

BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, N.J.
ORGANIZATION MEETING
MINUTES – January 1, 2008

The Organization Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order in the Council Chambers by Mayor Susan Gartland at 12:02 PM.

Administration of Oaths of Office to

Councilman Ann Dassing
by
Honorable Patricia Richmond LeBon

Councilman Kay Slattery
by
William C. Slattery, Esq.

PRESENT: Mayor Gartland, Councilman Mescia, Dassing, Curley, Edge, Slattery and Gates

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator, Maureen Ruane, Borough Attorney, Stuart Koenig, Esq. and Deputy Clerk, Beth Bush Telepan

ABSENT: None

Monsignor Michael Kelly was welcomed by the Mayor and Council and provided the Invocation.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

Congratulations to Kay Slattery and Ann Dassing on their swearing in today. I look forward to a productive year of working together.

2007 was a year of much excitement and activity. Last year I promised that we would devote our efforts to our downtown. Well, the Caldwell Downtown Alliance was formed and thanks to many volunteers and the guidance of Tom Litke and Councilman Peter Mescia it is off and running. A beautiful map and walking guide directory of our downtown was produced and printed in time for the Street Fair in October. It required many countless hours of volunteer time with the assistance of Sherry Betesh, graphic artist and the complimentary printing by PDQ.

The volunteers also decorated a block of our downtown for Halloween which was a fun project. The Caldwell Downtown Alliance and Larry of Vila Meats are in discussion with representatives of the Rotary for a downtown gathering place. It will hopefully come to pass in 2008 and will host a clock, information center and benches for our downtown center.

The last part of 2007 found the Caldwell Downtown Alliance completing an extensive application for partnership in the Main Street, N.J. program. Well on Friday we were notified by the Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Joseph Doria and Senator Richard Codey that we received the Main Street designation. The Main Street N.J. designation will provide our community with technical assistance and training to revitalize our historic downtown and traditional commercial district. The program helps municipalities throughout the State to improve their economy, appearance and image through the organization of local citizens and resources.

I am thrilled to see this designation and all the hard work of the Caldwell Downtown Alliance and all those that worked to put that application together to make our downtown a better place. I am also pleased to see new businesses that chose to locate in Caldwell. We welcome them and will work with them to succeed.

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Caldwell's involvement in Main Street, N.J. is a long term commitment and thanks to Borough Administrator Maureen Ruane and Councilman Peter Mescia and all the volunteers of the Caldwell Downtown Alliance I know we will succeed to bring revitalization to our downtown.

Last New Years Day I spoke about technology updates. Well some of those updates have happened. We now have a new interactive website. Residents can now advise town officials when garbage, recycling, leaves, etc. has not been picked up. If someone wants to file a complaint or concern they can do it on-line. It will be directed to the proper department for a resolve. More upgrades will happen in 2008. We also have a new face on Channel 35. It is so much nicer and gives more information that can keep Caldwell residents informed of what is happening in town and what functions the churches, schools and organizations are holding. I wish to thank Maureen Ruane, Beth Telepan and the Technology Committee of Councilman Curley, Edge and Mescia for their great strides to bring Caldwell into the 21st century and we know that more is planned for 2008.

What an exciting time 2007 was for the Caldwell Public Library. The "Big Read" came to town. Our library director, Karen Kleppe Lembo, her staff, the Library Board and many volunteers truly put Caldwell on the map by applying and receiving a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts which had everyone in town and out of town reading the "Age of Innocence".

Such an appropriate time for all of this excitement because it was also the 90th Anniversary of the opening of the Caldwell Public Library. The Library was also gifted the photographic collection of our own Gene Collerd by his family. The 90th anniversary was celebrated on October 12, 2007 by having a showing of some of the early photographs of Gene Collerd in the newly renovated library room which was dedicated to Gene and Kathryn Collerd by their sons. It was beautiful and very emotional for all those involved. Thanks to Bruce White, Karen Lembo and the other volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Caldwell Public Library.

I held the Mayor's Gala on November 3, 2007 and thanks to the generosity of many of our businesses, vendors and residents we were able to donate \$16,000 to the Caldwell Public Library to assist with the cataloging and archiving of the Gene Collerd collection and hopefully lead to many more exciting events at our Library. Thanks to Beth and Maureen for the wonderful success of this 2007 Gala.

