

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting- April 7, 2026**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order at the Saint Aloysius Church Gymnasium, 219 Bloomfield, Caldwell, NJ at 7:02 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Jones, Councilman Jurgensen, Councilwoman Hunkele, Councilman Daniolowicz, Councilman Brown, and Councilwoman Rodeffer.

ABSENT: Council President Buechner.

ALSO PRESENT: Municipal Clerk, Brittany Heun, Borough Administrator, Alex Palumbo and Borough Attorney, Craig Bossong

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference Organizational Meeting was given on January 15, 2026. 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 3, 2026 - Regular Meeting & Executive Session Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes listed above, was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes from the March 3, 2026 Council Meeting & Executive Session were approved April 7, 2026.

PRESENTATION

1. Presentation of the 2026 Women's Community Impact Award
 - a. Councilwoman Hunkele and Councilwoman Rodeffer presented the awards too:
 - i. Maria Lopez
 - ii. Michelle Syme
 - iii. Hayden Wilson - JCHS High School Senior
 - iv. Sandra Cabalu
 - v. Madelyn Santiago (not present)

REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

Ms. Keenan provided the following information on behalf of the Essex County Government:

1. 2026 Cherry Blossom Events
 - a. 10k run at Branch brook Park & 1 mile Fun Run
 - b. Bloom Fest
2. Household Hazardous Waste Recycling on May 2nd
3. Computer & Electronics Recycling on May 16th

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Alex Palumbo

Mr. Palumbo reported:

- 80 Bloomfield Avenue Progress
 - Interior is just about complete
 - Generator should be here around 4/15
 - Digital Sign Board and building letters towards the end of the month
 - Landscaping is almost complete
 - Early - mid May move date
 - While excavating, the contractors uncovered a large slab of concrete that turned out to be a bridge that carried the Erie Lackawanna railroad through Caldwell. Contacted Railroad Construction and they came and set a small section of track and gravel to make it a commemorative piece of Caldwell history.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

There were no public comments

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1495-26

CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Upon request, CFO Chris Battaglia explained the need for this resolution.

After being read by number and title, a motion to approve Ordinance 1495-26 was made by Councilwoman Hunkele and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1495-26 was introduced April 7, 2026.

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.

4-85	Pulled for Separate Consideration
4-86	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 2/28/2026 THROUGH 4/01/2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 7,706,438.66
4-87	Pulled for Separate Consideration
4-88	AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF ONE (1) TAXICAB LICENSE TO Esref Ozturk of Flash Limousine, LLC, 26 Parkway East, Apt. G, Caldwell, NJ 07006. APPLICATION AND APPLICANT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.
4-89	AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF ONE (1) TAXICAB LICENSE TO Gul Ozturk of Flash Limousine, LLC, 26 Parkway East, Apt. G, Caldwell, NJ 07006. APPLICATION AND APPLICANT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.
4-90	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –St. Peters Nursery School – On-Premise –Merchandise Raffle
4-91	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –Caldwell West Essex Kiwanis Foundation – On-Premise –Merchandise Raffle
4-92	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –Caldwell West Essex Kiwanis Foundation – On-Premise –50/50 Cash Raffle
4-93	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –Parent Faculty Association of Mount St. Dominic Academy– On-Premise –50/50 Cash Raffle
4-94	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –Parent Faculty Association of Mount St. Dominic Academy– On-Premise –Merchandise Raffle
4-95	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –Parent Faculty Association of Mount St. Dominic Academy– Off-Premise –50/50 Cash Raffle
4-96	RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHANGE IN CUSTODIAN OF PETTY CASH FUND
4-97	Pulled for Separate Consideration
4-98	Pulled for Separate Consideration
4-99	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT, NOT TO EXCEED \$385,164.86, BE MADE TO THE CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY, TO COVER FURNISHING AND MOVING COSTS, AS WELL AS PROVIDE MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE HURRICANE IDA INSURANCE CLAIM
4-100	Pulled for Sperate Consideration
4-101	AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH'S LABOR ATTORNEY, SCOTT FAHRENY, ESQ, TO CONDUCT AND INDEPENDENT WORKPLACE INVESTIGATION AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,475

4-102	RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 2-59 AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT WITH SIGNATURE BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES FOR THE 80 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE PROJECT, FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000
4-103	RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY OF ESSEX CHANGE THE SPEED LIMIT ON BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
4-104	A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MODIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AND T AND M ASSOCIATES, 400 Broadacres Drive, Suite 250, Bloomfield, NJ, FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED AS BOROUGH PLANNER
4-105	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 3-104, AND AMEND THE MEMBERS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
4-106	RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 3-82 TO ADJUST THE SEWER BILLING FOR BLOCK 41, LOT 7 FOR 30 LANE AVENUE

A motion to approve the amended consent agenda, was made by Councilman Brown, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The consent agenda was approved on April 7, 2026.

4-85 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID PARSONS AS A TEMPORARY PART-TIME SALARIED FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIAL INSPECTOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL CONSTRUCTION OFFICE EFFECTIVE APRIL 8, 2026.

