**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**August 15, 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**

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, J. Ruggiero, C. Smith**

**Absent:\* M. Medea**

**Borough Attorney M. Anderson – Via Zoom**

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

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Motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by C. Smith to approve the meeting minutes of July 18, 2024.

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

Abstain: M. Medea

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**\***Councilman Medea arrived at 7:07 pm.

**LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by M. Medea to approve the list of bills in the amount of $300,829.12 seconded by E. Haversang

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE/CLERK’S REPORT**

\_Clerk Mastro advised that she had asked Councilman Janas to compose a letter to the residents from the council about the Tier A requirements placed on Califon and the subsequent ordinances we recently adopted to comply with these requirements. This letter is required as part of our public outreach.

\_On August 13, 2024, Clerk Mastro spoke with Brad Myhre, the Hunterdon County Administrator, regarding our infrastructure grant application for a stormwater project. B. Myhre explained that they received so many applications that they are moving towards awarding more towns with amounts less than requested. Clerk Mastro advised that she had told B. Myhre that Califon would appreciate any amount, even if we have to earmark it until we find further funding.

B. Myhre also wanted to let us know that they are looking into finding a filler to use in the joint on the Main Street bridge that has been causing noise issues for nearby residents.

\_ Clerk Mastro reported that she spoke with Robert Lucas from RHA who gave an update on the public session meeting regarding the Coles Mill Dam removal.

\_Clerk Mastro reported that she was advised by the project manager at Montana Construction that the Main Line Replacement for Philhower Ave will be moved to September 9th.

\_ Clerk Mastro advised that she has been in communication with the County Administration and Roads office concerning the noise coming from the recent patching of Main Street due to water main breaks.

\_Clerk Mastro reported that we had a preconstruction meeting with the Borough engineer, Aqua Water’s engineer, and Councilman Ruggiero concerning the Main Water Line Replacement Project. This is scheduled to begin Monday, August 26th, but it has now been pushed back to September 9th. Clerk Mastro advised that letters were mailed out to all Philhower, First, and Hoffman residents to advise of the upcoming project.

\_August 15th: An email from M. Medea from the commissioner of LTAA thanking us for the work we had done on the fields before the season started. They had a great season!

\_August 14th: The email from Chief Almer advised that they placed a data recording sign on School Street, as he received a complaint about speeding on the Main St end. Chief Almer advised that of nearly 6000 vehicles surveyed, only 82 were between 6 – 10 mph over, 7 were 10 to 15 over, and no cars were doing 15+ over.

\_ Email August 14: Environmental Commission secretary B. Thomas advised that the EC Commission met last night and is not interested in having a townwide paper shredding event. They will be meeting with Councilman Medea on Thursday, August 22nd, about the plans for planting in the garden in front of the post office.

The EC would also like to ask residents if they are interested in composting locally and in learning more about garbage companies' selection and processes at the upcoming Street Fair.

\_ Notice from Tewksbury Township passing of an Ordinance amending Stormwater Control of the development regulations ordinance.

Councilwoman Smith suggested that in the letter to residents informing them about the new Tier A Ordinances, we should consider highlighting in bold the area that we deemed most impactfult to residents.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**INTRODUCTION TO AN ORDINANCE -2024-02 TITLE 17.10 - AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY ADDING TO TITLE 17, WHICH IS ENTITLED “STATE-MANDATED ORDINANCES”, a NEW CHAPTER 17.10 ENTITLED “IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE”**

The Borough attorney advised that this is an additional “Tier A” Ordinance that we are required to adopt pursuant to the Tier A permitting requirements.

Councilman Baggstrom made a motion to adopt Title 17.10 of Ordinance 2024-02 seconded by L. Janas.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**INTRODUCTION TO AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY AMENDING TITLE 17.08 – CONNECTIONS TO STORM SEWERS AT COUNTY HIGHWAYS TO BE REPLACED BY ILLICIT CONNECTIONS.**

Clerk Mastro advised that, as suggested by our contact at the NJDEP for the Tier A permit, we are amending this Ordinance.

