

**COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – May 24, 2011**

The council Business meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order in the Council Chambers at 7:02 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Dassing, Councilman, Murray, Hauser, and Piazza

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

ABSENT: Councilman Coyle, Councilman O'Donnell
Councilman Norton absent on Roll call

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:

May 10, 2011

☛ Moved by Councilman Piazza, seconded by Councilman Coyle. No Discussion. On roll call, Councilman Murray, Hauser, Piazza, Coyle and O'Donnell voted in the affirmative. Councilman Norton absent. Minutes approved 05/24/11.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE #1234-11 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER A270-1 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, BEING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES CHARGED BY THE BOROUGH, SO AS TO MODIFY THE AMOUNT OF FEES CHARGED FOR CERTAIN BOROUGH SERVICES.

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Murray. Discussions Ensued. On roll call, all presented voted in the affirmative. Introduction of Ordinance was approved on 05/24/11.

ORDINANCE #1235-11 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 41 OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL GENERAL ORDINANCES TO ADD SECTION 41-41 ENTITLED "OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OF OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICERS"

Moved by Councilman Murray, seconded by Councilman Hauser. No Discussion. On roll call, all presented voted in the affirmative. Introduction of Ordinance was approved on 05/24/11.

ORDINANCE #1236-11 - AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011

Moved by Councilman Murray, seconded by Councilman Coyle. Discussions Ensued. On roll call, all presented voted in the affirmative. Introduction of Ordinance was approved on 05/24/11.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

Dave Cowell, 29 Brookside Avenue – he is in favor of this ordinance but wanted the Council to take a look at the wording of 130-9 D, E & H

ORDINANCE #1233-11 - AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 130 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, BEING A SECTION CREATING THE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF THE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Moved by Councilman Piazza, seconded by Councilman Coyle. Discussions Ensued.

On roll call, all presented voted in the affirmative. Adoption of Ordinance was approved on 05/24/11.

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OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS:

Councilman Murray responded that it was great to see another new member **Kaitlyn Banchi** on the Fire Department.

June Cowell, 29 Brookside Avenue, Chair for the Local Assistance Board, she is strongly opposed to resolution 5-143. This is the first that she was hearing about it.

Kevin Hersh, 22 Leavcraft Lane, asked that a correction be made to resolution 5-144 change playground to playground.

Councilman Hauser responded that at the last Council meeting Councilman Norton eluded to a playground and some money and that there would be some discussion as to this before a Resolution.

5-137: AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF KAITLYN BANCHI JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER IN THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

5-138: AUTHORIZING THE LIEN REDEMPTION OF CERTIFICATE 10-00007 PAYABLE TO U.S. BANK CUST-PRO CAPITAL, LLC.

5-139: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF A SPECIAL LIQUOR PERMIT. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CLERK'S OFFICE – Rotary-Kiwanis Street Fair

CONSENT

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Hauser. No Discussion. On roll call, all present voted in the affirmative. Resolutions approved 05/24/11.

5-140: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH MAY 24, 2011 FOR 2010 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,338.92

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Hauser. No Discussion. On roll call, Councilman Murray, Hauser, and Piazza voted in the affirmative. Councilman Coyle and O'Donnell abstained. Resolutions approved 05/24/11.

5-141: AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH MAY 24, 2011 FOR 2011 BILLS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,913,226.07

5-142: RESOLUTION CANCELLING UNEXPENDED WATER UTILITY BUDGET BALANCES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010

5-143: RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER CERTAIN DUTIES OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES RELATING TO WELFARE AND GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF CITIZEN SERVICES

5-144: RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A PLAYGROUND ON THE BOROUGH PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CALDWELL COMMUNITY CENTER

CONSENT

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Hauser. No Discussion. On roll call, all present voted in the affirmative. Resolutions approved 05/24/11.

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Introduction of the 2011 Municipal Budget – Borough of Caldwell
Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Hauser.

Mayor Dassing read the Budget Summary:

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
2011 BUDGET**

(as excerpted from Sheet 2 and Sheet 3 of the Budget document)

INTRODUCTION of The Municipal Budget of the Borough of Caldwell,
County of Essex, for the Fiscal Year 2011.

Be it resolved, that the following statements of revenue and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2011;

General Appropriations:

Total Appropriations within CAPS for municipal purposes	\$7,290,761. 22
Total Appropriations excluded from CAPS for municipal purposes	4,094,257. 02
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>47,000. 00</u>

Total General Appropriations
24 \$11,432,018.

Less: Anticipated Revenues Other Than Current Property Taxes -\$ 4,109,228. 63

Difference: Amount to be Raised by Taxes:

Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 6,952,024. 90
Minimum Library Tax	370,764.71

Be it further resolved, that said Budget be published in the Progress in the issue of June 2, 2011.

The Governing Body of the Borough of Caldwell does hereby approve the Budget for the year 2011.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held in the Municipal Building on July 12, 2011 at 7:00 o'clock PM, at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2011 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman O'Donnell read a statement in reference to an article in the Progress about the snow plowing on the Avenue.
Caldwell did not hire anyone to plow Bloomfield Ave.

Caldwell hired 4 contractors to remove 3 foot high mounds of snow that blocked both sides of Bloomfield Ave.

Yes, Bloomfield Ave is a county road, the county as well as every other entity was doing their best to deal with the situation, we were hit with a blizzard on top of multiple other large snow storms.

These mounds created a dangerous situation for both pedestrians and drivers.

The Police department had rightfully imposed a parking ban on both sides of the Avenue. Every Merchant on Bloomfield Ave was in essence put out of business.

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On Sunday morning the Mayor had advised that she had a plan to remove the snow and asked my opinion as I believe she had of other council members.

I have the plan 100% support and congratulated the Mayor for her efforts.

