

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL  
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING  
Regular Meeting- February 20, 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 7.02pm.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jones, Councilman Alonso (Joined at 7:11pm), Councilman Brown, Councilwoman Rodeffer, and Councilwoman Buechner.

**ABSENT:** Councilman Daniolowicz

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy Clerk, Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, Police Captain Mathew DeAngelo Borough Administrator, Alex Palumbo, Borough Attorney, Kate Fina.

**ABSENT:** 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**

**Prayer/Moment of Silence**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** *Closed Session*

<b>2-91</b>	<b>RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED</b> For the Meeting of February 20, 2024
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A motion to go into executive session was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The Governing Body entered Executive Session at 7:26pm.

*The Deputy Clerk 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 matter; Pending or anticipated litigation; 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.*

A motion to leave executive session was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The Governing Body entered Executive Session at 7:33pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 6, 2024

A motion to approve the above meeting minutes was made by Councilwoman Buechner, and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes were approved on 2/6/2024.

**PRESENTATION**

1. Swearing in of Police Offers
  - a. Officer Corey Gerard
  - b. Officer Nicholas D'Amico
  
2. Proclamation for Irene Gibbons

**REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON** *Patricia Keenan*

No Report as Patricia Keenan was absent

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Mayor Jones spoke to the Kiwanis Resolution and the importance of Kiwanis is the community. He read excerpts of the Resolution on the Consent Agenda.

**Dean Conner, Livingston. Former Governor of Kiwanis. Very proud of Kiwanis and our Service Leadership programs for kids. We try to teach young kids about civic service. K-Club for elementary, Builder's Club for Middle School, Key Club in High School, Circle - K for Caldwell University. Over the years we have done a lot of work in the community, we have had a lot of people in the community and houses of worship involved in our club. Thanks, Caldwell, for this resolution on tonight's agenda.**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCE 1455-24** AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL TO REPEAL CHAPTER 110 "FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 110 "FLOOD CONTROL AND DAMAGE PREVENTION"; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 1455-24 was made by Councilwoman Buechner, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a unanimous Voice Vote, that public hearing was opened.

**Sally Cogan, 58 Mountain Ave asked if it was the appropriate time to ask questions on the E-Bike Ordinance.** Mayor Jones informed her that the public hearing is on the Flood Damage Ordinance and that she would have time to comment on the next ordinance soon.

**Robert Alecea, 38 Westville Ave. Is the area behind the homes on the South Side of Westville Ave included in this.** Mr. Palumbo responded that this is a state required Ordinance and does not have specific property locations.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilwoman Buechner and Councilman Alonso. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the public hearing on Ordinance 1455-24 was closed. A motion to adopt Ordinance 1455-24 was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a roll call vote, the governing body unanimously adopted Ordinance 1455-24.

**ORDINANCE 1456-24** AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AND ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL" BY ADDING ARTICLE VIII TO CHAPTER 230 OF SAID CODE

A motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 1456-24 was made by Councilwoman Buechner, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a unanimous Voice Vote, that public hearing was opened.

**Sally Cogan, 58 Mountain Ave asked why the driving age for e-bike/e-scooter was higher than the legal driving age for cars. Ms. Cogan also asked about helmet requirements, and whether or not surrounding town have similar Ordinances.**

**Captain DeAngelo said that there are residents and travelers who use the electric bikes and scooters on the sidewalks, which is not allowed. This Ordinance give the Police Department something to enforce, so they can stop people from driving their e-bikes on the sidewalks in town. The specifics in the Ordinance follow the guidelines in Title 39 which defines the e-bike laws. There are different requirements for helmets, ages, etc., based on the power of the machine. Most townships are adopting similar Ordinances.**

A motion to pull Ordinance 1456-24 was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance 1456-24 was pulled for further investigation.

**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.*

<b>2-80</b>	AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT THE ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023
<b>2-81</b>	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

2-82	RESOLUTION FOR A SEWER CONNECTION FOR WOODMONT SENIOR LIVING LLC, FOR THE PROPERTY AT 65 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, ROSELAND, NJ AND APPROVING THE CONNECTION FEES IN CONJUNCTION THEREWITH
2-83	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TREATMENT WORKS APPROVAL (TWA) FOR WOODMONT SENIOR LIVING LLC FOR PROPERTY AT 65 LIVINGSTON AVE, ROSELAND, NJ
2-84	RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF CALDWELL-WEST ESEEX IN THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY
2-85	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THEODORE DELEN AS A CROSSING GUARD IN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY
2-86	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT TO GRAPHICS CONNECTION, INC FOR WEBSITE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,475.00
2-87	RESOLUTION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO REMYDR FOR THE CREATION OF A REMINDER APP FOR GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000.00
2-88	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 02/03/2024 THROUGH 02/16/2024
2-89	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2024 APPROPRIATION RESERVE TRANSFERS
2-90	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATHEW SIGNARETTO AND JOSEPH MATTERAZZO AS PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS OF THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**A motion to approve the consent agenda, was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members present, voted in the affirmative. All resolutions on the amended consent agenda were approved 2/20/2024.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS** *Borough Council Members*

