised that Aqua and the contractors Montana are coming out on the 15th to view the damage that was caused to his driveway. They ripped up to install a lead water pipe to the First Street water main. Mr. Ashton advised that First street, especially the end, is almost undrivable.

Clerk Mastro advised that our engineer will be out on First Street to review what repairs need to be done before winter. The full pave will not take place until the spring.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Meeting of October 17, 2024**

.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by C. Smith to approve the meeting minutes of October 17, 2024, seconded by R. Baggstrom

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 L. Janas to approve the list of bills for $179,977.47 seconded by

C. Smith.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **RESOLUTION 2024-68 – Authorization for the Borough of Califon to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Educational Services Commission of NJ**

**The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:**

**RESOLUTION 2024-68**

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

**RESOLUTION FOR MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN A COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM WITH EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency," has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services.

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2024, the governing body of the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Borough of Califon

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5),* the Borough Clerk and Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by J. Ruggiero to adopt Resolution 2024-68 as read.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **RESOLUTION 2024-69 – Interlocal Services Agreement with Washington Township for Fire Prevention Services, January 1, 2025, and terminates on December 31, 2029.**

**The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:**

**RESOLUTION 2024-69**

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON FOR THE PROVISION BY WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP OF FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER SERVICES INCLUDING SMOKE DETECTOR AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR INSPECTIONS TO THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**WHEREAS,** the Township of Washington, County of Morris and the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, desire to enter into a shared services agreement for the provision by Washington Township of Fire Prevention Officer services to Califon Borough; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are permitted to enter into such agreements pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Borough Council of Califon, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Washington, County of Morris, and the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, for Fire Prevention Officer services for a term to commence January 1, 2025, and to terminate on December 31, 2029.
2. A copy of the Agreement is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk for inspection by the public.
3. A copy of this Agreement shall be filed, for informational purposes, with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Division.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion was made by C. Smith seconded by L. Janas to adopt Resolution 2024-69 as read.

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

Abstain: J. Ruggiero

Absent: E. Haversang

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Proposal from Cooper Technology for keyless entry to back door of municipal building. Includes 16 key fobs and control of lock on door.**

Councilman Baggstrom suggested that we go ahead and get both the front and the rear door fitted with key fobs and to approve this change.

Motion was made by C. Smith to approve the proposal from Cooper Technology and to approve additional cost for the front door installation seconded by R. Baggstrom.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COORESPONDENCE**

**\_**Walgreens will be providing flue shots to residents here at the municipal building on Tuesday, November 19th from 10 am to 2pm.

\_ Elizabethtown Gas will be installing services on Second Street on Friday, November 15th.

\_there will be a preconstruction meeting on Friday, November 15 for phase II of the Aqua water main replacement.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilman Janas advised that he wanted to understand if this project will have an impact on our bottom line. A. Monahan, CFO, advised that depending on how much the final cost for this project comes to but we are utilizing the excess monies from past ordinances to combine with the DOT Grant we received from this project, so we do not have to have a down payment for this project.

We will have to still come up with a small amount, but we are going to have to see how the project moves forward.

Discussion on whether inflation or prices go up and how that would affect this project. A. Monahan advised that we want to get this out to bid as soon as possible so that we can lock in an amount.

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION TO BOND ORDINANCE 2024-08.**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING $485,000 THEREFOR (INCLUSIVE OF REAPPROPRIATED EXCESS PROCEEDS FROM BOND ORDINANCES 2019-07 AND 2021-10 IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF $201,482.28 AND A STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $219,330) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $283,517.72 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

Council President opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2024-08.

There being no further comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by C. Smith to adopt Ordinance 2024-08.

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

Absent: E. Haversang

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Janas reported that there was a Planning/Zoning meeting on the 23rd of October. goals of their comprehensive plans were discussed and there was a public comment concerning short-term rentals as well as removal of the dam.

The rest of the meeting took place in executive session.

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks & Recreation met November 6th. He was not in attendance, but he received minutes from N. Snyder.

The committee did a summation discussion of the Street Fair and discussed the budget.

The PARCS committee advised that they have been approached by a resident who has a child that plays soccer for the Califon School. The field that is used for soccer at the park could use some regrading and this resident has offered to donate the machine and time to grade this field if the Borough can supply the material. Cm. Medea advised that it would probably be around $3000.00 but further inquiry is needed. Committee Chair N. Snyder advised that there are some recreational grants that may respond to this and he will look into this.

Discussion on how we can have grass seed put down for a new field if we don’t have water…

Councilman Medea asked if council members minded if he could research this further? All members of the council said yes.

There will be Christmas Tree Lighting and Menorah lighting. The Christmas Tree lighting will be on December 8th and the Menorah lighting will be on December 28th.

Councilwoman Smith reported that the Historical Society met on October 22nd. They will be asking the council to contribute $1000.00 towards the repair of the outhouse foundation.

Volunteers have painted the doors of the Hoffman house and re did the shed roof.

There will be a soft opening for the Christmas displays on November 17th from 1 to 4pm at both the Hoffman House and the Cabin. On the first and 8th of December will have an open house for the holiday season from 1pm to 4pm and Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on site on the 8th.

Councilman Baggstrom provided the monthly police data in Califon.

Councilman Ruggiero reported that a vendor for email and tech support will be meeting on the 15th and we will soon have a couple of proposals.

Clerk Mastro asked the Borough attorney if he had anything to add.

M. Anderson mentioned the email he sent this afternoon to the mayor and members of the council concerning the municipal’s affordable housing obligations recently distributed by the Department of Community Affairs based upon the current version of the Fair Housing Act.

M. Anderson, advised in his email and in his response at this meeting that the NJ Institute of Local Government Attorneys, which M. Anderson is a member of, has recently prepared recommended amendments to the FHA which would reduce municipal’s obligation based upon these recommendations to 6 units. Council members asked how we can support these proposed amendments and M. Anderson advised that a Resolution of support would be appropriate.

With no further matters to discuss, C. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 seconded by R. Baggstrom,

All In Favor.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC