

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL  
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING  
ORGANIZATION MEETING- January 1, 2023**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order at the First Presbyterian Church Gymnasium, 326 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ at 3:05pm.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

- **Mayor Garrett Jones by Judge Bridget A. Stecher**
- **Councilman Kris Brown by Judge by Bridget A. Stecher**
- **Councilman Darren Daniolowicz by Judge by Bridget A. Stecher**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jones, Councilwoman Buechner, Councilman Lace, Councilman Alonso, Councilman Brown, Councilman Daniolowicz, and Councilman Cole.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon and Douglas Steinhardt, Esq. covering attorney for Borough Attorney Craig Bossong.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:**

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference Organizational Meeting was given on December 22, 2022. Notice was posted in Borough Hall, 24 Small 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**

Imam Aga, member of the West Essex Ministerial Association, offered a Prayer for the attendees and the Governing Body.

**Election of Council President**

Councilwoman Buechner made a motion to nominate Councilman Alonso as Council President, seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative.

**COMMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**Mayor Jones** thanked everyone in attendance for the Reorganization Meeting. He acknowledged several dignitaries that were present for the meeting: Former Mayor Paul Jemas, Former Councilmen John Taylor, Richard Houser, and Mr. Cowell, Mayor Joe Tempesta of West Caldwell and accompanying West Caldwell Councilmembers, Mayor Elect Josh Raymond of North Caldwell, Fire Chief Pollara, Lieutenant Henderson and Sergeant Pellegrino from the Caldwell Police Department, and Clergy Members present, including Monsignor Emery from St. Aloysius Church, Pastor Viv and Aman Aga from the West Essex Ministerial Association. He introduced and thanked the Governing Body and he acknowledged that he enjoyed the campaign process with Councilman Brown and Councilman Daniolowicz. In addition, he thanked his family for their support and for their travelling for the event. Mayor Jones stated that the Bible used to swear him into office was the Bible used at his parent's wedding.

Mayor Jones referenced Theodore Roosevelt in his Mayoral Speech. Some of the quotes he referenced were "Do what you can with what you have, where you are", "Believe you can and you are halfway there", "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care", and "The best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing". Mayor Jones thanked everyone who worked on his campaign. He acknowledged "Red" Messer in the audience and his contribution to the town of Caldwell as a long-standing member and Chief of the Caldwell Fire Department. Mayor Jones affirmed that he is looking forward to answering many of the questions that residents have regarding current and upcoming issues for the Borough. He stated that the Governing Body will listen to the citizens and their concerns and will hold public meetings to discuss issues.

**Councilman Brown** thanked the residents for voting him into office and stated that it is an honor to serve his community. He thanked his family for their continued support and offered special thanks to his campaign team, his friends and neighbors, especially those who sponsored the "Meet and Greet Sessions" during the campaign, and the Concerned Citizens of Caldwell Group and their extra efforts to shed light on some of the issues concerning residents. Councilman Brown stated that he was looking forward to coming up with viable, fiscally responsible solutions for issues facing the Borough of Caldwell.

**Councilman Daniolowicz** acknowledged all the support he has received from friends and family, particularly his parents and brothers. He thanked his wife and his kids for their patience and support. He

thanked his running mates, Mayor Jones and Councilman Brown and relayed to the audience that he was proud of the way they ran their campaign. He expressed his thanks to the voters of Caldwell and to all local and County support. He promised to explore multiple options for problems and to weigh all decisions with regard to the financial impact to tax-payers.

Councilmembers had an opportunity to address the audience:

**Councilman Cole** thanked all Borough Staff for their hard work over the past few months in moving operations to the temporary trailers. He encouraged residents to stop and see the temporary facilities.

**Councilman Lace** wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all the guests and dignitaries present. He echoed his gratitude to the Borough employees and volunteers, especially the West Essex First Aid Squad. He welcomed Mayor Jones, Councilman Brown, and Councilman Daniolowicz. He reflected that this is "no time to let good government languish". Decisions in government should be made "the right way". He stated that "residents are the boss. We all work for you". He informed the public that he will base decisions on four key questions this year: Does it enhance public safety?, Is it fair?, Does it have adequate research and justification?, and is it the best decision fiscally and for the environment?. These four questions will guide him in his deliberations and his hope is that they will for all of the Governing Body.

**Councilwoman Buechner** thanked the Borough employees, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Staff, and the IT Staff. She stated that her first year on the Council has been a pleasure and that she was looking forward to working with Mayor Jones, Councilman Brown, and Councilman Daniolowicz and their new energy and ideas.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2022 were approved.

#### 2023 COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Garrett Jones

Council Committee	Chairman	Councilman	Areas of Responsibility
Community Center	Alonso	Brown	Community Center
Finance	Brown	Lace	Finance / Budget / Banking / Administration / Capital Tax Collection / Annual Audit / Corrective Action Plan
Shared Service / Recreation	Daniolowicz	Brown	Senior Transportation / Board of Education West Caldwell Shared Service Committee
Personnel	Buechner	Cole	Personnel Policies / Employee Handbook Benefits / Pension / Medical
Public Safety	Alonso	Lace	Police Department / Fire Department Emergency Management / Municipal Court
Public Works / Utilities	Brown	Daniolowicz	Streets & Roads / Building & Grounds / Engineering Utilities / Construction / Sewer & Water
Communications	Daniolowicz	Buechner	Manage Social Media and broadcasts as well as to oversee other initiatives

Note: Mayor Jones is the 3rd member of each committee.