We now have a new Director of the Caldwell Community Center, Jim Nolan, and we are expecting great things from Mr. Nolan in 2008. We are hoping for an expansion of our programming offered at the center. We finally installed a new sign on the peak of the center, so it can properly be identified from Bloomfield Avenue. We redid the tile around the pool and also resurfaced the pool floor. The equipment was upgraded in the exercise area as well as a new floor. Good luck to Jim and welcome to Caldwell.

I initiated a traffic committee in the later part of 2007 to respond to concerns and complaints of a group of residents on Hatfield Street. I found that we needed to look at traffic issues throughout Caldwell and that is exactly what this committee is doing. I chose residents from each of the main streets and areas in town that are affected by traffic issues. The committee has 2 council members on it, Jeff Curley as chairman and Ann Dassing as well as the Mayor, Borough Administrator and the Police traffic expert and hopefully the Police Chief in the future. The Police will need to enforce the speeding and parking issues addressed by the committee. The committee is working their way through each section of town with short term and long term recommendations. Hopefully in the late spring we can implement some of the short term recommendations for the town. Thanks to the volunteers on this committee for their diligence in taking on this monumental task.

The Borough of Caldwell has installed new crosswalks and handicap ramps in town so that we are now ADA compliant in our downtown.

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We began in 2007 and will continue in 2008 to do major upgrades to our water system. The water main improvements began on Linwood Terrace and will continue on the upper end of Arlington Avenue and then continue to a major project on Lane Avenue. The Water Department will also install in 2008 a new electronic meter reading system that will be more efficient and the meters can be read from the street. Thanks to Bill Frint for his oversight of all of these projects.

The Caldwell Sewer Plant will undergo a DEP mandated upgrade in 2008 and 2009. We will be compliant with all DEP requirements by January, 2010 as is required. The upgrade will cost \$16,000,000 million dollars and will be shared by all user communities. The upgrade will be financed by a low interest load obtained through DEP. Thanks to our town attorney, Stuart Koenig and our professionals for their guidance to the Mayor and Council to make this major decision on which upgrades we would take on in 2008 and 2009.

The Police contract was finally settled at the end of 2007 for four years. We are now in the process of considering applicants for Police Chief. In 2008 we will do a major upgrade to the Caldwell Police Desk with the guidance and oversight of a new chief. New equipment, radios, etc. have been purchased and will be installed. Thanks to the Police Department for their patience in this area.

We are finalizing the Police Dispatch Contract with West Caldwell for a shared service that seems to be working well.

The Borough is always looking for ways to cut the Budget and taxes in Caldwell. In 2007 we saved over \$80,000 by dealing directly with Blue Cross/Blue Shield on the medical insurance for our employees which had no loss of benefits to the town.

The Borough last week transferred our liability insurance package to Garden State Joint Insurance Fund for a savings in 2008 of \$42,000. The town actually gained some benefits on this transfer.

Thanks to Senator Richard Codey and Assemblyman McKeon Caldwell was one of the few towns in Essex County and New Jersey to receive extraordinary aid of \$300,000. They have assisted Caldwell for many years and we are truly grateful for their confidence in Caldwell.

I met recently with West Caldwell Mayor Joseph Tempesta to discuss a joint pursuit of funds to enhance the Kiwanis Oval by putting turf on the field. Former Mayor Paul Jemas and Mayor Tempesta applied in 2005 for funds towards the Kiwanis Oval upgrade. Each town received \$150,000 towards the project and we were told to reapply in 2006 for additional funds. Well the county purchased Kips Castle and all funds since that time have been applied to that project. In the meantime Mayor Joe reached out to a number of companies in West Caldwell for commitments to assist us with this project. The project lost momentum because the High School was going to possibly tackle installing turf on that field. Well in December, 2007 that project was defeated so Mayor Joe Tempesta and I believe that it is now the right time to reenergize the Kiwanis Oval project for the benefit of the children and adults of Caldwell-West Caldwell who need a field nearly 12 months a year. We need to recommit our fund raising efforts to accomplishing this project. We will put an Executive Committee in place that will guide this project to move forward as quickly as is possible. We will go back to the county and begin new discussions on how they can assist our 2 towns and will again reach out to the companies located in Caldwell and West Caldwell. I will commit the proceeds of the 2008 Mayor's Ball to this project and with volunteers from all the teams that use Kiwanis Oval I know that we can succeed to raise the money necessary to put turf on the oval.

