

BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, N.J.
COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – October 6, 2009

The Council Business meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order in the Council Chambers at 7:03 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Gartland, Councilman Lawshe, Slattery, Curley, Norton and Brennan

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

ABSENT : Councilman Dassing

Adequate notice of this Council Conference meeting was given on January 15, 2009. Notice was posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of the Borough Hall, One Provost Square, Caldwell, New Jersey on January 15, 2009. Four official newspapers of the Borough were notified of this meeting by mail on January 15, 2009. Notice was posted and all persons requesting notice were sent same.

RESOLUTION:

10-170 Authorizing the appointment of Officer Anthony Marta as Sergeant of the Caldwell Police Department effective September 1, 2009 with an annual base salary of \$97,580.00

Moved by Councilman Slattery, seconded by Councilman Norton. No Discussion. On roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 10/6/2009.

Swearing in of Sergeant Anthony Marta
Sergeant Anthony Marta thanked Chief Dombrowski and the entire Mayor and Council for his promotion. Sergeant Marta also thanked all the members of the Police Department and his family.

Chief Dombrowski reported that Sergeant Marta has been a police officer for 19 years. In March of 1991, Sergeant Marta received the position of patrolman in 1991. Sergeant Marta has spent the last three years in the detective bureau and has absolutely flourished. The crime rate is down to nothing in the town of Caldwell thanks to Sergeant Marta and the Caldwell Police Department.

The Mayor and Council congratulated Sergeant Marta on his promotion.

PRESENTATION: Meryl Layton of the Caldwell Downtown Alliance gave an update on the Farmer's Market and the Caldwell Downtown Alliance.

Councilman Curley and Councilman Norton presented the Posters to the winners of the Traffic Committee Contest. Dan Gerardi thanked the Mayor and Council for the poster contest and congratulated the winners.

Essex County Engineers gave a presentation on the traffic signalization on Bloomfield and Roseland Avenue.

Anthony Marucci, Borough Engineer gave a presentation regarding the Pine Brook. Mr. Marucci explained that this involves private property and could not recommend to the Council to do anything about it. Mr. Marucci also reported on the Army Corp of Engineers report.

Matt Ward of Central Jersey Video gave a presentation regarding televising Council Meetings.

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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

RECEIVING OF BIDS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 8, 2009
September 22, 2009

Approved by all members present upon a motion made by Councilman Lawshe, seconded by Councilman Brennan, Councilman Slattery abstained on the minutes from September 8, 2009. The minutes were adopted October 6, 2009.

Mayor Gartland reported that she received a letter from Evelyn Jacobs Ortner, Founding Benefactor of the Evelyn Ortner Unity Program and Family Violence, The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. Ms. Ortner commended Chief Dombrowski for the outstanding job that he is doing.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS: Mayor Gartland opened the public comment on resolutions portion at 8:30 P.M. Seeing no one from the public wishing to be heard the Mayor closed the open public comment on resolutions at 8:30 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS:

10-171 Authorizing issuance of two (2) Taxicab Licenses to EZ Car Service Inc., 7 Gould Place, Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

Moved by Councilman Curley, seconded by Councilman Lawshe. Discussion Ensued. On roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 10/6/09.

10-172 Authorizing the issuing of license for raffle to Caldwell Merchants Association, On-Premise 50/50 Raffle, October 17, 2009 – 3:00 P.M.

Moved by Councilman Norton, seconded by Councilman Brennan. No Discussion. On roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 10/6/09

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS:

Councilman Lawshe – Reported that he had the privilege to see our Chief working diligently at the Street Fair. Councilman Lawshe also reported that he had a conversation with Chief Dombrowski regarding the excessive speeding on Bloomfield Avenue. Chief Dombrowski informed me that the police have been giving tickets out. Councilman Lawshe thanked Chief Dombrowski. Councilman Lawshe also reported on the meeting that was held tonight regarding the Kiwanis Oval. The meeting was very productive. I know everyone will be pleased once we get this done.

Councilman Slattery – The Transportation Committee met and the main issue that they are again trying to partner with Metro West, which is part of our Caldwell Live Program, they are trying to organize pick-ups and returns for people who need to go to doctors visits. This will only be for Caldwell residents because it is part of the Grant Program. There will be a charge for this service if they get it up and running. Councilman Slattery reported that there were a lot of repairs made to the Senior Citizen Bus this year. Hopefully the bus will hold on for a little longer. Flu Shots will be given out tomorrow at the Caldwell Community Center from 1:00 to 2:30 P.M., no appointment is necessary, they accept Medicare, no

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HMOs or you can pay \$25.00. There is also a blood pressure screening on October 20, 2009, by appointment only. Please call 973-403-4623 for information. There is also a blood screening on October 20, 2009 and there is a charge for that. Please call 973-403-4623 to make an appointment.

Councilman Curley – Thanked Mario Bifalco and the Chief for a great day on Sunday at the Street Fair.

