

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL  
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING  
Regular Meeting- August 13, 2024**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order at the gymnasium of St. Aloysius Church, 219 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councilman Jurgensen, Councilman Alonso, Council President Brown, Councilman Daniolowicz, Councilwoman Rodeffer, Councilwoman Buechner, and Mayor Jones.

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brittany Heun, Borough Clerk, Borough Administrator, Alex Palumbo and Kate Fina, covering for Borough Attorney, Craig Bossong.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:**

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference Organizational Meeting was given on July 25, 2024. 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**

**Moment of Silence:**

A Moment of Silence and Personal Reflection was initiated by Mayor Jones to express gratitude for all the men and women who represented our country in the Olympics and to wish them a safe return to the United States.

At 7:08 pm, Councilwoman Buechner made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Brown. All members voted in the affirmative to go into Executive Closed Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Closed Session*

*Mayor Jones Read the 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 matter; Labor Discussions; 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.

<b>8-199</b>	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of August 13, 2024
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At 7:14 pm, Councilman Daniolowicz made a motion to close Executive Session and return to Public Session, seconded by Councilman Alonso. All members voted in the affirmative to close Executive Session and return to Public Session.

Mayor Jones read for the record the following two Resolutions into the record. A motion to add resolutions 8-210 & 8-211 to the consent agenda was made by Councilwoman Buchner and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative.

<b>8-210</b>	RESOLUTION APPOINTING SERGEANT MICHAEL PELLEGRINO AS TEMPORARY ACTING LIEUTENANT OF THE CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT
<b>8-211</b>	RESOLUTION APPOINTING LIEUTENANT DEMETRIOS ANDRINOPOULOS AS TEMPORARY ACTING CAPTAIN OF THE CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 23, 2024

A motion to approve the July 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

July 30, 2024

A motion to approve the July 30, 2024 Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

### PRESENTATION

1. Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Kenny Meka and North American Eagle Construction for Donations to the Green
  - Mayor Jones presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Meka of North American Eagle Construction

### REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

Ms. Keenan relayed information about upcoming events sponsored by the County of Essex:

- Waterfront Turtleback Zoo Music Concerts (Check the website for dates).
- A Back-to-School Open House Event scheduled for Saturday August 17, 2024 from 10:00am-2:00pm in the One Stop East Orange Parking Lot
- The Essex County Health Department is still offering vaccines and health screenings. Ms. Keenan suggested that the town reach out to the contact person for the Caldwell Street Fair to schedule the Mobile Healthcare Clinic to be present at the Fair.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

1. **Henderson Cole, 63 Crane Street** inquired if adding a second Police Captain to the Caldwell Police Force would impact the Borough of Caldwell's Budget?  
*Mayor Jones responded that adding a second Police Captain was in response to public comments that the Borough was not taking any action regarding recommendations from the Ambrose Report. Mr. Palumbo added that the Borough would be able to appropriate the funding for those slight salary adjustments.*  
*Mayor Jones stated that the Governing Body would provide more information once a Director of Police was in place and that training would begin immediately.*

### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

#### ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

**ORDINANCE NO. 1465-24** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1446-23 ESTABLISHING SALARIES OR WAGES OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Buechner to open the public hearing on Ordinance 1465-24 and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative and the public hearing was opened. There being no public comments on the Ordinance, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Alonso.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 1465-24 was made by Councilman Alonso and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1465-24 was adopted on 8/13/2024.

### 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.*

8-200	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 10-281 FOR A SEWER CONNECTION FOR 85 Livingston Urban Renewal, LLC, IN RELATION TO THE CONNECTION FEES
8-201	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS, OVERPAYMENTS OR CANCELLATIONS IN THE TAX OFFICE
8-202	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL TO ISSUE PAYMENT TO JAMES HAAS LANDSCAPE SPECTRUM, FOR VARIOUS LANDSCAPE WORK AT 80 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
8-203	RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 6-176 TO INCLUDE A RETROACTIVE INCREASE FOR FORMER EMPLOYEE MARIA BURAK WHO WAS INADVERTENTLY LEFT OFF THE 2024 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

8-204	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL TO ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH FELLS MANOR CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
8-205	RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR THE VARIOUS STREETS-2022- CALDWELL (ESPY ROAD, HILLCREST ROAD AND WESTOVER AVENUE)
8-206	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 07/20/2024 THROUGH 08/09/2024
8-207	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH ONE WATER CONSULTING, LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
8-208	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE EXTENSION FOR BETTER LIFE RECOVERY, LLC, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

A motion to approve the amended consent agenda was made by Council President Brown The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. All resolutions of the amended consent agenda were approved 8/13/2024.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Borough Council Members*

1. Councilman Daniolowicz

a) Porchfest

Porchfest is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of September 14<sup>th</sup>. There are 10-12 Borough residents that have volunteered their porches for the event. The event will likely conclude at the County Stage in Grover Cleveland Park. Mayor Jones thanked Councilman Daniolowicz and the whole Porchfest Committee for all their hard work.