I would like to thank the Council members and the Borough staff for their support and dedication to the Borough of Caldwell. Without them we would never have accomplished so much in 2007. Now onto the accomplishments and the excitement of 2008 and hopefully we will have a better year and many more things to happen.

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Election of Council President - Mayor Gartland opened the floor to nominations for Council President. Councilman Mescia nominated Councilman Edge, seconded by Councilman Curley. On roll call vote for Councilman Edge for the position of Council President all members voted in the affirmative.

Mayoral Committee Appointments

* denotes Chairperson

A.	Board of Education	*Curley, Gates, Edge
B.	Budget	* Mescia, Dassing, Curley
C.	Community Center	*Gartland, Slattery, Mescia
D.	Downtown-Community Development	*Mescia, Curley, Edge
E.	Police/Fire/Emergency Management	*Curley, Slattery, Edge
F.	Health	*Edge, Slattery, Gates
G.	Library	*Slattery, Gartland, Edge
H.	Local/Public Assistance	*Dassing, Slattery, Gates
I.	Open Space	*Mescia, Curley, Edge
J.	Personnel	*Slattery, Curley, Dassing
K.	Public Works/Water	*Gates, Dassing, Edge
L.	Recreation	*Mescia, Curley, Edge
M.	Sewer	*Mayor Gartland and Council
N.	Technology	*Curley, Edge, Dassing
O.	Shared Services	*Edge, Curley, Slattery
P.	Traffic Committee	*Curley, Dassing, Gartland

Upon motion by Councilman Curley and seconded by Councilman Mescia the Mayor and Council made the following annual board appointments

ANNUAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Planning Board - Appointment by Mayor – Resolution 1-1*

Mr. Glenn Annan-Brady Class II Member – term expiration 12/31/10
Mr. Bruce Betros Class IV Member – term expiration 12/31/11
Mr. Nathan Gardner Class IV Member – term expiration 12/31/11
Ms. Ann Finnegan 1 year alternate – term expiration 12/31/08
Councilman Kay Slattery Class III Member – term expiration 12/31/08
*(Mayor Gartland has requested the consent of the Council)

Zoning Board of Adjustment - Mayor, Consent of the Council – Resolution 1-2

Mr. Jack Sauer – term expiration 12/31/11
Mr. Henderson Cole 1 year alternate – term expiration 12/31/08

Library Board of Trustees - Mayor, Consent of the Council- Resolution 1-3

Ms. Patricia Byrne– term expiration 12/31/08
Ms. Ellen Feeney – term expiration 12/31/11
Ms. Cindy Kellenberger - 1 year term
Councilman Kay Slattery, Council Representative
Mr. Bruce White – term expiration 12/31/12

Board of Health - Mayor, Consent of the Council - Resolution 1-4

Mr. Glenn Annan-Brady – term expiration 12/31/10
Ms. Iva Hemmel – term expiration 12/31/10
Sister Frances J. Sullivan – term expiration 12/31/10
Councilman E. William Edge, Council Representative

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Local Assistance Board - Mayor, Consent of the Council - Resolution 1-5

Ms. Sandra Norgren – term expiration 12/31/11
Councilman Ann Dassing, Council Representative

Rent Review Board - Mayor, Consent of the Council - Resolution 1-6

Mr. Dale Sulpy – term expiration 12/31/10
Mr. Jeff Mintz – term expiration 12/31/09
Mr. August Lembo – term expiration 12/31/10

Mr. Peter Mescia, Council Representative

Michael S. Rubin, Esq., Rent Board Attorney

Environmental Commission – Appointment by Mayor - Resolution 1-7

[One of the members must be a member of the Planning Board]

Mr. Glenn Annan-Brady (Planning Board Member) - term expiration - 12/31/10
Ms. Sally Garson – term expiration 12/31/10
Ms. Nancy Massotta – term expiration 12/31/08
Mr. Donald Neil Aharrah – term expiration 12/31/09
Councilman Jeff Curley, Council Representative

Open Space Trust Committee – Mayor Consent of the Council – Resolution 1-8

Ms. Maureen Ruane, Borough Administrator – term expires 12/31/08
Councilman Peter Mescia, Council Representative – term expires 12/31/08
Ms. Ann Finnegan, Planning Board Member – term expires 12/31/08
Ms. Sally Garson, Environmental Commission Member – term expires 12/31/10
Mr. Warren Marchioni, Resident Member – term expires 12/31/10

Annual Appointments.

