

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – December 5, 2023**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order in-person and on Zoom at 7:04pm PM.

PRESENT: Councilwoman Buechner, Councilman Lace, Councilman Brown, Councilman Daniolowicz, Councilman Cole, and Mayor Jones.

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, Borough Administrator, Alex Palumbo, Borough Attorney, Craig Bossong, Esq.

ABSENT: Council President Alonso and Patricia Keenan (Essex County Liaison)

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 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

PRAYER/ Moment of Silence

Councilwoman Buechner asked for a moment of silence for Sister Mary D'Amelia from the Sisters of Saint Dominic who had recently passed away.

Mayor Jones asked for a moment of silence for acknowledgement of the passing of Patti Mathieson (Long-time employee of the Caldwell Library), Doris Farra (Secretary of the Grover Cleveland Middle School) and Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter.

Councilman Cole provided for the Governing Body and the public a speech indicating all the contributions Patti Mathieson had made over the course of her career with the Borough of Caldwell to the Caldwell Public Library and to the Caldwell Community. A copy of the speech was presented to Ms. Mathieson's children, Douglas, Christina, and Jenna.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
Closed Session**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 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: Contract 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.10:4-14.

12-310	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED
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A Motion to close the public meeting and enter executive session was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon a voice vote all members voted in the affirmative. Council went into executive session at 7:13pm.

A motion to close the executive session and reopen the public session, was made by Councilman Lace and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The Council meeting was reopened to the public at 8:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 21, 2023 – Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Business Meeting, was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. November 21, 2023 Regular Council Business Meeting Minutes approved 12/05/2023.

PRESENTATION

**REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON
Patricia Keenan**

Mayor Jones made an announcement that the Governing Body would be adding two additional Resolutions to the Consent Agenda. The additional Resolutions were identified as:

- 12-324 Resolution to Hire Frank Urchak and Ryan Gaffney as Laborers for the Department of Public Works Effective January 2, 2024**
- 12-325 Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Service Agreement for Health Services Between the Township of Bloomfield and the Borough of Caldwell Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028**

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Stephen Flack, 35 Hillside Avenue and Member of the Caldwell Environmental Commission, read a statement on behalf of the Environmental Commission thanking the Governing Body for their support in Resolutions 12-311 (Supporting Continuation of Corporate Business Tax at 2023 Rate to Fund Critical Open Space, Farmland, Historic Preservation and Hazardous Site Cleanup Funding) and Resolution 12-312 (Resolution Opposing the Expansion of the New Jersey 1-95 Turnpike). Both Resolutions were included in the Consent Agenda for the December 5, 2023 Meeting.

Hilda Moore, 23 Personette Street, asked the Governing Body why Chief Bonjourno would be required to purchase his weapon upon retirement and why the town would not allow him to keep it as a parting gift?

Mayor Jones responded that there was no precedent in the Borough of Caldwell of allowing a Retiring Chief to keep his/her weapon upon retirement.

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.

12-311	SUPPORTING CONTINUATION of CORPORATE BUSINESS TAX (CBT) AT 2023 RATE TO FUND CRITICAL OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HAZARDOUS SITE CLEANUP FUNDING
12-312	RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF THE NEW JERSEY I-95 TURNPIKE
12-313	RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CALDWELL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AS THE OFFICIAL GREEN TEAM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY MUNICIPAL PROGRAM
12-314	RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE ESSEX COUNTY WITH THE CENTRAL AVENUE SPEED/TRAFFIC STUDY TO REDUCE THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT TO 25MPH
12-315	RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE POLICE CHIEF JAMES BONGIORNO TO PURCHASE HIS SERVICE WEAPON FOR \$275.00
12-316	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR THE POSITION OF A FULL TIME REGISTERED MUNICIPAL CLERK
12-317	RESOLUTION APPOINTING CAPTAIN MATTHEW DEANGELO AS TEMPORARY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 29, 2023
12-318	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BAGGING OF CALDWELL PARKING METERS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON FROM DECEMBER 6, 2023 TO JANUARY 1, 2024
12-319	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
12-320	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 AUDIT REPORT
12-321	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 11/18/2023 THROUGH 12/1/2023
12-322	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTER 2024 GRANT
12-323	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS

