

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – April 18, 2023**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order on Zoom at 7:03pm PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Jones, Councilwoman Buechner, Councilman Lace, Council President Alonso, Councilman Brown, Councilman Daniolowicz, and Councilman Cole

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, Borough Interim Administrative Consultant Thomas Tucci,

ABSENT: Borough Attorney Craig Bossong (Kate Fina filled in for Mr. Bossong)

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference Meeting was given on January 11, 2023. Notice was posted on the bulletin board of the first floor of 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

PRAYER/ Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed to honor all active and inactive military members and their families.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 4, 2023

A motion to approve the April 4, 2023 minutes was made by Council President Alonso, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Minutes approved 4/18/2023.

PRESENTATION

1. Arbor Day Proclamation - Read by Councilman Brown
 - Shredding event Saturday 10-1pm at DPW area on 1 Provost Square. Benefiting the James Caldwell High School Scholarship Fund
2. CASA Proclamation - read by Mayor Jones and applauded the volunteers in our community and in the County
3. Eagle Scout Proclamation Presented to Samuel Oesterle - Presented by Councilman Daniolowicz

REPORT OF COUNTY LIASON

Patricia Keenan

Patricia Keenan was not present for the meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Rich Hauser, 33 Arlington Avenue. Asked if the Forensic Auditor being appointed by resolution 4-131, replaces Nisivoccia the Borough's Auditor.

Mr. Tucci said that they are not replacing the Borough Auditor. The company being appointed in resolution 4-131, is doing a full and independent account of the Borough's financing. The Borough felt that it would be a good idea to get an outside look.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

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.

4-122	RESOLUTION AWARDED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT TO BECKMEYER ENGINEERING, PC FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL WATER SYSTEM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000 PER MONTH, \$36,000 PER ANNUM, PLUS THE COST OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$36,000.00 PER ANNUM FROM APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024.
4-123	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR LICENSED SEWER OPERATOR SERVICES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023
4-124	AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF ONE (1) TAXICAB LICENSE TO Sezai Gurses of Metropolitan Limousine, LLC, 806 Murray Street, Avenel, NJ 07001. APPLICATION AND APPLICANT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.
4-125	PULLED
4-126	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS
4-127	AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBERS

4-128	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS
4-129	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS
4-130	RESOLUTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER BILLING FOR BLOCK 33, LOT 10 FOR 35 CENTRAL AVENUE
4-131	RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO LERCH, VINCI, & BLISS, LLP. 17-17 ROUTE 208, FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410 FOR BOROUGH FORENSIC AUDITOR/ACCOUNTING SERVICES
4-132	RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO T & M ASSOCIATES, 11 TINDALL ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748 FOR BOROUGH PLANNER
4-133	RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO DECOTIIS, FITZPATRICK, COLE, & GIBLIN, LLP, 61 PARAMUS ROAD, SUITE 250, PARAMUS, NJ 07652 FOR BOND COUNSEL
4-134	RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL SUPPORTING THE CONSERVATION OF THE DREW FOREST
4-135	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD 03/31/2023 THROUGH 04/14/2023
4-136	RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALESSANDRO PALUMBO AS THE BOROUGH ADMINSTRATOR

Councilman Daniolowicz asked for clarification on resolution 4-130.

A motion to approve the consent agenda, was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, with Councilman Lace abstaining from resolution 4-136. The Consent agenda was approved 4/18/2023.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Councilwoman Buechner: Senior Advisory Committee & Board of Health
 - Senior Advisory
 - New building coming along weekly
 - Hoping to have a grand reopening in June
 - Board of Health
 - May 11th Public Health Emergency of COVID Ends, County Vaccination programs will lessen or possibly end.
 - Caldwell Board of Health has an Instagram account that shares events and health information.
2. Councilman Daniolowicz: Library Board and Downtown
 - Library
 - Please go on website and check out programs and events for all ages. Free digital copy of NY Times with Library cards
 - Saturday Hours of 10am - 2pm starting
 - Downtown
 - April 23-30th Restaurant week 2023
 - Promote restaurant Business in our community and raise money. Funds will go to Caldwell Food Panty. Restaurants in North Caldwell, West Caldwell, and Caldwell are all participating.
 - Visit 3 participants to enter for a chance to win a gift card
 - Restaurant week on Facebook & Instagram (CaldwellRestWeek)
 - Downtown Beautification & Clean-up Day on May 21st. More information to follow. Will be looking for volunteers for the event
3. Councilman Brown
 - Shared Services
 - Saturday - little league opening day 8:30am at JCHS.
 - Environmental Commission
 - Shredding Event Saturday 10am -1pm. Thanked Cali Carting for providing the shredding truck

