

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL  
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING  
MINUTES – April 12, 2011**

The council Business meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order in the Council Chambers at 7:07PM

**PRESENT:** Mayor Dassing, Councilman Norton, Hauser, Piazza, Coyle and O'Donnell

**ALSO PRESENT:** Borough Administrator, Paul Carelli, Acting Borough Clerk, Lisa O'Neil and Borough Attorney, Greg Mascera, Esq.

**ABSENT:** Council President Murray

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference meeting was given on January 1, 2011. Notice was posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of the Borough Hall, One Provost Square, Caldwell, New Jersey on January 1, 2011. Four official newspapers of the Borough were notified of this meeting by mail on January 1, 2011. Notice was posted and all persons requesting notice were sent same.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

March 22, 2011

Moved by Councilman O'Donnell, seconded by Councilman Norton. No Discussion. On roll call, all present voted in the affirmative. Minutes approved 04/12/11.

**RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA**

**4-101** AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF A SPECIAL LIQUOR PERMIT. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CLERK'S OFFICE – Caldwell Downtown Alliance

**4-102** AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT THE ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010.

**CONSENT**

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Piazza. No Discussion. On roll call, all present voted in the affirmative. Resolutions approved 04/12/11.

**4-103** AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH APRIL 12, 2011 FOR 2010 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$40,254.52

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Piazza. No Discussion. On roll call, Councilman Norton, Hauser, Piazza voted in the affirmative. Councilman Coyle and O'Donnell abstained.

**4-104** AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH APRIL 12, 2011 FOR 2011 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$3,140,584.03

**4-105** AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR LANE AVENUE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT TO MATINA & SON, INC., 146 ENGLISH STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ 07601 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$285,000.00

**4-106** RESOLUTION AMENDING DATES AND TIMES FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL QUARTERLY SEWER BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2011

**4-107** AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH CLERK TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR THE FOREST AVENUE ROAD IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

**4-108** AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH CLERK TO PREPARE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN QUOTES FOR AN ELECTRONIC TICKETING AND SOFTWARE SYSTEM TO AUTOMATE THE ISSUANCE OF TICKETS FOR THE CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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**CONSENT**

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Piazza. No Discussion. On roll call, all present voted in the affirmative. Resolutions approved 04/12/11.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Light Duty Ordinance

**Councilman O'Donnell** responded that he would like the Council to review the ordinance again and discuss it in executive session.

**Councilman Norton** reported on Community Relations there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Luau on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-9PM at St. Aloysius gymnasium with access to Grover Cleveland Birthplace. We are planning to have a lit walkway for those who would like to tour the Grover Cleveland Birthplace. The event will include entertainment, a roasted pig and the attire is Hawaiian shirts. Proceeds will benefit the Birthplace. We will be selling tickets in advance for \$25 if purchased at the door they are \$30, and seniors and children under 14 the price is \$15. The Community Center has had some changes in process and communications with procedures to members. There were issues brought up by some members and customers of the Community Center and we addressed those promptly with the director. The issues were related to cleanliness and general staffing issues. Within in the next month the staff will be outfitted with Golf shirts with there names and Staff on the back of the shirt. There is a new information board that updates classes and or programs that are available. There will be a monthly email blast from the director's desk with information also.

**Councilman O'Donnell** reported that the Finance committee has had the Triple Crown, we have the PBA contract, we have the DPW contract and we have the garbage contracts which all are up and not negotiated. There is an 18% increase in health care costs and we have the perfect storm. The good news is we are below the cap. Today is April 12<sup>th</sup> and the 2010 budget was not introduced until May 25<sup>th</sup> last year and it was then adopted on August 25<sup>th</sup> so we are ahead of last year. The 2010 Budget was short \$82,000 on the Revenue side. We will continue to do our diligence so we are able to introduce a legitimate and rational budget.

**Councilman Piazza** reported that the Local Board of Assistance is running smooth. There are a couple of organizations that have been helping out such as the food pantry in our Town. Unfortunately I have misplaced the names and organizations involved that I wanted to mention. I will give them the proper do that they deserve at the next meeting. As far as the Senior Transportation Committee they have asked that we push forward the rate increase to pay the part time drivers. I know it needs to be a part of the Salary ordinance but that increase does not affect our budget at all. As far as the Technology side we have some good news that the T1 line that was connected between Caldwell and West Caldwell has officially been replaced. The T1 disconnection has been processed, all connections between our Police Department and West Caldwell Police Department is up and running under the new High Speed internet connections that are in place. The good news is the camera systems which have not been working for a while is now fully functional. Lastly, I would like to thank the Project Main Street; they had a meet-n-greet. We were all invited to get to know the governing body.

**Councilman Hauser** reported on the Library Committee that it was suggested to the Library Board to pursue a number of different things to hold costs down including shared services with some other towns and to look at other opportunities to increase revenues with money from other towns. As far as the Recreation Committee the agreement is in place and we had our first joint advisory meeting last week. We discussed a number of issues that came up related to the Kiwanis Oval, things from the Blue Devils issues that

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were addressed at the West Caldwell Council meeting, we included procedural things that users of the facility are required to abide by. The Senior Center is having a 5K walk sponsored by the senior center. It will be done here in the facility. Maria Burak is involved in discussing a lot of new programs to get more seniors involved and to get the numbers up for the county sponsored lunch program. The St. Patrick's Lunch was a great turn out. As far as the Personnel Committee the focus has been on Health Insurance.

