

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – April 4, 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, and Borough Attorney Craig Bossong

ABSENT:

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 Former Fire Chief Richard “Red” Messer who passed away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 21, 2023

Councilman Lace asked for the minutes to be amended to include his statement regarding the Police Chief’s comments on the proposed plans for the new Municipal Complex.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Lace and seconded by Council President Alonso. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Minutes approved 3/21/2023

PRESENTATION

REPORT OF COUNTY LIASON

Patricia Keenan

Patricia Keenan Reported

- Branchbrook Park Cherry Blossom Events in April
 - o 4/15 Family Day
 - o 4/16 Bloom Fest
- 4/22 County Earth Day at the Environmental Center
- 4/5 & 4/8 Home Improvement Seminar
- COVID Vaccines available at the Mobile site
- County has identified the sunken man holes as utility man holes. The County has notified the proper parties and asked them to fix them.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No Public Comments

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.

4-108	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ESSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
4-109	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK’S OFFICE –Sister of Saint Dominic– Off-Premise Calendar Raffle
4-110	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF A ZONING PERMIT PAYMENT TO Dylan Emiliani, 50 Crane Street, Caldwell, NJ
4-111	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY / FEMA FEDERAL ASSISTANCE – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOCs) GRANT
4-112	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR THE FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS (AFG) GRANT

4-113	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR THE FEMA STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT
4-114	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD 3/18/2023 THROUGH 3/30/2023
4-115	RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO ROBERT H. HOOVER & SONS, INC. 149 GOLD MINE ROAD, FLANDERS, NJ 07836 FOR A 2024 SINGLE AXLE CHASSIS TRUCK, CONTRACT #CC-9067-23
4-116	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE -Vero Amici for Charity-- Off-Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle
4-117	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLITON 10-233 FOR CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER NO.1 FOR THE 14 PARK AVE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL'S HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE BUILDING, MODIFYING THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT TO ADDRESS A STRUCTURAL CORRECTION
4-118	RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDERS NO. 2, 3, 4 AND 5 FOR THE 14 PARK AVE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL'S HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE BUILDING, MODIFYING THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT
4-120	PULLED
4-121	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TRASH AND GARBAGE RECEPTACLES AND BENCHES FOR THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF BLOOMFIELD AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL FROM BARCO PRODUCTS , 24 N. Washington Avenue, Batavia, IL 60510 THROUGH THE NEW JERSEY STARTS CO-OP CONTRACT #V00019632, FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$49,469.93.

Resolution 4-120 has been pulled from the agenda.

A motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, was made by Councilman Alonso and seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Amended Consent agenda was approved 4/4/2023.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Councilman Daniolowicz: Library & Downtown
 - Thanked Tom and Lucia for their help figuring out where the receptacles and benches are needed
 - Haiku contest
 - Teen group will be meeting
2. Councilman Brown: Shared Services
 - Board of Education meeting on March 14th
 - Caldwell has not been represented there recently
 - Facility, staff, and buildings and ground were discussed.
 - Quarterly meeting moving forward
 - Harrison School turfing project
 - Grant received in 2020, at some point those funds had been pulled
 - Discussed with County about using those plans, possibly for the original purpose.
 - Caldwell Shredding event will be April 22nd 10am -1pm, held by the DPW area
 - Profits go to JCHS Scholarships
 - Thursday May 4th webinar hosted by the EC. 8 pollinator gardens will be raffled off
 - Info will be on the website

Councilman Cole made comments regarding Councilman Lace's comments at the last meeting regarding the Police Department's statement about the plans for the Borough Hall plans. Followed up with past attendees of the weekly meetings to verify the comments. Reached out to Chief Bongiorno regarding these comments. Read a response from Chief Bongiorno. Disappointed that Chief Bongiorno only felt the need to share his concerns with the Engineers, Administrator, and other professionals, and not the full committee.

Mayor Jones said that he believes that the concern was that the building would be shared with children, not the design.

