

BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, N.J.
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – MAY 13, 2008

The Council Business/Conference meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order in the Council Chambers by Mayor Susan Gartland at 7:06 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilman Mescia, Dassing, Curley, Edge, and Gates

ALSO PRESENT: Maureen Ruane, Borough Administrator, Stuart Koenig, Esq., Borough Attorney

ABSENT: Councilman Slattery, Beth Bush Telepan, Deputy Clerk

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference meeting was given on December 27, 2007. Notice was posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of the Borough Hall, One Provost Square, Caldwell, New Jersey on December 27, 2007. Four official newspapers of the Borough were notified of this meeting by mail on December 27, 2007. Notice was posted and all persons requesting notice were sent same.

Presentations were made by The Environmental Commission. Anne Marchioni, President of the Environmental Commission, presented awards to the winners of the "Transform Our Trash" contest:

Grade K-2

1st Place – Caroline Kamper, 2nd Grade Jefferson School

2nd Place – Aidan Torok, Kindergarten Lincoln School

Grade 3-5

1st Place – Skylar Thiemann, 3rd Grade Washington School

2nd Place – Sami Mastropietro, 4th Grade Washington School

2nd Place – Louis Lombardi, Jefferson School

Grade 6-8

1st Place – Lauren Bomberg, 8th Grade

A Proclamation was presented to each of employee of the Department of Public Works in recognition of Department of Public Works Week.

Swearing in of Sergeant Marc Driggs as a Lieutenant of the Caldwell Police Department
Swearing in of Sergeant James Bongiorno as a Lieutenant of the Caldwell Police Department

Chief Dombrowski said this was a first in a couple of steps to staff the police department properly, these officers went through some rigorous interviews and they were selected to do the job and they will move forward to a new part of their career. Chief Dombrowski applauded the Mayor and Council for their quick action in appointing the new Lieutenants. Councilman Mescia congratulated Lieutenant Driggs and Lieutenant Bongiorno and wish them the best of luck. Councilman Dassing congratulated the two new Lieutenants and said the council enjoyed learning about their experiences here so far and were impressed with what they had to say and said she knows they will both do a great job for us. Councilman Curley congratulated both the Lieutenants on behalf of the Public Safety Committee along with his fellow colleagues are working hard to bring some changes into the police department. Councilman Edge said he is really pleased for all the people in the town and all the businesses and for the Police Department. Councilman Edge said he was very happy to be serving on the Police Committee this year. There have been a remarkable number of changes made to the Police Department. Councilman Gates said Caldwell is a great town and he has been here for a number of years, the police department does such a great job and Councilman Gates thanked them and offered the two new Lieutenants good luck. Mayor Gartland thanked the Chief for the interview process. We are grateful for all of the police officers and said that we have one of the finest if not the finest of the police departments in this area if not in New Jersey and thanked the police officers for all their dedication. Mayor Gartland congratulated the two new Lieutenants.

Presentation by Dan Trivino as a representative of the Rotary/Kiwanis Caldwell Street Fair to request permission to put banners up on Bloomfield Avenue to advertise the Street Fair. The Mayor and Council agreed to let the Rotary/Kiwanis put the banners on Bloomfield Avenue. John Hamilton of 34 Laurel Place, West Caldwell said that it has been 16 years since the Rotary/Kiwanis have been in cooperation with the Borough of Caldwell and they want to publicly thank the Borough of Caldwell for their support they have given over the 16 years. It has been a major love affair as far as the Rotary/Kiwanis are concerned.

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Administrator Maureen Ruane said that at the next Council Meeting she will have on the agenda a resolution authorizing the signalization of Roseland and Westville Avenue. Anthony Marucci, Borough Engineer said as the resolution states this is a kickoff that the County will understand that they have the Borough's concurrence to do the signalization. The plan is to signalize the intersection for both pedestrian and vehicle safety. Councilman Mescia asked what the timeline would be once we passed this resolution. Councilman Curley said that this is the kickoff in May it would take a couple of months for design and that they would be looking at early fall to begin. Mayor Gartland said that this resolution begins the process. Anthony Marucci said that he highly recommends this project. Councilman Dassing questioned if we will notify the schools and the businesses in the surrounding area. Anthony Marucci said once the plans are implemented he will inform the Administrator to notify the proper people. Mayor Gartland said that she was very glad to see this first step. It is an intersection that is much in need of some changes. Councilman Edge said this is very good news for public safety and is very pleased that the County is agreeing to this project. This will provide better safety for people exiting the parking garage in and out of the Community Center. Councilman Edge also questioned if this will be linked in with the Fire Department's needs. Anthony Marucci said that he will make sure that it will.