A motion to approve the consent agenda with the inclusion of the two additionally added Resolutions (**Resolution 12-324 and 12-325**), was made by Councilman Brown, and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Discussion ensued. Councilman Lace stated that he had waited at least four years to have the crosswalk and speed limit issue addressed on Central Avenue and was encouraged to see Resolution 12-314 on the Agenda. Upon a roll call vote, all attending members voted in the affirmative. Resolutions 12-311 through 12-325 were approved 12/05/2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brown thanked the Governing Body for their efforts in supporting the Caldwell Environmental Commission with **Resolution 12-311** and **Resolution 12-312**.

Councilman Cole reported that he had been a member of the Caldwell Tree Committee for the last three years. In his experience on the Committee, he has found that many residents follow the proper tree removal process and replace with native trees.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

1. Councilwoman Buechner thanked everyone who participated in the Virtual Giving Tree sponsored by the Health and Human Services Office. All of the items requested were claimed and promised by participants. She announced that the gifts were due by December 7th or December 8th.
2. Councilman Cole thanked the Construction Official for providing reports on all of the municipally owned buildings and noted for the public that the reports are available on the Caldwell Website.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones announced that he is hoping for a Grand Opening of the newly renovated Senior Center in January or February of 2024.

The Mayor thanked the participants and all who contributed to the Borough's Tree Lighting Ceremony, including the Caldwell Fire Department, the Caldwell Police Department, the Department of Public Works, the Kuwanis Club (who distributed candy canes), and the Choir from the First Presbyterian Church.

The Mayor announced that the Borough would be hosting a Menorah Lighting on the Green at 4:00pm on December 13th.

In addition, the Mayor stated that the Caldwell Police Department was still collecting donations for Toys for Tots. Donation boxes are set up in the Police Department Lobby, Borough Hall Lobby, the Caldwell Library, and designated businesses in town.

An announcement was made that the First Presbyterian Church would be hosting their Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday December 9th from 9:00am-12:00pm.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Alex Palumbo

1. The final surface course of pavement for Personette Street and Orchard Square would be installed in the Spring.
2. The new parking meters that were ordered have been delayed until December 15th.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Craig Bossong

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Sullivan, 6 Parkway West, thanked the Department of Public Works for all their hard work and efforts in collecting leaves throughout town. He reported to the Governing Body that he had bagged the leaves on his property for collection and was dismayed by the fact that many of his neighbors left their leaves loose by the curb for several weeks. Eventually, the leaves were collected by the Department of Public Works. He asked if the town was actively enforcing their Leaf Ordinance Policies.

Councilman Brown asked Mr. Sullivan if he had reported the situation to anyone in Borough Hall?

Mr. Sullivan had reported the issue to Borough Hall but the leaves were collected anyway. He provided photographs of the leaves to the Mayor and Councilmembers.

Mayor Jones stated that he would investigate the matter.

Robin Rockman, Library Director, reported to the Governing Body that the library had a Re-opening Celebration to mark one year of occupying the temporary trailers. The library is currently collecting books for ages kindergarten to 8th grade reading levels. On December 14th, an event was hosted at the library in which Glenn Beckmeyer Jr. provided information to residents on Stormwater Management. The library currently has many events on-going and scheduled for the public including Sensory Storytime, English as a Second Language Classes, and a Gingerbread House Decorating Event for children. All times and dates for events are posted on the Caldwell Public Library Website.

Tom Haight, 551 Bloomfield Avenue and Member of the Caldwell Fire Department, reported to the Governing Body that some adjustments should be made to Lincoln Terrace. While responding to a fire call, he had to stop his vehicle and pull over to the side of the road while another vehicle passed him on Lincoln Terrace. He suggested having a line painted on the street or making it a one-way street to eliminate any congestion on the roadway.

In addition, Mr. Haight asked if the Borough would consider restoring the Monument by Borough Hall, which has deteriorated over time after being exposed to the elements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously affirmed by all members present via a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26p

Prepared by: Kim Conlon
Kim Conlon: Deputy Clerk

DATE: 12/29/23