**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Borough Council President Medea called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. *“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 legal notice in the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat. In addition, a copy of this notice was posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building and is on file in the Clerk/Administrator’s office”.***

**FLAG SALUTE –** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Present | Absent |
| Baggstrom | X |  |
| Haversang | X |  |
| Janas | X |  |
| Ruggiero | X |  |
| Smith | X |  |
| Medea | X |  |

Others present: Clerk/Administrator Haughey, Borough Attorney Anderson (via Zoom)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bruce Morrow is working to have the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall in the Borough over Memorial Day weekend in 2026. He asked the Council to consider donating to help defray expenses.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

January 2025 Police Monthly Report from Police Chief Almer was sent to council.

The Borough office, as well as the Police Department, received a number of calls complaining about sidewalks not being shoveled, so we sent a reminder email to the subscribers we have.

Adam Jones from Aqua emailed this afternoon, there will be roadwork tomorrow morning on 513 for the crew to make a repair to the water main. They will keep one lane open and do a traffic shift.

ETG

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 2025-02**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY CHANGING THE DEFINITION OF "DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY " IN TITLE 16 – LAND DEVELOPMENT**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that the Borough Code adopted August 24, 2000 and heretofore amended be further amended as follows:

**SECTION ONE**:

Title 16 of the Borough Code - Land Development, Section 16.04.040 – Definitions, is hereby amended by changing the definition of "Dwelling, Single-Family " to read as follows:

"Dwelling, Single-Family. "Single-family dwelling" means a building containing one dwelling unit only and used as a long-term residence of one family. "Long-term", as used in this definition, means either without a specific term, or with a specific term of not less than three months."

**SECTION TWO**:

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication of Notice of Final Passage in the manner provided by law.

FIRST READING: February 18, 2025

PUBLICATION: February 26, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL ADOPTION: March 18, 2025

PUBLICATION BY TITLE: March 26, 2025

ORDINANCE 2025-02

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Motion | Second | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
| Baggstrom |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Haversang |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Janas |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Ruggiero | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Smith |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Medea |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**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.”

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 4, 2025 Regular Meeting

**\*LIST OF BILLS**

**\*Resolution R-37-25**

**AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR GRANT MONEY FROM HIGHLANDS COUNCIL FOR BOROUGH PLANNER TO COMPLETE THE FOURTH ROUND HOUSING PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, James Kyle, Califon Borough Planner, has proposed a professional planning service to prepare a Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and new Spending Plan pursuant to recently enacted legislation, P.L. 2024, c.2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council is soliciting grant applications for conforming municipalities to provide funding for the Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan in the amount not to exceed $30,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough wishes to apply for this advantageous grant opportunity.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon, Hunterdon County, New Jersey authorizes the Borough Administrator to:

1) submit a grant request to the Highlands Council not to exceed $30,000.00 and

2) conditional upon such award, execute the proposal for professional planning service

**\*Resolution R-38-25**

**APPROVAL OF RAFFLE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE CALIFON FIRE COMPANY’S SUPER RAFFLE ON JULY 17, 2025**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following Raffle License Application has been approved:

NAME AND TRADE NAME: Califon Fire Co

LICENSE NUMBER: 2025-01

ADDRESS: PO Box 178, 41 Main St., Califon, N.J. 07830

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the original application, along with our Findings and Determinations, will be transmitted to the Legalized Games of Chance Commission with the applicant's fee for their final approval; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that license 2025-01 will be issued to the Califon Fire Company no later than March 12, 2025, if the Borough has not heard from the LGCCC.