Presentation by Pam Donovan of Creating Choices for Children regarding Premier Cycling Promotions Tour of Caldwell. Pam Donovan said that this race is being sponsored by Creating Choices for Children. They will be funding the event and the reason they chose this event was that they wanted to give something back to the community and when she heard that the Merchants Association was coming back into play that was how this project got started. Pam Donovan said the estimated budget for this event is about \$12,000. Pam Donovan asked for approval for this race for Saturday, September 6, 2009. The council approved the race for next year.

Mayor Gartland reported that June Cowell had contacted her and Maureen Ruane to request permission for the Merchant's Association to put planters around the trees on Bloomfield Avenue. There were discussions regarding insurance liability. Mayor Gartland said that if the Public Works Department is able to work with the installation and make sure that it is installed sufficiently and that the Borough participates of the installation, then the Borough could take responsibility and liability for the project.

Maureen Ruane asked for permission from the Mayor and Council for the Kiwanis to use the Caldwell Community Center Gymnasium on October 30, 2008 for a luncheon featuring New Jersey Chief Justice Stuart Rabner as a guest speaker. The Mayor and Council said they were in support of it and they would allow the Kiwanis to use the Community Center on that specified date.

Receiving of Bids: None

Introduction of Ordinances: None

Public Hearings: 2008 Municipal Budget Public Hearing

Councilman Mescia reported on key issues of the Budget. Mayor Gartland opened the hearing to the public for anyone to comment on the Budget. Seeing no one from the public wishing to be heard the Mayor closed the open public portion. The 2008 Municipal Budget was tabled until the Borough receives word regarding extraordinary aid.

Approval of Minutes: April 22, 2008

Approved by all members present upon a motion by Councilman Mescia,
seconded by Councilman Curley

Resolutions:

5-103 Authorizing the Borough Attorney to defend the 2008 Tax Appeals filed against the Borough

Moved by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Curley. No Discussion. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

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5-104 Authorizing the issuance of a permit for canvasser/solicitor to Mark Tirondola Painting Contracting, Inc., 149 Washington Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Moved by Councilman Gates, seconded by Councilman Curley. No Discussion. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-105 Authorizing the issuing of a license for a street fair to the Rotary Kiwanis Street Fair Committee, P.O. Box 186, Caldwell, New Jersey, Sunday, October 5, 2008 – 11:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Moved by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Edge. No Discussion. On roll call vote Councilman Mescia, Curley, Edge and Gates voted in the affirmative, Councilman Dassing abstained. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-106 Authorizing the issuing of a license for raffle to Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West Essex, Off-Premise – 50/50 Raffle, October 5, 2008 – 11:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Moved by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Curley. No Discussion. On roll call vote Councilman Mescia, Curley, Edge and Gates voted in the affirmative, Councilman Dassing abstained. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-107 **PULLED**

5-108 Resolution opposing S-770 and A-1645 mandating the appointment of a qualified purchasing agent and the attendant reorganization of the Borough of Caldwell purchasing functions

Moved by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Curley. Discussion Ensued. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-109 Resolution expressing opposition of S-1445 Mandating a County-Wide binding referendum on the transfer of a predetermined package of municipal responsibilities

Moved by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Gates. Discussion Ensued. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-110 Authorizing payment of bills and the issuance of checks for the period through May 13, 2008 in the total amount of \$1,704,870.03

Moved by Councilman Gates, seconded by Councilman Mescia. No Discussion. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-111 Authorizing the establishment of the 2008/2009 fees for the Caldwell Community Center

Moved by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Edge. Discussion Ensued. On roll call vote Councilman Mescia, Curley, Edge and Gates voted in the affirmative, Councilman Dassing voted in the negative Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-112 Authorizing the 2008 equivalent connections and the application of the sewer user Agreements between the Borough of Caldwell and the sewer

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user municipalities of West Caldwell, North Caldwell, Essex Fells, and Roseland

Moved by Councilman Gates, seconded by Councilman Curley. Discussion Ensued. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-113 Authorizing the appointment of Sergeant Marc Driggs as Lieutenant of the Caldwell Police Department effective May 13, 2008

Moved by Councilman Mescia, seconded by Councilman Gates. No Discussion. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