L. Janas inquired what N meant in section IV. Clerk Mastro advised that this was taken right from the NJDEP Sample Ordinance, and she will check but believes it should be None.

Council members agreed to introduce the Ordinance with changes to section IV to be the same as those in the State’s Ordinance.

The motion was made by J. Ruggiero, seconded by E. Haversang to approve an amendment to Title 17.08 Ordinance 2024-02.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**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 Consent Agenda will be for Resolutions 2024-52 through Resolution 2024-57**

Mayor Daniel read each resolution listed on the agenda.

C. Smith moved, seconded by M. Medea, to adopt Resolutions 2024-52 through 2024-57.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION ORDINANCE 2024-05**

Mayor Daniel opened the meeting up for Public Hearing for Ordinance 2024-05 **An Ordinance amending the revised Borough code of the Borough of Califon by amending Title 16 entitled “Land Development” to add in Chapter 6.12. A new section entitled “Electric Vehicle Supply/ Service Equipment.”**

With no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

L. Janas motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-05, seconded by C. Smith.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2024-06**

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON.**

Mayor Daniel opened the meeting for public comment on Ordinance 2024-06. With no comment from the public, the public hearing was closed.

R. Baggstrom motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-06, seconded by L. Janas.

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

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Daniel asked that the discussion on short-term rentals be tabled until September. He would like more time to review the matter and learn what other towns are doing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bruce Morrow of Academy St advised that he has contacted the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall vendor and will bring it to Califon on Memorial Day 2026. The wall will again be installed at the park, and the Memorial Day program can follow the parade at the wall.

Council members said this would be a great addition to the Memorial Day program. B. Morrow also advised that he will be sponsoring the Toys for Tots program in Califon again this year with drop- off locations around town.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilman Ruggiero attended the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, where they discussed the upcoming Rock the Park on Saturday, August 24th. This event originated from member Stephanie Thaler, who also ran Califon Fun Days. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the park will have music and activities for kids and families.

Councilman Ruggiero also advised that plans are being made to eradicate some of the invasive species at the park in preparation for planting trees in October. Councilman Haversang advised that in his discussion with RHA, who is providing the trees, the tree planting will occur on Friday, October 20th.

Councilman Haversang advised that he could not attend the last Environmental Commission meeting. He stated that there is a beech tree disease for which there is no treatment, and a strand of beech trees on the Weis Mill Dam property is being transferred to Califon. Councilman Medea advised that there is a treatment for this disease, but it cannot be used next to open bodies of water.

Councilman Haversang reported that the park's tree planting will take place on Monday, October 20th. Preparation, such as invasive removal, will occur beforehand, and holes must be dug before this date. Councilman Haversang reported that we have a formal stewardship agreement with RHA concerning the trees we are given to plant at the park.

Councilman Janas advised that the Planning Board will meet next Wednesday, August 21st.

Councilwoman Smith said the Board of Education and Historical Society meetings are next week.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that the report from Washington Township Police shows that the numbers were up in July from June. There were 31 vehicle stops with tickets. Discussion on the noise from the bridge took place. Clerk Mastro advised that the County is looking for a filler to place in this joint and will be doing this soon

Councilman Ruggiero asked if the police were working with other local police departments concerning the increase in activity of car break-ins and other suspicious activities.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that many incidents have been posted on Facebook recently.

Councilman Baggstrom advised he would email the Chief.

Councilman Ruggiero reported that the person we met with to inquire about possible email options and technical support has not responded to our emails or phone calls, so we must

keep our options open to find a new vendor.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel advised that he received a voicemail from J. Murray of the Califon First Aid regarding the Borough’s annual contribution. The CFA would like an additional amount as they are looking to purchase a new rig. Discussion took place, and it was reiterated that the Borough

Contributed all that it could this time, and we hope to increase it next year.

With no further business to attend, C. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by R. Baggstrom at 8:15 pm.

All in Favor

ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC, CMR