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Jones

- Thanked everyone on the Dias for stepping up to the plate and taking care of certain aspects of this Town. They all do so much work behind the scenes. While I was out of the office last week, they all did a great job taking care of everything. Thanked Tom Tucci for all his work with the Borough. Today is his last meeting with us, and we wish him the best as he moves on from Caldwell.
- Alex Palumbo will be joining us next month as our New Business Administrator. He brings a lot to the table, and we are grateful. Welcome to the team

REPORT OF INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT

Thomas Tucci

Thomas Tucci reported:

- We will be meeting with Architect Robert Cozzarelli on Friday morning to go over a lot of the municipal projects. We will be reporting back to the governing body
- We have started to spruce up the island areas in town. Phase 2 will be planting in those islands.
- Compactor Truck is rather old. PEOSHA was in and said we need to look into this. We are getting prices on new vehicle

- Hoping to find a location for Recycling drop off within the community. Looking for locations, as this is a work in progress.
- Budget: Councilman Brown and I met with the CFO Chris Battaglia. He will be doing the Pre-Budget, and outline, which will be presented to the Finance Committee. Local Finance Board will not let us introduce until our sewer litigation is complete. In a holding pattern right now. We are starting the Budget process, by discussing with Department Heads to determine their wants and needs.
- Pilot Stamp Concrete program on Bloomfield Ave. Reaching out to contractors to replace the Brick pavers. Will do a small sample section before we do the full town. Will look for council and committee opinions
- Spoke with Everton Scott about Electrical set up at 14 Park Ave.
- Pricing out some "Welcome to Caldwell" signs on our boarder.
- Thank you for allowing me to serve your community

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Craig Bossong

Kate Fina Reported:

- Nothing to report

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEMS

Nicholas Correale, 27 Westville Avenue. Reports for Municipal Building and Library online. You mentioned meeting with the architect this week. What is the logistical time line in this process.

Mr. Tucci said that the Governing Body is looking at the current plan, as well as alternates. This is what the discussion with the architect will be. Has to be functional and affordable. Architect right now has been paid 1.120 million to date. Contractually can go up to 1.975 million that he can potentially bill. 18.5 million left of what was bonded. We won't know further until we have more options on the plan along with the current plan

Mr. Correale asked about the Revitalization of Bloomfield Ave. Is it possible to encourage business who have makeshift railing to maintain their outdoor facilities? Is the stamped concrete go across the ave and the crosswalks as well? That has worn away as well.

Mr. Tucci said that the Stamped concrete would be in the area between the curb and sidewalk that currently has brick pavers. Looking to safeguard that. Crosswalks, we are identifying which belong to the borough. Getting quotes for re-striping and want the county to be responsible for the crosswalks they are responsible for.

Mr. Correale said that we have some older building with older facades. Could we potentially add murals to buildings, that you see when coming into town from different directions? They would dress up our town.

David Cowell, 29 Brookside Ave. Bidding for the cartridge house has gone out. That meeting will take place a week from Thursday Bids will be in the first week in May. The winning bid will be awarded, and then construction should begin about 2 weeks after. Should have the cartridge house open again in the Autumn. Will house large meeting space that can be rented to the community. Will also make the whole site more user friendly for the public. This will allow for more use of the facilities. In the 1980's we put permeable bricks down the avenue because we could not keep trees alive. I think that the town should take a good look at permeable surfaces for all projects that are done in the building. Urge you to give that some thought.

Rich Hauser, 33 Arlington Ave. asked when Volunteer Day will be?

Mr. Daniolowicz said that the Beautification Day will be on May 21st.

Mr. Hauser said that he is former Council member and a business owner in town. He would like to get an update on the parking situation in town. There is no parking by my offices. The parking deck was maintained, the construction of it was poor. I am glad it was taken down, as I advocated for that years ago while I was on Council. We need a solution because what we have there now is not sufficient. Signage about Permit Parking in that lot is confusing to people. What is the long-term plan?