A motion to approve resolution 4-85 was made by Councilwoman Hunkele, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Discussion Ensued. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution 4-85 was approved on April 7, 2026

4-87 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK BIDS FOR PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE CONSULTING AND BROKERAGE SERVICES/BROKER OF RECORD SERVICES

A motion to approve resolution 4-87 was made by Councilman Brown, and seconded by Councilwoman Rodeffer. Discussion Ensued. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution 4-87 was approved on April 7, 2026

4-97 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE RESEARCH AGREEMENT WITH RUTGERS UNIVERSITY FOR THE RAIN GARDEN PROJECTS

A motion to approve resolution 4-97 was made by Councilman Brown, and seconded by Councilwoman Hunkele. Discussion Ensued. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution 4-97 was approved on April 7, 2026

4-98 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT TO GRAPHICS CONNECTION, INC FOR WEBSITE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$18,700

A motion to approve resolution 4-98 was made by Councilman Daniolowicz, and seconded by Councilwoman Hunkele. Discussion Ensued. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution 4-98 was approved on April 7, 2026

4-100 AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AND KLEINFELDER FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$106,865

A motion to approve resolution 4-100 was made by Councilman Brown, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Discussion Ensued. Upon a roll call vote, Councilwoman Hunkele, Councilman Brown, and Councilman Daniolowicz voted in the affirmative, and Councilman Jurgensen and Councilwoman Rodeffer voted against the motion. Resolution 4-100 was approved on April 7, 2026 with a 3-2 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET INTRODUCTION

4-107	RESOLUTION OF APPROVING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET
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CFO Chris Battaglia gave a presentation on the 2026 Municipal Budget. Discussion was had after the presentation, between the Council and the CFO.

A resolution to adopted resolution 4-107 was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Hunkele. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

1. Councilman Daniolowicz- DPW
 - a. Camp Wyanoke
 - i. The camp grounds are open for the season
 - ii. Thanked West Caldwell DPW and Caldwell DPW for their assistance with the Spring Cleanup of the camp grounds.
 - b. DPW
 - i. Flushing Hydrants will likely start next week. Notice of the schedule will be posted before hand
 - c. Thanked Brittany, the Department Heads, and DPW for their work going through the Borough's records.
2. Councilwoman Rodeffer
 - a. Local Assistance Board
 - i. Bylaws are under review
 - b. 4/29 at 7pm there will be a Zoom presentation combining history and botany.
 - c. Board of Education
 - i. 3/16 Meeting
 - ii. Decided that 6 million will be drawn from reserves to pay for the demolition and rebuild of the field house. This was voted down twice by public referendum.
 - iii. 1 million will be withdrawn to install an elevator in Lincoln School
3. Councilman Jurgensen
 - a. Historic Preservation Commission
 - i. Next meeting will be held at the Grover House
 - ii. They've begun discussion about developing guidelines for developing historical buildings, with the help of Bob Silver
 - iii. Members are reviewing Historic Preservation Commission guidelines of other towns and comparing to ours
4. Councilman Brown
 - a. Environmental Commission
 - i. Shredding event on 4/25 at the Kiwanis Oval parking area
 - ii. 10pm – 1pm only paper accepted, no cardboard or paperclips
 - iii. Donations will be accepted for JCHS Scholarships
5. Councilman Hunkele
 - a. First quarter newsletter is posted on our website
 - b. Caldwell Connect app is available for free for all residents.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones Reported:

- Grover Cleveland Conservancy Cleanup Day is 4/25
 - Councilwoman Hunkele added that the Caldwell Beautification Day is scheduled for the day before Memorial Day
- Outdoor feature for Patio has been completed. Next step will be furniture for the space
- DMV was at the Firehouse this Saturday
 - All of the workers were very friendly and helpful to all who showed up
 - We will work on scheduling another event
- Attended the dedication of Caden's Clubhouse on Smull avenue with the Stille family. This is a little library for neurodivergent kids

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Craig Bossong

Craig Bossong:

- No report for public session
- there will be a closed session report on litigation and personnel, with an item to be voted on after.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robin Rockman, Director of the Caldwell Public Library. The library is looking to have furnishings and contents moved between the week of May 4th and the following week. We will be announcing the actual date once we have it. Please sign up to our newsletter for the latest updates.

Mayor Jones asked where residents can go to get services while the Library is closed

Robin informed the public that our Library is part of the PALs system which allows for residents to use the Verona and Cedar Grove Libraries for free. As a part of the REBEL system, they can also use almost all libraries in Essex County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Closed Session

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 matter; ongoing litigation and personnel; 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.

4-108	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of April 7, 2026
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A motion to close the public meeting and go into executive session was made by Councilwoman Hunkele and seconded by Councilman Jurgensen. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The governing body closed the public meeting and entered executive session at 8:55 pm.

A motion to close the executive session was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Hunkele. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The executive session was closed and the meeting was reopened to the public at 9:18 pm.

4-109 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH 80 ROSELAND LLC AS A SETTLEMENT FOR DOCKET # ESX-L-1088-24

Mr. Bossing read the resolution in full. A motion to adopt resolution 4-109 was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilman Jurgensen. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Resolution 4-109 was adopted on April 7, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to be conducted, a motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by Councilman Jurgensen and seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon voice vote, all members present voted in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Prepared by: Brittany Heun
Brittany Heun, Borough Clerk

4/7/2026
DATE