Motioned by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative.

#### 2023 COUNCIL LIAISONS

Mayor Garrett Jones

Board / Committee	Council Liaison
Board of Education	Cole
Board of Health	Buechner
Camp Wyanokie	Lace
Environmental Commission	Brown
Library Board of Trustees	Daniolowicz / Alonso
Human Services	Cole
Historic Commission	Brown
Planning Board	Alonso
Caldwell University	Alonso / Lace
Rent Board	Buechner
Downtown	Daniolowicz

Caldwell University	Alonso / Lace
Signage	Alonso
Caldwell Community Center Advisory Board	Daniolowicz

**Motioned by Councilman Cole, seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative.**

**2023 ANNUAL MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

*Mayor Garrett Jones*

- **Mayor’s Advisory Council on Senior Services**  
Sue Marinucci, June Cowell
- **Official Borough Photographers**  
Jeff Stiefbold
- **Borough Arborist**  
John Linson
- **New Jersey Council Motion Picture Development**  
Councilman Cole
- **Liaison to the Grover Cleveland Birthplace**  
Councilwomen Buechner

**Motioned by Councilwoman Buechner, seconded by Council President Alonso. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative.**

**2023 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS**

*Mayor Garrett Jones*

- **Senior Citizen Transportation Committee**  
Greg Cowell                      Vacant  
David Whetton
- **Tree Removal Committee - Mayor, Consent of the Council.**  
Gavin McCabe                      Borough Administrator  
Al Ferrentino

**Motioned by Councilwoman Buechner, seconded by Council President Alonso. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative.**

- **Resolution 1-1: Planning Board- Appointment by Mayor**

*Moved by Council President Alonso, seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. On roll call, all voted in the affirmative. Resolution approved 1/1/2023.*

- **Resolution 1-2: Historic Preservation Committee-Mayor, Consent of the Council**

*Moved by Council President Alonso, seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. On roll call, all voted in the affirmative. Resolution approved 1/1/2023.*

- **Resolution 1-3: Zoning Board of Adjustment- Mayor, Consent of the Council**

*Moved by Council President Alonso, seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. On roll call, all voted in the affirmative. Resolution approved 1/1/2023.*

**2023 PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- Resolution 1-4: **Borough Attorney** – Craig P. Bossong, Esq. FPSCT&T LLC
- Resolution 1-5: **Borough Auditor-** Nisivoccia LLP
- Resolution 1-6: **Prosecutor** – Bob Cosgrove, Esq.
- Resolution 1-7: **Public Defender-** James V. Pomaco, Esq.
- Resolution 1-8: **Rent Board Attorney-** Josh Levine, Esq.
- Resolution 1-9: **Fire Official-** Mark Guiliano
- Resolution 1-10: **Special Counsel for Affordable Housing-** Jeffrey R. Surenian & Associates, LLC

**Moved by Councilwoman Buechner, seconded by Councilman Brown. On roll call, all voted in the affirmative. Resolutions approved 1/1/2023.**



## OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

*Members of the public are invited to comment at this time.*

**Mayor Joe Tempesta of West Caldwell**- 74 Richard Avenue, West Caldwell offered his congratulations to Mayor Jones, Councilman Brown, and Councilman Daniolowicz. He stated that he was confident that West Caldwell and Caldwell could put aside their differences and move forward. He explained that two words resonate with him: "reasonable and fair". "Reasonable people come to reasonable decisions. West Caldwell loves Caldwell and wants it to succeed. When you succeed; we succeed". He told Mayor Jones that his parents would be proud of him. He related advice that Jim Matarazzo gave him when he took over as Mayor replacing Bob Reiher. "Be yourself. So long as you are doing what is in your heart, you are doing a good job".

**Rick Otterbein** 18 Sunset Road, West Caldwell congratulated everyone on the Council and told Mayor Jones that his parents would be proud.

## RESOLUTIONS - Consent Agenda

- Resolution 1-11: Authorizing the Appointment of Francine T. Paserchia as the Qualified Purchasing Agent  
Resolution 1-12: Resolution Authorizing a Contract with 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Consultants, LLC, for Interim Transition Administrator Coordinator  
Resolution 1-13: Designating the Official Depositories of the Borough for the Year 2023  
Resolution 1-14: Designating Official Newspapers of the Borough of Caldwell 2023  
Resolution 1-15: Authorizing Adoption of Temporary Budget for the Year 2023  
Resolution 1-16: Authorizing temporary contract extension with Mott McDonald until March 31,2023

**The Consent Agenda was moved by Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. No discussion. Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative. Resolutions under Consent Agenda passed on 1/1/2023.**

Mayor Jones took a moment to thank the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department Members who were in attendance for their service and for being "Santa's Helpers".

Pastor Viv from the Caldwell United Methodist Church offered a Closing Prayer.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to be conducted, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilwoman Buechner, seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon voice vote, all voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 4:03PM.

Prepared by: Kim Conlon  
Kim Conlon, Deputy Borough Clerk

January 17, 2023  
DATE