

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – April 7, 2020**

Page 1 of 5

The Council Business meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order via Zoom Webinar at 7:20

PRESENT: Mayor Kelley, Council President Schmidt, Councilman Rodgers, Councilman Cole, Councilman Lace, Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi & Councilman Gates

ALSO PRESENT: Assemblyman John McKeon; Assemblywoman Mila Jacey; Thomas Banker, Borough Administrator; Vincent Nuzzi, Borough Attorney; Kim Conlon, Deputy Clerk; Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk; Maria Burak, Director of Health and Human Services; James Bongiorno, Chief of Police; Mark Guliano, OEM Officer; Rosemarie Sutherlin, Director of the Caldwell Community Center.

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference meeting was given on January 1, 2020. Notice was posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of the Borough Hall, One Provost Square, 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 same.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR ALL THOSE HOW HAV ELOST THEIR LIVES OR ARE FIGHTING COVID-19

- *Councilman Rodgers has asked to say a few words about Principal of Grover Cleveland Middle School Mr. Jim Brown*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 24, 2020

Moved by Councilman Lace, seconded by Councilman Gates. No Discussion. On roll call, all voted in the affirmative. Minutes approved 04/07/2020.

SPECIAL REPORT

ASSEMBLYMAN MCKEON & ASSEMBLYWOMAN JACEY

Mayor Kelley brought forth a question from a resident about the possibility of postponing/forgiving property taxes

- Assemblyman McKeon's Remarks
 - Municipalities like Caldwell depend on property tax payments to keep the town afloat
 - It is possible that the State may decide to wave all late fees/interest for property taxes
 - The State will most likely not allow Local Governments to push back or forgive property taxes
 - The Federal Government can operate like a "Printing Press" and gather up money to continue to operate, but that is not the case for State and Local Governments

Mayor Kelley opened it up to any residents on the call you may have a question for the Assemblyman and woman.

- Resident S Gold- resident did not give name or address *Does the moratorium on on foreclosure applies to tax defaults or just to mortgage lenders? Will there be a box to deposit taxes and monies?*
 - Assemblyman McKeon's Remarks
 - Yes you understood that right
 - Mayor's Remarks:
 - Yes you can put any to be dropped off in a drop box in the foyer of Borough Hall.

After No further questions Assemblywoman Jacey left us with a few Remarks:

- Expressed gratitude to Mayor Kelley and the Council members for their hard work and dedication to Caldwell during this difficult time.
- Expressed her condolences to the family of GCMS Principal Jim Brown and all others who have lost a loved one to the Corona Virus.

SPECIAL REPORT

CALDWELL COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

1. Chief Bongiorno

- Expressed his sympathies to the family of Jim Brown and made a few remarks about his experience working with Principal Brown.
- Social Distancing is working well, thank you to the Caldwell Residents for their vigilance in their practices
 - Please limit the amount of time spent outdoors

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – April 7, 2020**

Page 2 of 5

- When walking on the sidewalks, please refrain from stepping into the street to avoid other pedestrians.
 - Vehicle Traffic continues to go down
 - Medical professionals and Volunteers are doing an outstanding job
 - 2 New executive Orders have been passed
 - All NJ State and County Parks have been ordered to Close
 - Extension of the Stay Home order
 - Worried about an increase in Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and Violent outbreaks. If you need help please reach out!
2. Maria Burak- Director of Health and Human Services
- Thank you to Bloomfield Board of Health, who have been working nonstop 7 days a week, for their help and hard work.
 - A Special thanks to Mike Fitzpatrick our Liason
 - 42 Positive cases and 2 deaths in Caldwell due to COVID-19.
 - COVID-19 Information is on the website and updated regularly
 - Senior Bus will be going out tomorrow, Wednesday, at 6:30am for grocery shopping.
 - The Food Pantry is open for people to pick up bags of food if needed.
3. Rosemarie Sutherlin – Director of the Caldwell Community Center
- Make sure to check ALL Borough websites to stay informed on everything that is happening with all programs
 - Check in to see what updates are coming in daily
4. Mark Guiliano – OEM Coordinator
- Thanks to the Police and EMS workers for all of their hard work
 - As of 7pm tonight we have 44 Positive cases in Caldwell and 3 Deaths
 - It is a stressful time for first responders, so we need to support them however we can
 - Thank you to the Mayor and Council for your support of our first responders
 - Thank you to the citizens of Caldwell for your support and donations of masks and other supplies
 - Updates come regularly from OEM and Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick
 - Thank you to Mike for all his hard work

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS OR ANY TOPIC

Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on ANY issues, whether or not on the agenda

Motion to Open the Public Meeting portion:

First: Councilman Lace

Second: Council President Schmidt

Barbara Buechner: 7 Park Lane

She commented on how nice it is to see our fellow Caldwell Resident, John Elliot, bringing his weather reports from various places in the area including Caldwell. The Mayor commented that John Elliot even posted a video on making bandana masks. Ms. Buchner commented that as a tax paying citizen she would be very unhappy if the Borough considered borrowing to help ease the tax concerns of other citizens.