Councilman Daniolowicz said that as far a permit parking, we are trying to schedule a meeting with the Captain to get an idea of what the permit parking need is, and what our options are. We are trying to figure up spots closer to the businesses.

Brown: We are also in discussion of moving some of the Borough Vehicles out of the way of the parking on Smull. Working on Interlocal agreements to open up some parking in spots around town. Reallocation of spots.

Mr. Hauser said that the Smull lot is often full. Is it a safe assumption that the re-evaluation of plans involves a parking deck or parking solution?

Council President Alonso said that yes, it will include that as well as parking in all of town. Working through the process one step at a time.

Mr. Hauser said that he is a member of First Presbyterian Church and on Easter we had a good turnout but we had parking issues, as there is very little parking. 3-hour parking limit: appreciate that the lack of enforcement in the 3hour lots. It helps for Business owners to not have to move our cars every 3 hours. I encourage the signage about permit parking to be dealt with.

Mayor Jones said we are going to start enforcing the 3-hour permits. Being a businessman, I would always tell my employees that they would not be able to park in their lots, that would be for customers.

Mr. Hauser said telling employees to pay for parking is not a great business model in my mind. I have told clients to park in the Roseland Ave lot when they come.

Mr. Bifalco said that there is no signage in Roseland Ave Lot, aside from the permit parking signs.

Councilman asked about a Town Hall meeting. Asked the Mayor if there has been any movement on that.

Mayor Jones said we had scheduled one for next Tuesday. I am finding out that things move a lot slower in government and I am not sure we will have anything ready to present to the public next week. We are just getting some traction right now with engineering or financial reports.

Councilman Lace suggested a "no later than date". Just to give the public an idea.

Councilman Brown and Council President Alonso Agreed

Mayor Jones said that we will postpone next Tuesday. Does anyone want to select a date.

Mr. Tucci suggested the Council get some timelines from the Architect first before setting a date. A date can be set after that.

Councilman Brown asked if we can say we will have a date for the next town hall, at the next meeting.

Ann Marchioni, 85 Brookside Ave. Co-Chair of Environmental Commission. Thanked mayor and council for supporting the Drew Forest Resolution. This is a beautiful site on the Drew University Campus. Environmental Commission having a webinar on May 4th via Zoom. Planting for pollinators webinar. Thanked Councilman Brown for encouraging and promoting the Shredding event. Cali Carting has provided the shredding truck free of charge, allowing for more of the funds to go to the scholarships.

Ryan Shats, 15 Cedars Road. Wanted to mention the excessive road damage on Brookside by Gould Place. This is an added obstacle for visitors to the park.
Mr. Tucci said Councilman Brown has been in my office about these issues. We are currently looking at it and trying to free up some dollars to address this issue. This is a town road
Mayor Jones said we are also looking at some of the structure along the street there as well. We have a pothole hotline that can be found on the website.
Mr. Shats thanked the Mayor and Council for looking into this matter.

June Cowell, 29 Brookside Ave. Wanted to bring up the flooding of Brookside onto Westville. Just don't want this to get lost in the shuffle since there is so much on front of you.
Mayor Jones said we are still looking into the Stormwater Study, I am in the 500 pages.
Mr. Tucci said they were out at Mrs. Cowell property with Glenn Beckmeyer, and we did promise to address it. Will do a tv-ing if the line.

Ken Jurgenson, 41 Ravine Ave. Would it be possible to post the report on the website?
Mayor Jones said that the report is in draft form. Once it is approved, we will release it. Can you comment of the status of the domestic water improvement projects. I don't want to catch anyone of guard so I am happy to ask again next week.
Mr. Tucci said that Mr. Beckmeyer is addressing it. The water and road projects are being combined
Mr. Jurgenson said older stormwater report indicated that there are some repairs that need to be done, and could give us temporary relief. What is the status of this.
Council President Alonso said that we had discussion of making a plan to tackle that in the summer
Pot Hole hotline 973-403-6728

Mayor Jones said that a notification from PD that the firehouse parking lot was sent out In January. 3-hour parking, day & night parking
Mr. Bifalco said individual signs marked permit signs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Council President Alonso, and unanimously affirmed by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Prepared by: 
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk


DATE