Councilman Norton – Congratulated the Chief and DPW Department and the entire staff of the volunteers that put together a fantastic day on Sunday. Councilman Norton thanked Councilman Curley, Maureen, and Beth for the Street signs being placed at their locations. We have a preliminary Budget Committee Meeting set for October 15th at 9:00 A.M. Councilman Slattery reported she would not be able to make the meeting.

Councilman Brennan – Reported that the personnel committee is still working on the Employee Handbook. There will be a meeting tomorrow of the committee. It will be a comprehensive document outlining our anti discrimination and anti harassment policies hiring policies, codifying a lot of the stuff we have already.

Mayor Gartland – Gave Kudos to the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs for all of their volunteers and the police department for the Street Fair. The Caldwell Fire Department had a wonderful display on the Avenue. They were looking for young firemen to become part of our Fire Department and eventually become full time fireman. It was a wonderful day, the weather was terrific and the food was outstanding. Mayor Gartland reported that she was helping at the library booth; they were selling calendars and note cards. If anyone is interested in a calendar for 2010, they are beautiful pictures from the Gene Collard collection they can buy them at the library. There are also beautiful post cards that were donated by Gene and Maryann Straub. These are also for sale at the library.

Administrator Report – Maureen Ruane asked Ms. Bush to report on the Caldwell Merchants Association requests for the Fall Festival. They would like permission from the Council to put tables in front of the stores and to have food on The Green. They have already gotten permission from the Health Department for the food. Mayor Gartland questioned the use of the antique fire truck for the festival and she wanted to make sure that our insurance covers that. Ms. Bush reported that the Merchants Association also requested that there be a band on the sidewalk in front of Rock n Joes Café. The Merchants Association also requested to place a banner across Bloomfield Avenue. There was also a request from residents on Bowers and Gladding to have a Halloween Party on their streets. They would like the road to be blocked off. Chief Dombrowski will get in touch with the residents to set the Halloween Event up.

Attorney Stuart Koenig – Reported that there would be an update on Sewer issues and 14 Park possible acquisition in executive session.

OPEN MEETING: Mayor Gartland opened the meeting to the public at 8:48 P.M. Ann Marchioni of the Environment Commission next Wednesday Night we will be having a great event at the Caldwell Public Library regarding the Clean Energy Program. Anyone who is interested in updating their appliances such as your water heater or heating system, not only will you save energy but they have an incredible rebate program running. The Green Fair will be on October 24, 2009 at Caldwell College. If anyone in town has pictures of their home garden, they can be displayed at the Green Fair. Verona Environmental Commission will be coming to talk about their anti idling program at the Green Fair. The admission is free and there will be raffles and giveaways. Bob Christensen, Ravine Avenue, thanked Councilman Norton and Councilman Curley for the traffic signs. Mr. Christensen addressed Councilman Norton and said that he read a lot of letters in the progress about the budget. In talking to a few people, they are still undecided about what was meant by proposals, what was rejected and so forth. Mr. Christensen wanted to know if there would be police department lay offs, public works layoffs. Councilman Norton responded that there were several different scenarios for the budget. When we started the budget process, the biggest thing we were concerned about was getting State Aid. The scenarios were if we got zero state aid, getting

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half the state aid or the full complement of state aid as we did last years. In those three different scenarios, there were a lot of different options and breakdowns. Councilman Norton said he would be more than happy to speak with Mr. Christensen about the different scenarios and give him some specifics. Mr. Christensen said he was still upset of the lack of information in the article in the progress. Councilman Norton responded that unfortunately they limit you to 250 words. We thought that more could have been done earlier in the year and that is why we voted the way we did. Councilman Norton again offered to sit with Mr. Christiansen to go over the budget. Mr. Christensen thanked Councilman Norton. Mr. Christensen had questions why Councilman Dassing said she could not discuss her answers in public. Councilman Norton responded that some items can be discussed in public and some cannot. Councilman Lawshe reported that he was on the Budget Committee with Councilman Slattery and Councilman Norton. When Councilman Norton and I ran last year, we told everyone we would not raise taxes for this town. Even though we were on the budget committee, we worked very hard to come up with different ways and different proposals. We did come up with a pretty good budget but again we made the promise to the taxpayers of this town and that is the reason I voted not for the budget. Mr. Christensen asked why everyone agreed on the budget amendment. Councilman Norton responded that that was a unanimous vote to amend the budget not to adopt the budget. Seeing no one else from the public wishing to be heard the Mayor closed the Open Public portion of the meeting at 9:04 P.M.

On a motion made by Councilman Brennan, and seconded by Councilman Curley, unanimously affirmed, the Council moved into Executive Session in order to discuss a matter potential litigation and land acquisition. Said motion was unanimously approved and the Council went into Executive Session at 9:07 P.M.

The Executive Session was adjourned and upon motion by Councilman Curley, seconded by Councilman Norton the Council Business Conference Meeting was opened to the public and the press at 9:13 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 Norton, unanimously affirmed by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Prepared by:

Beth Bush Telepan
Deputy Clerk

Date