Motion to close the Open Public Meeting portion of the Council Meeting

First: Council President Schmidt

Second: Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi

MR. BANKER SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL MAKE A MOTION TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS IN ORDER TO VOTE ON RESOLUTION 4-112 WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR THE DOWN PAYMENT FOR THE BOND ORDINANCES 1387-20 & 1388-20

MOTION MADE BY: COUNCILMAN GATES

SECOND: COUNCILMAN COLE

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL WAS UNANIMOUS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 4-112

FIRST: COUNCILMAN RODGERS

SECOND: COUNCILMAN LACE

RETURN TO NORMAL BUSINESS PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE# 1385-20: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AMENDING CHAPTER 250 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, ENTITLED "CALDWELL BOROUGH ZONING ORDINANCE" BY AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF SAME PURSUANT TO

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – April 7, 2020**

Page 3 of 5

THE 1999-2025 HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN (459 Bloomfield Avenue).

Mr. Banker stated that this is being brought forth for first reading again because there has been some changes in the parking language. It has been advertised in this week's progress and will be ready for adoption on 4/21.

Moved by Councilman Lace, Seconded by Council President Schmidt. No Discussion. On roll call, all voted in the affirmative. (Ordinance Passes)

ORDINANCE#1387-20: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS WITHIN THE WATER UTILITY IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,700,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,565,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mr. Banker explained that this is being reintroduced due to adjustment of the funds, and that the down payment they authorized in Resolution 4-112 is included in this ordinance. Has been advertised and will be ready for adoption on 4/21.

Moved by: Council President Schmidt, Seconded by Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi. No Discussion. Upon roll call, affirmative votes were made by Councilman Lace, Councilman Gates, Councilman, Rodgers, Council President Schmidt, and Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi. Councilman Cole abstained. (Ordinance Passes)

ORDINACNE# 1388-20: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR Sewer Utility Improvements IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,900,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Mr. Banker explained that just like the other bond ordinance, the down payment approved in Resolution 4-112 is included in this Ordinance. It has also been advertised in this week's edition of the Caldwell Progress and will be ready for adoption 4/21.

Moved by: Councilman Lace Seconded by Council President Schmidt. No Discussion. Upon roll call, the affirmatives votes were made by Councilman Lace, Councilman Gates, Councilman Rodgers, Council President Schmidt, and Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi. Councilman Cole Abstained. (Ordinance Passes)

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

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.

4-106: PULLED FROM CONSENT

4-107: AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH MARCH 14, 2020 – APRIL 3, 2020

4-108: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED – for the Meeting of April 7, 2020

4-109: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE, APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE – Rotary/Kiwanis Caldwell Street Fair, Inc. – 50/50 Raffle – October 4, 2020 11a.-5pm.

4-110: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR AMUSEMENT, APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE – Rotary/Kiwanis Caldwell Street Fair, Inc. – Amusement/Carnival Games – October 4, 2020 11am-5pm.

4-111: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF CANVASSER AND/OR SOLICITOR PERMIT. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS – Stephen Pope, 22 Chestnut Street , Verona, NJ, SOLICITING ON BEHALF OD Trinity Solar, 2211 Allenwood Rd, Wall NJ

4-112: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A SUPPLEMENTAL TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR 2020 – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

4-113: RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRITTANY HEUN AS THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL

MOTION TO PULL 4-106 FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA. VOICE VOTE WAS UNANOMOUSLY IN FAVOR.

Moved by Council President Schmidt seconded by Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi. Discussions Ensued. On roll call, all voted in the affirmative. Resolutions approved 04/07/2020.

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – April 7, 2020**

Page 4 of 5

RESOLUTION

4-106: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR PLANT WATERING BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

Motion to amend the Resolution to change the dates to 5/22/2020 – 10/4/2020 and change the dollar amount to \$8,850.

Moved by Councilman Rodgers, seconded by Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi. . On roll call, all voted in the affirmative.

Motion to Approve the Resolution as amended was made by Councilman Rodgers and seconded by Council President Schmidt. Discussion ensued. Upon roll call, all voted in the affirmative. Resolution adopted 4/7/2020

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

Council President Schmidt reported *The project for architectural work in the CCC (for which we approved the funds) has been out on hold.*

Here is the Community Center Update:

CCC has been very active on Social Media in the last 7 days on Facebook we have reached over 2,855 people with 2,275 views of our videos. Our lineup is as follows:

Monday/Friday Written out exercise plans

Tuesday/Thursday Video's of Joanne and a few of her instructors. Also exercise videos for kids.

Wednesday is a mix of challenges, crafts and other crazy things parents can do at home

Camp Pages:

We have our own story time happening and we have asked the Police to work with us.

