

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting- February 6, 2024**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order at the gymnasium of St. Aloysius Church, 219 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ at 7.02pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Jones, Councilman Alonso (Joined at 7:11pm), Councilman Brown, Councilwoman Rodeffer, and Councilwoman Buechner.

ABSENT: Councilman Daniolowicz

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk, Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, Police Captain Mathew DeAngelo Borough Administrator, Alex Palumbo, Borough Attorney, Craig Bossong.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference Organizational Meeting was given on January 11, 2024. Notice was posted in Borough Hall, 24 Smull Avenue, Caldwell, New Jersey. Official newspapers of the Borough were notified of this meeting by mail. Notice was posted and all persons requesting notice were sent the same.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Prayer/Moment of Silence

Mayor Jones asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the 3 military members who died in the line of duty. The Flags in the Borough are at half-staff in honor of these individuals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 23, 2024
January 11, 2024 – Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023 – Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the above meeting minutes was made by Councilwoman Buechner, and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes were approved on 2/6/2024.

PRESENTATION

1. New Parking Meter Presentation
 - a. Captain Matthew DeAngelo gave a presentation on the new Parking Meters, and addressed questions from the Public and the Dais.

REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

No Report as Patricia Keenan was absent

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on items listed on the agenda

Mark Thompinks, 47 Washburn place. Raised hand earlier to say the audio was not working.

Carla Maras, 7 Ashland Street. 2-75, what is this for exactly

Mr. Palumbo said that is to award the firm the engineering and design for the next DOT project. For Oak Grove Road, White Birch and Park Avenue.

Kevin Kelley, Forest Avenue. Asked if he could ask a general question about the town. Mayor Jones advised that now was not the proper time, and that there would be a second open public comments portion where he could ask any question.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Closed Session

2-78	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of February 6, 2024
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A motion to enter into executive session was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the Governing Body went into executive session at 7:28pm. Upon returning to the public session, a motion to close executive session and reopen the public session, was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the public session reopened at 7:36pm.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.

A motion to add resolution 2-79 to the consent agenda, was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Mayor Read the resolution for the record.

2-69	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF KIM CONLON AS THE CLEAN COMMUNITIES' COORDINATOR AND THE COMMUNITY FORESTRY COORDINATOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL FOR THE YEAR 2024
2-70	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JAKE POHLMAN AS THE LICENSED POOL OPERATOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL FOR THE YEAR 2024, WITH AN ANNUAL STIPEND OF \$2,000
2-71	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BRAD TAYLOR AS THE BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR
2-72	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF KIM CONLON AND SHANNON JORN AS THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL FOR THE YEAR 2024
2-73	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –HSA James Caldwell High School– Off-Premise – 50/50 Cash
2-74	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBER
2-75	AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LAND SURVEYING AND ENGINEERING DESGIN SERVICE FOR OAK GROVE ROAD – PARK AVENUE – WHITE BIRCH TERRACE, TO BRIGHT VIEW ENGINEERING 70 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE, SUITE 109, LIVINGSTON, NJ 07039 THE AMOUNT OF \$43,740
2-76	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 01/20/2024 THROUGH 2/2/2024
2-77	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF HENRY GOODWIN AS A JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER OF THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

A motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members present, voted in the affirmative. All resolutions on the amended consent agenda were approved 2/6/2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Buechner:

- We are in the process of looking into an App called Reminder which would send out reminders for anything regarding leaf collection, garbage, and recycling. Should be a resolution on the next meeting.
 - Mr. Palumbo said that there is something similar already in place, but this app goes a little further. We can add other reminders to it as well, like road closures and other emergency alerts.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

1. Councilwoman Buechner: Grover Cleveland Birth Place, Communication Committee- Women's Community Impact Award, and Board of Health
 - GCBP
 - Closed from May-June for work on the cartridge house
 - Grover week will be moved
 - Ice cream social will still take place
 - Communications:
 - Women's Community Impact Award nominations in by March 10th
 - Board of Health

- Rabies Clinic
- 58 cats and dogs vaccinated that day
- COVID Tests available. Call Maria Burak to arraigned pick up
- March 1st - Grand Opening of Health and Human Services Building at 10am

2. Council President Brown

- Environmental
 - Shredding event tentative date April 20th
 - Location TBD
 - May Earth Day event- May 4th tentative
 - Working with staff on stormwater grant to construct 3 rain gardens in town
- Public Safety
 - Thanked Chief Pollara for all his recruitment work and building the fire department with both junior and senior
 - Gold outing scheduled for July 29th at Greenbrook
 - Thanked Capt. DeAngelo for their work with the meters
 - 2 new police officers will be sworn in at the next Council Meeting
 - Matt: both are doing great and on Field training now
- Shared Services
 - Sport and music equipment swap. Feb 24th 10am-2pm donations Essex Valley School
- Finance
 - Working with department heads regards to budgetary needs
 - Meeting this week to review with CFO
- Construction Sub Committee
 - Meeting minutes online
- Communications
 - Working with a company who will provide assistance with website, social media, and newsletters