Councilman Lace responded, saying that any public meeting should have written records. Mayor Jones said that there were no minutes, we OPRAd them and got nothing. Councilman Lace said that he has to take the word of those attendees because there are no records. I am more disappointed that the Administrator and Mayor Kelley did not feel the obligation to share those concerns with the Council. The Chief may have assumed that his thoughts would have been shared.

Councilwoman Buechner said that she was disappointed that he did not bring it to Councilman Lace, since he is the Police Liaison.

Mayor Jones said that he shares information with all council members to avoid this happening again. We will be meeting in executive to discuss these reports.

- Mayor Jones Reported: Wanted to thank the entire Volunteer Fire Department for all of their work honoring Richard "Red" Messer these past couple of days. Thanked the Police Department for their help facilitating the Funeral procession, and other aspects.
- Expressed a great need for volunteers in our Community on both the First Aid Squad and Fire Department. We would love to have more people helping out our community
- April is Autism Awareness month.
- Thanked the Police Department for putting out a Nixle regarding parking cars on the Sidewalk. You cannot park your car on the sidewalk, those are for pedestrian. Folks should not have to navigate the streets to avoid illegally parked cars. Tickets will be issued
- DeCamp buses will no longer be doing the Route 33. NJ Transit will be taking over and wanted to thank Justin for reaching out and sending reports on this change. Another commuter option is Boxcar. It is an app where you can reserve a seat on a bus into the city. Working on other plans as well. Willow Brook mall express bus is always available. I will also be sending out a phone message and posting on the website

REPORT OF INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT

Thomas Tucci

Thomas Tucci reported:

- 14 Park Ave is coming along very nicely. Interior is beautiful! Maria is doing a wonderful job coordinating things over there. Elevator is not installed yet. Sidewalks were poured today. Hopefully it will be opening sooner rather than later. Working on inter local service agreement for parking at that facility.
- Essex Fells sent an email that they will be increasing their water rates by 2% this year
- Structural reports are in the possession of the Council
- Former Chief Messer was involved in the purchasing of the current truck 30 years ago. If we do not order by May 15th the prices will go up. Agreement from Source well. The fire truck will be about 1.6 million. Design will be distributed. There are some discounts we can receive. We can save money with different deposits or full cost. Money is readily available and comes from a Bond. Mayor Jones reminded that after purchase, equipment will need to be added. Councilman Daniolowicz asked Craig if we can use leverage? Craig: you lose a little bit of leverage when you hold back funds. Mayor Jones said we have done Business with this company before.

A motion to authorize the Borough's Interim Administrative Consultant to move forward with the purchase of the Fire Truck, at a total amount of \$1,603,080.00, was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carries.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Craig Bossong

Craig Bossong Reported:

- Will have one item for Closed Session, regarding contract and strategy.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEMS

Robert Sullivan, 6 Parkway West. Public Works is doing a great job and I am concerned about the idea of putting bids to outsource landscaping. What is the reasoning

Mr. Tucci said that Landscaping will be in house, but planting will be done by landscaper.

Councilman Daniolowicz said that the RFP that we voted on and has not gone out yet.

Mr. Tucci said that a bid was received but I would recommend we reject it. The actual work will be done by the DPW. If we can handle in house, we will.

Sullivan: a lot of people from the apartments put their home garbage in the town garbage cans along the Avenue. Wanted to bring that to your attention.

Mathew Fox, 6 Lockward Road. Engineering report. When will it be available for public.

Council President Alonso said that we are just in procession and reviewing it. We just want to digest it before we send it out to the public, but we will release it as soon as possible.

Mayor Jones said that the same thing goes for the Sewer report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter into executive session was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The Council left public session, and entered into executive session at 7:49pm

Mayor Jones read the Executive Session Notice and stated that no action would be taken after executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to close executive and adjourn the public meeting was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously affirmed by all members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

Prepared by: *Brittany Heun*
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk

4/19/2023
DATE