Mayor’s Advisory Council on Senior Citizens - Appointment by Mayor.

Ms. Carolyn Baille
Ms. Mary Ferrara
Ms. Patricia Beusse
Mr. Manny Ferrara
Ms. Gloria Corrado
Mr. Henderson Cole
Councilman James Gates, Council Representative

Board of Education - Appointment by Mayor.

Councilman Jeff Curley, Council Representative
Ms. Eva Ogens

Camp Wyanokie - Appointment by Mayor.

Jeffrey Weinman
Councilman Peter Mescia, Council Representative

The Bridge - Appointment by Mayor.

Sister Lena Picillo, O.P.
Mayor Susan Gartland, Council Representative

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Community Development - Appointment by Mayor.

Councilman Jeff Curley
Ms. Maureen Ruane, Administrator

Official Borough Photographer - Appointment by Mayor.

Mr. Louis J. Ginefra

Borough Arborist - Appointment by Mayor.

Ms. Doris Halprin

New Jersey Council Motion Picture Development - Appointment by Mayor

Ms. Lisa O'Neill

Liaison to the Grover Cleveland Birthplace - Appointment by Mayor.

Dr. David Cowell

Senior Citizen Transportation Committee – Mayor, Consent of the Council.

Mr. Manny Ferrara
Mr. Demetrios Arvanites
Mr. Peter Pirrello
Councilman James Gates, Council Representative

Tree Removal Committee - Mayor, Consent of the Council.

Ms. Doris Halprin (Arborist)
Mr. Edward Broheimer (Tree Expert)
Councilman Jeff Curley
Councilman Ann Dassing
Mr. Donald Neil Aharrah (Environmental Commission)
Ms. Maureen Ruane, Borough Administrator

Fire Department Elected Officials – Council Confirmation.

[Elected by the Members of the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department]

Anthony Greci, Fire Chief
Brian Rupakus, 1st Assistant Chief
Gary Garamella, 2nd Assistant Chief
Thomas Haight, Captain
Brian Hebrank, Lieutenant
Gerard Greci, Lieutenant
Andrew Pollara, Lieutenant

Annual Professional Appointments – Mayor, Consent of the Council.

Resolutions #1-9 through #1-18 related to the annual professional appointments are moved together by Councilman Slaterry, seconded by Councilman Mescia. No discussion. On roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution #1-9 through #1-18 adopted 01/01/08.

1-09	Counsel for Litigation and Special Projects	- Stickel, Koenig, & Sullivan
1-10	Municipal Attorney	- Stuart R. Koenig, Esq.
1-11	Borough Prosecutor	- Stephen Cannavale, Esq.
1-12	Borough Engineer	- Anthony Marucci, P.E.
1-13	Public Defender	- Alexander Lee, Esq.
1-14	Borough Bond Counsel	- Carella, Byrne, Bain, Gilfillan, Cecchi and Stewart Esqs, Arthur Vanderbilt, Esq.
1-15	Municipal Auditor	- John L. Ezyske, C.P.A., R.M.A
1-16	Licensed Sewer Operator	- Edward Sandve, P.E.

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1-17 Licensed Water Operator - William Frint
1-18 Municipal Zoning Officer - Michael Rubin, Esq.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions #1-19 through #1-25 related to new business are moved together by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Slattery. No discussion. On roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution #1-9 through #1-18 adopted 01/01/08.

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- 1-19 - Designation of Official Depositories
- 1-20 - Designation of Official 2008 Holidays
- 1-21 - Temporary 2008 Municipal Budget
- 1-22 - Schedule of Meetings/Order of Business Observed
- 1-23 - Establish Interest for Non-payment of Taxes or Assessments
- 1-24 - Designation of Official Newspapers
- 1-25 - Establish Times, Dates and Conduct Meetings

Mayor Gartland opened the meeting to the public at 12:34 PM, upon hearing no one from the public the meeting was closed to the public at 12:34 PM.

Benediction by Monsignor Michael Kelly

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Curley, unanimously affirmed by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 P.M.

Prepared by:

Beth Bush Telepan, Deputy Clerk

Date