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Jones

- Mayor Jones announced that the beginning of the month there will be committee reports from Council Members. The next day we will hold staff meetings. This is to also improve communications within Borough Hall and with the citizens
- January 2, 2024 letter received from a Condo Association as to why money was not received. Previous Administration was giving large amounts to HOAs close to \$5,000 paid. (Municipal Services Reimbursement Act Craig explained that HOAs for private roads are reimbursed)
 - Mr. Palumbo stated that the Borough was reimbursing the condos for the cost of snow plowing and salting. Reimbursed for the linear footage of their private roadways. Same can be done for Garbage collection as well.
 - Mayor Jones said \$122,000 was asked for in this letter. So we are going to be going through this with a fine tooth comb, and hoping to have a full report at the March or April meetings.
- March 1, 2024 At 10am, the grand opening of the Borough's Irene Gibbons Health and Human Services Building. Maria Burak is moving on Friday from Smull Avenue to Park Avenue. This building will be dedication to Mayor Irene Gibbons who was a mentor to me through Kiwanis. She was the first female mayor of our Town, very active with the senior citizens, worked for Essex County College west Essex campus. Food Pantry will be moving to Park Ave
- At the finish line for the litigation regarding the Sewer Authority with Roseland and West Caldwell. This will greatly help with our 2024 Budget, which is currently being discussed and worked on.
- Westville Avenue will be the location of our new Police Department. We want to clear up Provost Square, and with our police vehicles get out of that space in emergencies. We own some property just down from the Presbyterian church.
 - Mr. Palumbo said that we have done a full title search which has been cleared. We have been working with our Current architect o think out of the box with this. We have done some conceptual drawing for talking purposes.
 - Mayor Jones said that the police need to have quicker response times and this will help to facilitate this. That property was bought from the Presbyterian Church many years ago, so it owned by the borough will no deed restrictions.
 - Councilman Alonso asked if we looked at flooding issues in the area
 - Mr. Palumbo said we did. It is far enough away from the culvert and we do not know of any flooding issues from that property.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Alex Palumbo

- The demolition of old borough hall is scheduled to start this coming Monday. The hold up was figuring out how to disconnect the services and keep temporary services with the DPW and Police Garage
- Received confirmation that we were granted reprogramming money for CDBG for Caton terrace. Start 2024 spring
 - DOT reconstruction award to Cifelli for Espy, Hillcrest and Westover 535,000 grant award
 - Completing roadway project on orchard and Personette
- Storage lease ends in march. Moving contents to 24 Smull Ave temporarily as Maria Burak moves out of Smull and into Park Ave

- Borough's lease ends in Jul of 2024, but we will need to do a month-to-month lease until we officially move out and into the new building

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Craig Bossong

- Hoping for a quick closing on 80 Bloomfield Ave. We will have to do an authorizing ordinance which will be introduced at the next meeting. Redevelopment study is also underway so you can use Redevelopment funds for this purchase.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Kelley, Forest Ave. What will happen with the community center?

Mayor Jones said that we are going to be working on design studies for the Community Center, now that we can direct our architect on this.

Mr. Kelley asked if 2-75- this is just for site work?

Mr. Palumbo said yes, this is just for the design and surveying work that will need to be done. Once we have those, we will go out to bid

Maryann Campione, Arlington Ave. what will 80 Bloomfield House again?

Mayo Jones said that 80 Bloomfield Ave will be Borough offices, Council chambers, and Court. It will have all Borough functions.

Ms. Campione said that if Westville is police, what will the Community Center be used for going forward?

Mayor Jones said that we are working on designs and will be meeting with the library. My hope is to give them a home in the Community Center. We are still ironing out plans for the library.

Ms. Campione said that she can't wait to fill in her neighbors on tonight's meetings

Ms. Moore, Personette St. Street crossing is difficult? I was hit years ago, there was a fatality last June.

Capt. DeAngelo said we have looked at different things we can do with grant money. Have talked with Mayor and Council about what can be done for pedestrian safety.

Ms. Moore stated that it is very difficult to cross Bloomfield Ave safely.

Mayor Jones said that for Roseland Ave and Bloomfield Ave, we are working on a plan for the lights. It is a County road, and the County is looking into adding lights. Gould is on this list, which I think would help

Moore: I see a lot of people parking in handicap spots without stickers or tags. What can be done.

Cpt. DeAngelo said that he will talk to our officers and parking enforcement and make sure they make new double down on that.

Justine Reyes, 42 Park Ave. Echo some of the sentiments. I was almost hit by a car on park and Bloomfield while crossing at the light. It is a big issue. Wanted to echo Maryanne and the excitement over the plans being made, and money saving provisions. I am curious about the Community Center and Library being housed together. Will the Community Center just be a pool?

Mayor Jones said that we are still working on plans. The Community Center has never really been a revenue generating facility. Looking to make it a true Community Center, open to the community. There will be plenty of parking to facilitate this.

Ms. Reyes asked if will we lose the money that was given for the building repairs?

Mayor Jones said that we do not want to lose the money so we will be saving the building and hoping to use the money given for that building.

Richard Basta, 21 Washburn Place. I am comforted to see the library building remain. Can you better describe where on Westville?

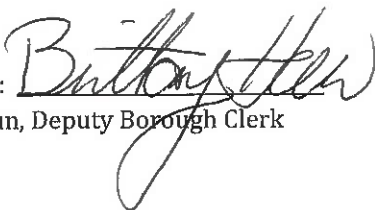
Mayor Jones said that it is just after the church parking lot and a little shed. Right after that is a park called "Pastors Park" the building will be on that triangle parking.

Mr. Palumbo said that we also own part of the parking lot which we will build on as well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to be conducted, a motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon voice vote, all voted in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Prepared by: 
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk


DATE