2. Councilwoman Rodeffer

a) Caldwell Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has asked for donations of rice, juice boxes, pasta and coffee. Items can be dropped off behind the Health and Human Services Building at 14 Park Avenue.

b) Caldwell/West Caldwell School District

The Caldwell/West Caldwell School District is one of the few school districts in New Jersey that has shown exceptional growth since the Coronavirus Pandemic. Lincoln Elementary School is 1 of 50 schools that are taking part in research for the "Promising Practices Project".

**REPORT OF MAYOR**

*Mayor Jones*

Mayor Jones reported:

- National Night Out is scheduled for tonight (8/13/2024). Some of the Governing Body were able to visit the event prior to the Council Meeting and it appeared to be well-attended. The Caldwell Police Department always does a wonderful job with National Night Out. West Caldwell Police Department, WEFAS, Fortes Restaurant, Calandra's Italian Village, and Guerriero's Gelato all participated for the event. The West Caldwell Police Department also brought one of their therapy dogs to the event. The Borough has a wonderful police department. The Governing Body is just looking to make smart and honorable discussions when it comes to promotions. We also want to ensure that all of our officers are trained well.
- The Borough will be investigating with regard to some of the water events we experienced this last week.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR**

*Alex Palumbo*

- After significant rainfall last week, the Borough is looking into trouble areas like Provost Square and Orchard Square. A contractor will be clearing out the inlets.
  - Vortex will be in town to clean out our stormwater system. Grease blockages were discovered, which may be having a direct effect for some of the residents on Brookside Avenue.
  - The I and I Study was mentioned, as well as the Sewer Plant's capacity issues.
  - Currently, the Sewer Plant is at maximum capacity, which is why we have commissioned One Water Consulting to work on design improvements for increased capacity. Because of the



inflow and infiltration, we are unable to have the plant re-rated. As we make progress with these improvements, we will see a change and increase in our capacity.

- Mayor Jones added that the Sewer Treatment Plant serves many neighboring towns and we will all put money and work into our sewer plant to improve the capacity.
- Essex County will be paving Bloomfield Avenue from Passaic Avenue to Mountain Avenue. We will be able to provide more information for the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting.
- A Draft Agreement was received for Shared Services with West Caldwell for fueling the Borough's vehicles. We hope to have it reviewed by the next Council Meeting. The Borough's fuel bill for last month was \$16,000 at the gas station.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY**

*Craig Bossong*

Katy Fina stated that there were no reports on behalf of the Borough Attorney, Craig Bossong.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Steve Monica, 153 Westville Avenue** stated that the current coverage of the Borough's Meetings on Channel 35 needs some improvement. Mr. Monica indicated that he understands the decision to eliminate ZOOM Meetings, however, there should be an online streaming option for the public. The last Council Meeting had some glitches.

*Councilwoman Buechner responded that the live streaming was working well. The replay portion had some difficulties. She had spoken to the IT Team about it and they are looking to institute some improvements. The cost of fixing the cable box right now is too expensive.*

Mr. Monica stated that Bob Colaizzo used to do a fantastic job of running the multi-media system.

*Councilman Alonso posed the thought that maybe the Borough could open a YouTube Channel and stream the meetings there.*

**Henderson Cole, 63 Crane Street** reported that I and I Studies have been done in the past. The studies indicated that there are residents and buildings that are directing their sump pumps and gutters into the sanitary sewer system. On a rainy day, there is 5 times the volume of water through the system than on a dry day. Are inspections still being conducted to enforce this issue and prohibit people from tying into the sanitary sewer system?

*Mayor Jones reported that there are new code violations and fines for residents and businesses that illegally direct their sump pumps into the sanitary sewer system.*

*Mr. Palumbo added that enforcement is difficult. Teaching the public is ideal but there will always be people who don't comply.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Closed Session*

*Mayor Jones Read the 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 matter; Contract Negotiations; 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.

8-209

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of August 13, 2024

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Councilman Alonso, and seconded by Councilman Jurgensen. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The Council went into Executive Session at 7:51 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Prepared by: *Kim Conlon*  
Kim Conlon, Deputy Clerk

*September 4, 2024*  
DATE