5-114 Authorizing the appointment of Sergeant James Bongiorno as Lieutenant of the Caldwell Police Department Effective may 13, 2008

Moved by Councilman Gates, seconded by Councilman Mescia. No Discussion. On roll call vote all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 5/13/08

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS

Councilman Mescia – Reported on the Caldwell Downtown Alliance. Councilman Mescia also reported on the Rotary project. Councilman Mescia reported that June 21, 2008 is 5th Annual Camp Wyanokee Day. Councilman reported that the Open Space Committee met the first Thursday of May and Morris Land Conservancy will attend the council meeting on June 27, 2008. Councilman Mescia also reported on the response to Mr. Mooney's letter in The Progress from the Open Space Committee. Councilman Mescia clarified what the Green Acres Grant money could be used for.

Councilman Dassing – Apologized for being a few minutes late this evening. Councilman Dassing reported on a phone call she received from a resident tonight regarding working after hours at the Temple construction site. Councilman Dassing reported that she attended the Main Street New Jersey Downtown Training along with June Cowell and Ellen Barrett. Councilman Dassing reported on the Welcoming Library Spaces for the Autism Community and their families who will sponsor the Duke Ellington Legacy Band at the Children's Institute on Thursday May 16, 2008 which will be for the students of the school. New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Helen Hoens, her adult son Charles was diagnosed with autism at the age of three and she will speak at the Community Center on Friday, June 13, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Councilman Dassing also asked if the Borough had any policy at all for the Council with regard to media relations.

Councilman Curley – Reported that the Police and Fire Committee have been meeting every Wednesday and will now be meeting every Thursday and they are going to begin the screening process for the new patrolmen. The process will probably take about three weeks and then they will present to the Council the final candidates for their interview. The Environmental Commission on September 20, 2008 has earmarked a day for Green Day. The Traffic committee will meet this Thursday; we have one quote in and two more to follow this week for line striping on various streets. New Knock Down Signs have arrived and Mario Bifalco is coordinating with the Chief to place them around town. Councilman Curley reported on a resident complaint about the Mountain Avenue Bus Stop. The Bus Stop is actually in Essex Fells and NJ Transit has temporarily suspended that bus stop during construction. When the construction is done they will move the bus stop back close to that location. Chief Dombrowski has sent out a memo notifying the traffic committee about a technician going through the walkways on Bloomfield Ave to repair the lights.

Councilman Edge – Reported on the Board of Health meeting he attended tonight. Councilman Edge reported that there was a motion made to change the dog license fee from \$8.20 to \$22.00. The fees would be effective in 2009 and contingent upon an ordinance change. Councilman Edge also reported on shared services. Councilman Edge also reported on recycling.

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Councilman Gates – No Report.

Mayor Gartland – No Report.

OPEN MEETING: The Mayor declared the meeting open to the public at 9:22 PM. Diana Stein of 1 Fells Manor Road was acknowledged by Mayor Gartland. Mayor Gartland reported that she had a conversation with Ms. Stein today regarding Ryerson Avenue. Mayor Gartland appointed Councilman Edge and Councilman Dassing and Councilman Gates to participate on a committee regarding Ryerson Avenue. Mayor Gartland also said a representative from Caldwell College will be on the committee along with Chief Dombrowski. Mayor Gartland requested a report be back to the Council by July. Councilman Edge asked Diana Stein if she has ever received a letter back from the College. Ms. Stein said that over the past 3 years she has received two letters from the College. Ms. Stein feels the major problem is that the students in the Mother Joseph Dorm can't exit or enter their parking lot unless they come up Ryerson Avenue. Ms. Stein would like the college to construct an access driveway for the students to get into the parking lot without coming onto Ryerson Avenue that would be excellent. Seeing no one else from the public wishing to be heard the Mayor closed the open public portion of the meeting at 9:39 PM.

On a motion made by Councilman Mescia, and seconded by Councilman Curley, unanimously affirmed, the Council moved into Executive Session in order to discuss building acquisition and potential litigation. Said motion was unanimously approved and the Council went into Executive Session at 9:39 P.M.

The Executive Session was adjourned and upon motion by Councilman Curley, seconded by Councilman Mescia the Council Business Meeting was opened to the public and the press at 10:13 P.M. All those previously in attendance were present.

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Curley, seconded by Councilman Mescia, unanimously affirmed by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 PM.

Prepared by:

Beth Bush Telepan, Deputy Clerk

Date