**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**May 2, 2024**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 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: L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero, C. Smith**

**Absent: R. Baggstrom**

**Also Present:**

**Borough Attorney M. Anderson**

*Councilman E. Haversang arrived at 7:06 p.m.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Meeting of April 18, 2024**

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Motion was made by J. Ruggiero seconded by L. Janas to approve the meeting minutes of April 18, 2024.

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

Abstain: C. Smith

Absent: R. Baggstrom

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by J. Ruggiero to approve the list of bills in the amount of $22,111.46.

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

Absent: R. Baggstrom

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

At this time, Mayor Daniel moved to Public Comments on the Agenda.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mathew Taylor of 44 Hoffman Drive advised that over the past few years, their home has experienced an on-and-off occurrence of cloudy, dirty water and in the last few weeks, the situation has become much worse. Mr. Taylor brought a sample of water from his kitchen sink, which was cloudy and brown. Mr. Taylor said he wants to ensure the water is safe for their children. He has engaged in a third-party water testing company. Mr. Taylor advised that the current situation is unacceptable.

Mr. Taylor thanked Councilman Ruggiero for his assistance in communication.

Councilman Ruggiero advises that he lives across the street from Mr. Taylor, and he documented the days the water was discolored, and they were on 2.-24, 3-9, 3-13, 4-7, 4-14, 4-15, 4-24, 4-28, 4-29, 5-1, and today. Cm Ruggiero advised that he spoke with a representative of Aqua, and they advised they would flush out the lines and put a blowout on lower Hoffman. . Cm Ruggiero advised that he had to flush out his household water for three hours before the brown was no longer present.

Katy Pinto of 36 Hoffman Drive concurred with the previous reports of water issues and advised that the water affects their appliances. They have already had to replace the water heater prematurely. Ms. Pinto advised that she can not bathe her children in the water, and it is difficult

to know when they can wash. Ms. Pinto advised that there is also a cost in water usage when they have to run their water to flush out the lines.

Clerk Mastro advised that at lunch, she went up to Hoffman Drive and spoke with Albert and Paul of Aqua, who were flushing out the water at the lower Hoffman hydrant. They advised that they had flushed out the lower line but then had to switch to flushing out the upper line.

Clerk Mastro advised that the water looked pretty clear when she was leaving.

At around 4:30 pm, Clerk Mastro reported receiving an email from resident K. Pickens of Cozy Lane, who sent a photo of brownish water in their kitchen sink. She also received a report that the water at Hoffman Drive was still discolored.

Clerk Mastro contacted Aqua and advised that there had not been any improvements. Aqua advised that beginning Monday, May 6th, they will conduct a townwide flushing to remove the sediment.

Clerk Mastro reported that Aqua advised that claims for damages can be reported by calling Aqua’s call center. She also advised that Aqua would drop off a product residents can use in their wash to remove the brown/red from their clothing.

Kyle Pickens of Cozy Lane advises that he is at a dead end. Although he does not experience discolored water as frequently as Hoffman Drive residents, it still occurs regularly. K. Pickens showed the council members a sample of this afternoon's water from his home, which was brown.

Clerk Mastro advised that she will ask a representative from Aqua to attend a Council meeting to address these issues and the upcoming main replacement project.

There were no further public comments at this time.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**\_**email from Councilman, J. Ruggiero advising he was interested in attending a class on professional grant development offered through Rutgers University.

\_ Clerk noted that she and Acting CFO A. Monahan submitted the compliance report on 4.29.24 for the SLFRF- ARP.

\_ 4.29.24- DEP- letter to Mayors advising applications are now being accepted for NJDOT 2025 grants

\_April 22, 2024- mail – Aqua- 2024 Rate Case Filing with the BPU- public hearing will be on May 14, 2024.

\_notice that the county print shop will re-mail the brush pick reminder cards as the first batch has been lost in the mail.

\_4.29.24-email from resident K. Pickens advising of water issues.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion – Lead Paint Ordinance & EV Ordinance

Clerk Mastro advised that all municipalities must adopt these ordinances. Califon has been conducting lead paint inspections for almost a year now. All landlords know these required inspections, and the Board of Health Secretary has become certified to complete the required “visual inspection” for Califon apartments.

This Ordinance will be placed on the June 6th agenda for introduction.

Borough attorney M. Anderson advised that the EV Ordinance model is already in effect in every municipality pursuant to the NJ statute. M. Anderson advised that this is a Land Use Ordinance. Once we have the Planning Board's recommendations, the council can review these recommendations with the ordinance and proceed to introduce and adopt.

There was no presentation from the Califon Environmental Commission.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

\_ M. Medea reported, under building and grounds, that he will work with Clerk Mastro to move forward with the Hunterdon County Open Space Grant Application and obtain bids for the construction of new front steps.

\_ Under Parks and Recreation, M. Medea advised that Memorial Day is in order, but they still need volunteers for the event day. There will be a Parks and Recreation meeting on Tuesday, May 7th

\_E. Haversang reported that about 20 volunteers assisted in the annual Stream Clean Up.

The Trout Fest that afternoon at the park was a great success. Approximately 750 attendees attended, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

The EC will follow up with installing the rain barrel and the second pollinator garden.

\_L. Janas advised that the next Planning Board meeting will be held on May 21st.

\_ C. Smith reported that the Califon School Board of Education meeting of April 24, 2024, reported that the budget went up 2%, resulting in a $2.67 a month increase per $100,00.00 of assessed value.

The school board advised that they anticipate an 11% increase in enrollment, projecting 92 students. Califon school has 6 tuition students while 19 students are “choiced out” to other districts.

Califon School will have a FREE forensic camp this summer, made possible through an ARP grant.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on June 19th.

Linda Patterson, a California school nurse of 25 years, is retiring at the end of the year.

\_J. Ruggiero advised he would be meeting with the clerk to look at trail camera options.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Daniel reported that Califon requested funding through Senator Steinhardt’s office. Clerk Mastro applied for a grant through Representative T. Kean’s office for stormwater infrastructure repairs and improvements in Califon. Mayor Daniel advised that obtaining funding for the stormwater projects is a priority.

Mayor Daniel inquired if there were any public comments to be made.

Resident Jennifer Gross of Philhower Ave inquired about the Stormwater issues throughout Califon and what the Council has planned to resolve them.

A short discussion occurred with council members and Ms. Gross concerning this matter.

With no further comments, a motion was made by C. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC