

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting- December 17, 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 7:00 pm.

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Borough 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 11, 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:

Mayor Jones invited the public to say a prayer for all those less fortunate who may not have family with which to spend the holidays. He also requested prayers for the Abundant Life Church School in Wisconsin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 25, 2024 – Oversight Committee Meeting
December 3, 2024 Council Meeting

A motion to approve the November 25, 2024 Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The November 25, 2024 Oversight Committee meeting minutes were approved 12/17/2024.

A motion to approve the December 3, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The December 3, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes were approved 12/17/2024.

PRESENTATION

1. Sustainability Awards

- a. Ann Marchioni presented the Caldwell Environmental Commission's 2024 Sustainability Awards to the following individuals and associations: Christine Nathan, for her work at the Caldwell Pollinator Garden, Elaine Nyce, for her work at the Caldwell Pollinator Garden, Rosemarie's Rescue Resale Shop for their encouragement of the reuse of clothes and other items for the West Essex Community, the Essex County Environmental Center for their wonderful programs and the Willing Hearts Consignment Shop for their encouragement of the reuse of clothes and other items for the West Essex Community.
- b. Ann Marchioni presented the Borough with Caldwell's Bronze Award from Sustainable Jersey. She stated that this is the tenth year that the Borough has participated and announced that Caldwell is the recipient of a \$91,000 grant to create rain gardens throughout the town, with the help of Rutgers University.

REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

No Report.

Mayor Jones and Council President Brown presented Councilman Alonso with a plaque as a thank you for his service to the Borough of Caldwell.

Councilman Alonso shared a few words:

As he ends his tenure on the Borough of Caldwell Council, he would like to take a moment to express his deepest gratitude for all the individuals who have supported him including his family, public committee members, Alex Palumbo, Brittany Heun and the Borough Staff, his campaign helpers, former councilmembers, present Council Members, and former Councilman Lace. He will always remain deeply appreciative for the opportunity to serve his community and is confident that Caldwell is in "the right hands".

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

No Public Comments

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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.

12-306	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO SEND A PAYMENT OF \$480.00 TO THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, TRENTON, NJ FOR LEAD HAZARD CONTROL ASSISTANCE ACT FUNDS COLLECTED BY THE BOROUGH FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 11, 2024
12-307	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE CALDWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
12-308	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS, OVERPAYMENTS OR CANCELLATIONS IN THE TAX OFFICE
12-309	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS, OVERPAYMENTS OR CANCELLATIONS IN THE TAX OFFICE
12-310	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JAXSON O'CONNOR AS A JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER OF THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
12-311	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE FOR LADDER TRUCK RADIOS FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC., 123 TICE BLVD., WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ 07677 FOR THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT UNDER STATE CONTRACT#83909 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$27,697.40
12-312	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL SIX (6) MONTH LEASE EXTENSION WITH ARIES BUILDING SYSTEMS, LLC FOR THE TEMPORARY OFFICE TRAILERS LOCATED AT 24 SMULL AVENUE
12-313	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS
12-314	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A "BOSS SNOWRATOR" FROM CLIFFSIDE BODY CORP, 130 BROAD AVE, FAIRVIEW, NJ 07022 FOR THE CALDWELL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, UNDER SOURCEWELL CONTRACT#06117-TTC FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,746.62
12-315	AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE 2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT'S PUBLIC SERVICE GRANT FOR A NEW SENIOR BUS
12-316	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REIMBURSEMENT TO BETTER LIFE RECOVERY, LLC FOR THEIR SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR 80 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
12-317	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 12/03/2024 THROUGH 12/13/2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$948,166.98
12-318	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.– Off-Premise – Merchandise Raffle
12-319	AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR THE REHABILITATION FOR 80 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. All Resolutions listed in the Consent Agenda were approved 12/17/2024.

NEW BUSINESS**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS***Borough Council Members*

1. Councilman Daniolowicz
 - Councilman Daniolowicz had the opportunity to have a "work day" with the Camp Wyanokie Committee. He encouraged residents to take advantage of the camp's facilities in the Spring.
 - The Caldwell Library will have abbreviated hours for the Holidays. They will be closed on December 24th, December 25th, December 31st and January 1st.
 - The Menorah Lighting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday, December 30th on the Caldwell Green.
2. Councilwoman Rodeffer
 - The Caldwell/West Caldwell Board of Education met on December 16th and were treated to

beautiful music performed by the students. At the Board's January meeting, a Resolution will be presented, to be put on the ballot, for repairs to the schools and the rebuilding of the Fieldhouse.

- Councilwoman Rodeffer will be meeting with Councilman Daniolowicz and President Senese of Caldwell University to discuss parking and other issues.
- The West Essex Ministerial Center will be having a meeting at the Senior Center in the New Year.

3. Councilwoman Buechner

- The Grover Cleveland Birthplace had their annual meeting in the new Visitor Center. The Grand Opening for the Visitor Center will be in January.
- The Health and Human Services Department will be having a Bingo and Pizza Event on December 19th at 1:00PM at 14 Park Avenue. A Senior Fitness Workshop is planned for the end of January.
The Health and Human Services Department distributed 104 holiday gifts through the Giving Tree.