We have made 3 Public Service announcements for our viewers: one from Chief of Police, West Essex First Aid Squad Captain Dave Black and OEM Director Mark Guiliano.

The can be viewed on the CCC FB page.

Maintaining our Twitter and Instagram pages too.

PLEASE NOTE we are still accepting camp registration but we have limited space so if interested please enroll.

Also please stress to the members, we are going to get all classes finished no one will lose or miss out on anything. My Lifeguard instructor has assured me she will run class so the kids all can get certified and have jobs this summer.

Library

The big ones right now are making sure people know:

1) We can get people library cards so they can access our digital collection, which is growing. There is a form on our website or they can email us at librarian@caldwellpl.org. We can also help patrons who have expired cards or blocked cards. Just email us and we'll take care of it.

2) Our drop box is now closed, so we are asking people to hold on to their physical materials. All fines and due dates will be waived as long as needed. Everyone's safety is our biggest priority.

Senior Advisory

- Actively working on ways to provide meals to seniors who are shut in. Details to be forthcoming*
- The Signage Committee had its first meeting last night*

It was a very productive look at the proposed ordinance and challenges with the approval & enforcement processes. Meeting again in 2 weeks

Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi reported *that the Environmental Committee has been making many updates to their pages in the Borough website. They are also planning different support initiatives they can do for the West Essex First Aid Squad.*

The West Essex First Aid Squad and its Captain, Dave Black, would like to thank the residents of Caldwell and surrounding towns for their support and generosity. They would also like to extend their thanks to the Mayor and Council for their support.

Caldwell Women's Club is donating \$1,000 to the Caldwell Food Pantry and \$500 to the West Essex First Aid Squad.

Thanks to Councilman Gates for his work organizing the "A Taste of Caldwell" virtual event. It went really well, and they would like to try to do it again, and maybe on a regular basis. It was a very unifying event that supported local business owners.

Councilman Gates reiterated Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi's comments regarding the "Taste of Caldwell" event. *He said that it was a great opportunity to gather and share a meal with the citizens of Caldwell. When another event can occur, the information will be posted accordingly.*

Census can still be filled out, so please take a couple of mins to do so.

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – April 7, 2020**

Page 5 of 5

Councilman Lace shared a heartfelt thank you to those who have signed up to donate meals to the West Essex First Aid Squad. There have been signs up, not just Caldwell residents, to provide meals up to June 3, 2020. Sign-ups can be found on the Website.

Councilman Cole shared that residents in other towns are putting candles out at night as a sign of solidarity and unity. Suggested maybe residents of the Borough of Caldwell would be able to join in on this and place Candles outside their homes or in windows. Stop & Shop early morning hours have been very helpful and effective. Employees have been instructed to not touch the reusable bags that many customers bring in, so if you bring your own like Councilman Cole did, keep in mind that you will have to bag your own groceries.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Thomas Banker

Thomas Banker reported:

- Budget is the top priority at this time, however there have been some changes as the State changes its practices at this time. The Layoffs of Part-time staff at the CCC and the Crossing Guards will be reflected in this budget
- Water and Sewer bills will be going out this week
- Sewer??
- First meeting of the Redevelopment task force occurred and Topology has begun their beginning steps.
- Water Main and Street projects will probably begin in June
- Redevelopment will be coming in front of the Mayor and Council in May/June
- COAH obligations will be finalized with the adoption of the ordinances at the next meeting on 4/21/2020. Those projects should begin around summer time.

REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

Due to technical difficulties, Patricia Keenan was not able to get on the call.

Council President did have a question for Ms. Keenan about metal sticking up on Westville ave by the Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Banker assured her that he would get her the contact info for the Essex Country Department of Public works, as that would be their obligation to fix.

On a motion made by Councilman Lace , seconded by Councilman Gates unanimously affirmed, the Council moved into Executive Session at ?PM.

Mayor Kelley read the following statement: BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:12 and 13, the public shall be excluded from the Executive Session of the Governing Body which is being held for the discussion of the following subject matters: 1. Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation; 2. Personnel matters; 3. This Executive Session shall continue for an indefinite period of time and upon termination of the Executive Session, the Governing Body may choose to resume the public portion of the meeting. The discussion, which shall be conducted in closed session, shall be disclosed upon termination of litigation or contractual matter, upon resolution of the personnel matter with consent of said person or persons and as provided by N.J.S.A. 4-12 but in no case later than two (2) years from this date. These minutes shall be available as soon as the matter is resolved or not later than two years hence.

The Executive Session was adjourned and upon a motion by Councilman Lace, seconded by Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi the Council Business Conference Meeting was opened to the public and the press at 9:23PM.

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Lace, seconded by Councilman Cole unanimously affirmed by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24PM.

Prepared by: _____
Brittany Heun Deputy Borough Clerk

DATE