The following Monday morning I was on the Avenue at 7:00 AM and the crews were attacking the snow.

The Caldwell PD was out running defense for the workers.

Chief Dombrowski was out directing traffic.

Mario Bifalco the head of Caldwell DPW was on the Ave managing the process.

All facets came together that day, the Cops, the DPW, the Private Sector and the Mayor and Council.

This was an effort to be applauded.

It is true that one of the four contractors who cleared the Avenue was related to the Mayor, at times like this you do not pull a contractor from page 36 in the yellow pages. You reach out to those you trust and can depend on.

In Closing

- 1) It was 100% the correct action at the time.
- 2) We will take the same measures if necessary next winter.
- 3) We chose those who we knew would get the job done effectively and efficiently.
- 4) If necessary we will chose the same group next year.
- 5) The questioning of the Towns response to snow removal in my opinion is partisan and petty and represents the immature and amateur efforts of those who previously sat on this council.

The average reader of this letter to the editor is left with the impression that something inappropriate occurred. **Nothing could be further from the truth and I am personally offended by the suggestion.**

In my opinion this was a thinly veiled political hack job.

This story is over and I will put it where it belongs.....in the garbage.

Greg Seaman, Sewer Director gave an update on the Sewer plant. The completion date is established and will be on August 31st initial contracted work. The Contractor has successfully completed the May 10th deadline they finished on May 9th. The second phase is the Electrical upgrade with a deadline of July 12th. The Electrical permits are at West Caldwell and we will keep on top of that and make sure it is expedited so the contractor can complete the work. The 3rd phase that was not anticipated is the replacement of pumps we may have an answer as soon as Friday.

Councilman Hauser reported that the plans for the 5K Senior walk were moved indoors because of the weather. There were sixty-two participants in addition fifteen of those who signed up did not show up. There was music and food for everyone. On Thursday, May 26th there will be a Memorial Day BBQ honoring the Grand Marshalls. Lunch will be \$3.50 per person anyone is invited. As far as the Recreation Committee representatives from West Caldwell, Councilman Aiello, myself and Gabe DiMasi will be meeting with Ron Skopak from the Board of Education in regards to field usage on June 3rd. On May 30th there is a Memorial Day Parade. On Sunday there was a Home Run Derby that is held at Francisco Park for the 5th and 6th grade recreation teams. This year the Home Run Derby was renamed in honor of Colonel John McHugh. Brian Roser won the Home Run Derby this year and it is sponsored by Vera Amici which is a local charity. There is a \$100.00 per home run and \$500.00 is donated to special needs.

Councilman Murray reported that the Police Committee had a meeting with the Chief and Joe Accardi, Parking Enforcement, which discussed parking meters. The E-ticket is on track, Chief Dombrowski is setting up a train to trainer.

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REPORT OF MAYOR:

The Mayor stated that in anticipation to Memorial Day she wanted to say thank you to all our Veterans and their families for their service to our Country especially to the McHugh Family. Congratulations also to the Caldwell Merchants Association and their committee of volunteers on a very successful Art on the Avenue which drew hundreds to our downtown. The feed back was very positive from artist and attendees alike. Our resident photographer was one of the exhibitors, Janet Markman, for her birds. Councilman Piazza, Norton, Council President Murray and I attended the Project Main Street fund raiser this past Sunday which raised funds for more beautification projects on Bloomfield Avenue. Thank you to Project Main Street for their efforts and support to beautify our downtown. Thank you to all who attended our Sign Ordinance meeting it was very productive.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR:

Paul Carelli reported that the one half of the parking deck will be sealed tomorrow. On the driveway in and the driveway out is discolored so the contractor will be sealing that. Weather permitting we hope that this will be done in a week or so. Also, our water operator, Mr. Frint and I had a meeting today we discussed a couple of items number one is going back and doing an audit on our water consumption. We spoke about the Lane Avenue construction that will be starting next month. When we had the pre-construction meeting I did request a plan from the Contractor a daily plan, a weekly plan so we can organize the traffic detail with the Police. The plan will be closing the roadway down and trying to minimize the number of officers we are going to use and supplement that with flag men.

NEW BUSINESS:

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING:

June Cowell, 29 Brookside Avenue, I would like to reiterate that I was extremely dismayed to learn about this resolution to move the Welfare services to the County. This was considered under our previous administration and I was part of the negotiations and the reason we kept it in Caldwell was for our most in need in our Community. The County is overwhelmed they have no transportation to get there and in most cases they are mentally disabled or emotionally handicapped. Most of the funding is reimbursed and not part of the Budget. Mayor Dassing responded that the County has a mobile unit that would come out to us as well as Essex Fells and or West Caldwell if needed. They also have counselors that go right to the home. Every Monday there is a Welfare counselor at 900 Bloomfield Avenue and six full-time workers who can also help with Medicare or Medicaid forms. It was a financial consideration.

Kevin Hersh, 22 Leaycraft Lane responded that Ms. Cowell has a very good point. Does this affect our neighbors and their services or does it improve their services. Mayor Dassing responded that she feels it will improve their services if they choose to, the Welfare counselor will come right to their home. Mr. Hersh asked about food. Mayor Dassing responded that they are already receiving food stamps so they are already in the system with the County.

John Kelly, 23 Hillside Avenue, stated that he was confused on the introduction of the Budget. Mr. O'Donnell's comments regarding some pending matters pertaining to the Budget is it a preliminary introduction of the Budget pending those matters or is it a final budget? Mayor Dassing responded that the introduction is the first part of this we whittle away some of the other things that we have been talking about in terms of cuts and revenue. We passed a fee ordinance tonight which raised all the fees so that's going to increase your anticipated revenue line which has to be calculated still. So the final step is the actual adoption of the budget which will be on the 22nd.