4. Councilman Jurgensen

- The Historic Preservation Commission now has a full committee. The first meeting is scheduled for January 23rd and a schedule of meeting dates has been proposed for the 2025 calendar year.
Chapter 130 of the Borough Code details the responsibilities of the Commission. The Commission is seeking to recruit a student from either James Caldwell High School or Caldwell University to join as a member.
- Councilman Jurgensen had the opportunity to attend the opening of the Carriage House and is hopeful that the Historic Preservation Commission and the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Committee can find a way to work together and collaborate.
Mayor Jones suggested to Councilman Jurgensen that he reach out to Bob Silver to see if he would be interested in joining the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Councilman Jurgensen and Mayor Jones have started a conversation with Caldwell University about possibly assisting in the cataloging of the photos of Gene Collard, Richard Gibbs, and other local photographers.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones reported:

- The Christmas Tree Lighting took place on December 7th. Many thanks to the Caldwell Fire Department for all their efforts for the event. The Mayor noted that this year was the last time that Engine 526 would be carrying Santa into town. The Mayor thanked Councilman Daniolowicz for providing the sound system for the event.
- Santa will be in town on Sunday, December 22nd, starting at 10:00am on the east end of town and ending his run around 6:00-7:00pm on the west end of town. The Caldwell Fire Department will be collecting food items for the Caldwell Food Pantry along the route.
- The Borough of Caldwell's Reorganizational Meeting is scheduled for January 7th at 6:00 pm.
- Mayor Jones reported that he had the opportunity to participate in a meeting set up in Trenton on December 9th that was organized by the State Officials for Legislators and Mayors to discuss the recent drone sightings. He stated that the meeting was informative, but also disappointing. State Officials are urging New Jersey residents to report any sightings to the Drone Hot Line. The number for the Hot Line is provided on the Caldwell Website, along with additional information regarding the drones. Information has also been provided on the Borough's Social Website. The Mayor stated that a primary concern for local residents is that the drones have been sited flying over the Essex County Airport.
- Mayor Jones wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilman Alonso announced that the Caldwell Fire Department Trucks won first prize in the Totowa Light Show Holiday Parade this year.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Alex Palumbo

Mr. Palumbo reported:

- The Borough is finalizing the plans for 80 Bloomfield Avenue. The town should be going out to bid sometime next week.
- Mr. Palumbo is planning to meet with Chris Battaglia, the Chief Financial Officer, and Council President Brown to work on the 2025 Budget.
- There was an issue with regard two sewer pipe vents in the attic of 14 Park Avenue that were not vented but the problem is being addressed immediately.
- The Caldwell Sewer Treatment Plant installed new meters, which they are monitoring. The numbers they are registering with the new meters indicate a 15% reduction in flows, which will help alleviate capacity concerns.

Councilman Daniolowicz reported seeing a notation on the town calendar for a Division of Motor Vehicle Event on December 30th. Ms. Heun, the Borough Clerk, responded that the event is scheduled for February and that the notation for December 30th was to indicate motor vehicle inspections for the Police Department.

Mayor Jones expressed his concerns over the sewer pipe ventilation issue at 14 Park Avenue. He stated that it is a health concern.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Craig Bossong

Mr. Bossong reported:

- 2025 will be the first year in some time for the Caldwell Sewer Plant that all the participating towns will go into the new year with contracts. Mr. Bossong is currently working with Mr. Palumbo to go over calculations, estimated bills, and reconciling each participating town's share of the plant's operating costs.
- There has been a lawsuit filed against the Borough of Caldwell. Mr. Bossong has advised the Council and Borough Staff not to comment on any pending litigation.

Councilman Jurgensen inquired if there are any provisions in the new contracts with the participating towns that ensure that each town is doing their own I and I investigation (Inflow and Infiltration)? Mr. Bossong responded that it is specified in the contracts that each town is supposed to video and inspect 20 % of their system annually and report to the Caldwell Sewer Plant their findings. There is a timeline in place. The goal is that after 5 years, the majority of the I and I is identified and after 7 years, most of the I and I will be remedied or eliminated.

Mayor Jones mentioned the death of "The Amazing Kreskyn" who had deep ties to our town. Thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Henderson Cole, 63 Crane Street, stated that a Municipal Building Report is required to be done on an annual basis. The initial reports from 2023 are on the Caldwell Website but the 2024 Municipal Buildings Reports are not on the website. The purpose of the reports is to ensure that the public is aware of the status of all municipal buildings. He encouraged the Governing Body to have the 2024 reports added to the Caldwell Website.

Mr. Palumbo responded that the 2024 Municipal Building Reports will be added to the Caldwell Website. He indicated that one of the critical concerns is the roof of the Caldwell Firehouse, which has been leaking for a year. At the last meeting, the Governing Body approved a resolution to make the necessary repairs to the roof.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

12-319	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of December 17, 2024
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A motion to close the public portion of the meeting and enter into executive session was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Council left public session and entered closed session at 7:57 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Prepared by:

Kim Conlon
Kim Conlon, Deputy Clerk

DATE

January 8, 2025