**Councilman Coyle** reported that he received a memo from Glen Beckmeyer on a number of things that he has been tracking. First the Parking deck, he has received some prevailing wage sheets and he has a couple of items needed to be completed to finish that project. They discovered an issue with the existing lighting and are looking into additional work needed to be done to re-wire some of the lights. Small Avenue's project has started and they are installing curbs, aprons and sidewalks. Signed contracts have been received for the Oak Grove Road project that should start with Milling and Paving on or before April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Forest Avenue design is nearly complete and we will be advertising for bids. Glen is looking at possibly some reconfiguration options to help with the traffic in and out of the Community Center.

**Mayor Dassing** thanked the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Lincoln School. There were 40 kids and they came to the Council Chambers by walking. They made a book for her and it's all about Downtown Caldwell. They drew pictures of things that they saw all down the Avenue in their eyes. I have some very interesting letters with suggestions on how we can make Caldwell a better place. A lot of these had to do with speeding they are very concerned about the speeding in our Town. They talked about Cleanliness, cleaning up and don't litter. They also took a tour of the Police Station and the highlight of their morning was seeing the jail.

Councilman Norton responded that maybe we can do the poster contest for speeding again and maybe we can ask the Public Safety Committee to start that up again.

Mayor Dassing spoke about Art on the Avenue sponsored by the Caldwell Merchants Association on May 14<sup>th</sup> rain date May 15<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with that they have added a children's exhibit area. All children are invited to submit a piece of art K-12. Each school will submit two pieces of art work from the public and private schools and we have extended to other towns too. We are going to hang them on the Avenue and they are going to be judged by professional judges. The theme this year is Downtown Caldwell.

**REPORT OF ATTORNEY:**

**Greg Mascara** responded that it is tax season. He will be in front of the tax board on Thursday morning and there are forty-six pending tax board cases. Approximately ten filed directly with the tax court. As far as the water contract with Essex Fells from a procedural stand point the Council may have recalled there were some glitches in the form of the contract as provided. Those glitches were temporarily resolved, however there are some issues and we are technically without a water contract at this point as well as the other municipalities that buy their water from Essex Fells. Essex Fells is trying to resolve some issues with the State and until that time we can not have a formal contract in place. The contract that we were provided with had some issues that Mr. Frint has pointed out more from a technical stand point.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

League of Municipalities Mayors Advisory – Strengthening Municipal Immunity to Tort Claims

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**Councilman Hauser** responded that the email the council received on March 29<sup>th</sup> was something that he thought that we should get behind. Mayor Dassing responded that we should look it over this week and if it is a positive response then we will put a Resolution on the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING:**

**Tom Kelly**, 48 Roseland Avenue, he is very concerned about the balls that are hitting the cars at every game that is played. He feels that everyone is being assaulted and they can't go and empty their garbage without ducking. He would like the games to stop until something is done.

**Lee & Susan Elsen**, 48 Roseland Avenue, concerned about all the hard balls and he feels netting is not the answer putting a cage would work better.

**Nick DeAndria**, 48 Roseland Avenue, he is also concerned about the baseballs. He had one hit his kitchen window. He also had a question about noise. He wanted to know if the field can start later than 6:30am in the morning Monday-Friday and the weekend should be 9:00am.

**Jane Naber**, 48 Roseland Avenue, she is upset with the loud speaker and how crazy the music is and how loud it is.

**Kathleen O'Toole**, Verona, she is representing 54 Community Center members who signed a petition. She thanked the Mayor for giving her the time and to Councilman O'Donnell for taking the time to tour the Community Center with her on Sunday. It is cleaner and more organized. She would like to identify some of the instructors that are world class particularly Michele, Germane, Lynne and Bonnie. She would like to encourage Council to keep on keeping on.

**Grace Cunningham**, 105 Linden Avenue, Verona, she has been a member for nine years with the Community Center. She is concerned with the camp and how noisy it is during her classes. She would like to have two months free while the camp is going on. Sharing the gym with all these kids is so unbearable and we can't even hear the instructors.

**Elene Cobasiero**, 15 Hillcrest Avenue, I have been a charter member. I have a similar complaint with the noise. She did get upset one time and I went to the front desk and I was told that these are the gym rules and if I don't quiet down they would call the police on me. Before I renew my membership I would like to know that I can go to a gym and have a relaxing class. Councilman O'Donnell responded with some comments in reference to the Community Center which he had heard about. Various Discussions Ensued.

**Tony Grenci**, Chief Fire Department, I have noticed that the lights are left on even when there is no games going on. He would also like to know about the clothing bins and what the status of the ordinance is and what is the status of the Fire Department putting those clothing bins out? Greg Mascera responded that the state law provides that the yearly fee is \$100.00. The proposal that Mr. Grenci brought forth was not one that the Council could consider because it violated the statutes. I believe Mr. Milani was going to investigate the locations of the other bins. Mayor Dassing responded that can we send this back out to everyone and have everyone read over it and come to a decision at the next meeting.