**\*Resolution R-40-25**

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, IT APPEARS THAT THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO PAY OUTSTANDING BILLS:

2024 Public Health OE

2024 Street Lighting

2024 Water

**WHEREAS**, IT APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN THE FOLLOWING 2024 ACCOUNT**:**

2024 Road Maintenance OE

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON THAT THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS BE AUTHORIZED AND WITHIN RESOLUTION IS THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH TREASURER TO MAKE SAID TRANSFERS:

AMOUNT FROM TO AMOUNT

$ 952.19 Road Maintenance o/e Public Health o/e $ 25.00

Street Lighting $ 885.50

Water $ 41.69

**\*Resolution R-41-25**

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN HUNTERDON COUNTY ELECTRICITY CO-OP**

**WHEREAS**, the Hunterdon County Cooperative Program is a shared service purchasing program for electric power, designed to aggregate the energy requirements of voluntarily participating local government entities, with the focus on reducing the basic generation services (BGS) portion of members electric bills; and

**WHEREAS**, procurement of electric power service will be made via an Online Auction in accordance with all local procurement laws available to licensed New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) approved third party suppliers. In 2019, the County started an energy cooperative for interested towns and were able to reduce electric power costs by 10% and offer an enhanced renewable energy option for interested members. Members who elected this option qualified for Sustainable New Jersey points through the Energy Action Plan. The County plans to continue to include the greater percentage of power to come from renewable sources for interested cooperative members; and

**WHEREAS**, through the joining together of the County and participating members, it is anticipated that the economy of scale will continue to provide the goal of lowering BGS electricity costs for all cooperative members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners have undertaken a competitive RFP process and awarded an energy consultant contract to Concord Energy Services of Voorhees, New Jersey, an NJBPU licensed energy agent and consultant, to implement and manage the County’s Energy Cooperative Program. The firm will also be a resource for co-op members, providing post contract Client Relation services to assist with billing issues/resolution, meter adds/deletes and utility/supplier issues.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon, Hunterdon County, New Jersey authorize the Borough Administrator to submit the paperwork to participate in the upcoming bid for Electricity Generation Supply Service.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Motion | Second | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
| Baggstrom | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Haversang |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Janas |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Ruggiero |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Smith |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Medea |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**R-39-25 (REVISED)**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES ON OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES**

**WHEREAS**, the sunset provision of March 1, 2025, imposed under P.L. 2024 c.106 is fast approaching in what was a temporary solution that allowed local governments to comply with the public notice requirements under the law in time for annual reorganization meetings in January; and,

**WHEREAS**, local government officials serve as the stewards of property taxpayer dollars and should no longer be required to publish legal notices in the press; and,

**WHEREAS**, long before NJ Advanced Media’s announcement that it was terminating daily print publications in January of 2025, local government officials found it increasingly difficult to comply with the public notice requirements under the law as the media has become almost exclusively digitized and struggled to retain staff, resources, and publications; and,

**WHEREAS**, legislation that will authorize local governments to publish legal notices on a local government’s official website will streamline an antiquated and overly burdensome process and save valuable time, resources, and property taxpayer dollars; and,

**NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon does in fact, hereby urge state leaders to pass legislation that will authorize municipalities, counties, school districts, and all local governments to publish legal notices in a clear, transparent, and timely manner on a local government’s official website; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Senator Steinhardt, Assemblymembers DiMaio and Peterson, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

**Resolution R-39-25**

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| Council Member | Motion | Second | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
| Baggstrom |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Haversang |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Janas |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Ruggiero |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Smith | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Medea |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Comm. Haversang** –Nothing to report at this meeting.

**Comm. Janas** - Nothing to report at this meeting.

**Comm. Smith** – The Board of Education will meet on Wednesday, February 19th.

**Comm. Baggstrom –** Police report from January

**Comm. Ruggiero** – Parks and Recreation Committee held an open house, but had no residents attend. Comm. Medea stated that the evening of the Open House, the Califon School Girls Basketball team was playing the championship game, which they won, which may have prevented some people from attending. The date for the Egg Hunt has been changed to Sunday, April 13th because the Raritan Headwaters stream clean up day and Trout Fest are scheduled for Saturday, April 12th. The Committee has a new logo and will have a banner to use at events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Council Member** | **Motion** | **Second** |
| **Baggstrom** |  |  |
| **Haversang** |  |  |
| **Janas** |  | **X** |
| **Ruggiero** |  |  |
| **Smith** | **X** |  |
| **Medea** |  |  |

**The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.**