1. Councilwoman Buechner: Women's Community Impact Award, and Board of Health
  - Board of Health Grand opening March 1st at 10 am
  - Women's Award
    - Nominations are open. Can be done online or via hard copy.
    - Deadline is March 10th
    - Awarded March 20th
2. Councilman Daniolowicz
  - Library
    - 2/23 from 1-3pm free stroke screening. Register at [librarian@caldwellpl.org](mailto:librarian@caldwellpl.org)
    - Museum of NY passes available.
    - NY Makers Day, STEM kit collections for Prek-11th
    - Reach out to Library for more information
  - DPW
    - Comment Mario, Jake and the Entire staff on their handling of Snow
    - Spoke about upcoming town events that DPW helps out with
    - Spoke about possible summer help positions
  - Recreation
    - Sat. 24th Equipment swap at EVS or musical instruments. Accepting donations Friday 5pm-7pm. Event is 10-2pm on Sat 2/24
  - Communications
    - Graphic Connections will be working with us on our website
    - Assisting us with social media posting
    - Working on a digital newsletter
    - Remyndr App would be used for garbage and recycling alerts.

**REPORT OF MAYOR** *Mayor Jones*

- Twice a month our DPW sets up and breaks down this room for us. Brian and Ray help set up all the technical things for us for these meetings. Hopeful by the end of the year we will be able to get into our new building and not have to rent this space.
- Thanked the DPW for all the hard work they do for our town, especially in storm events like last week.
- March 1st grand opening. It is also Women's History month

**REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR***Alex Palumbo*

- Today we did start the demolition work of the Old Borough Hall building. Will continue over the next couple of weeks. Mascara Lane has been left open, and officer will be on sight to support traffic when needed.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY***Kate Fina*

- No Report

Captain DeAngelo:

- Tomorrow we will be at the library to do an info session on our new parking meters. This is a public session or residents. 11am
  - Do another in March
  - Feb 28th we will do a presentation at Marion Manor to discuss the app and new meters
  - Our officers were on Bloomfield Ave talking to Business owners to educate them on the new meters.
  - Park mobile stickers and signage should be coming in soon, so we can add them to the meter faces
  - We have been helping residents out on the streets who may need help
  - Stepped up pour pedestrian enforcement.
  - 2 DWI arrests, one was a major crash
  - Cooking oil theft arrest. Occurred at the Cloverleaf.
  - Thanked Detective Bureau for their hard work
  - Thanked the Mayor and Council and Administrator for identifying the need of officers and hiring these 2 new officer, Gerard and D'Amico
  - Mayor Jones said that the parking meters are easy to use, but I think they are a little slow.

Mayor Jones:

West Caldwell Fire Dept. Chief Luker, his father passes away, so I ask you to keep the family in your prayers

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Tony Grenci, 22 Westville Ave. I am against the building of the PD on Westville Ave. I am also against the possibility of making Westville and Roseland Ave right turn only. Strongly against as it will greatly affect the property, I own next to the site.**

Mayor Jones said that our Assistant Engineer was on site doing grading work.

**Mr. Grenci said that he asked the guy and he did say he was taking engineering surveys.**

Mr. Palumbo said he was surveying to gather information. It is just a possible idea; we are looking at others. We are keeping an open mind and looking at all possibilities.

**Mike Mignone, 23 Westville Ave. My lot is adjacent to the lot where the new police Department will be. We have many concerns with this, and hope that everything will be transparent. Hope you can use us as advocates for this. Hope that any information and decisions will be on the agenda for the public to see. About 8 years ago a similar residents had to come together about the women's club building. Pio Costa was trying to turn it into a residential property, and we had to go to bat against that. A police department is pretty much a commercial height traffic area. It is a residential area; I have been living in this area for 15 years now. There is a reason why other towns have the Police Departments on main roads. We will be at other meetings to voice opinions**

**Kate, 38 Westville Ave. Would love to see a surveyor or engineer to see the property when the PreSchool is operating at First Pres on the Corner. There are cars lining the streets, bunches of kids running all over the sidewalks. Parents and kids are crossing back and forth across the street. There is no crosswalk for us to use safely. Please observe that time. It is very dangerous as it is, and I am worried about the added Police Traffic. Worried about how this would also affect Brookside and Traffic in that area.**

Cpt. High Speed pursuit doesn't always originate from the police station. It could occur at any time on any road way.

**Kate said that if the police are dispatching from that area, won't it be likely?**

Cpt. DeAngelo said that mostly the officers are already on the street on patrol and would be starting from that spot.

**Kate: there are a lot of kids on the area, and I feel like this is a dangerous scenario. Blue Rose is a very noisy. We have had to call the police on them due to noise. They people going to the blue rose do not park properly, as one parked across my driveway, and in front of our house which is a yellow curb. There were loud arguments happening, music playing loudly at 11pm. I do not want my daughter to be in contact with these situations. This has been an ongoing issue for us, and it is not every time we call the police that things get done.**

Councilman Daniolowicz said that we were in a meeting where we did encourage the architect and engineer to take a look at the site during peak times. Maybe on the weekends we can increase the patrol.

Cpt. DeAngelo said that he will check into see why violations were not issued for those parking concerns.

**Kate: Thank you, that is all we ask for. Anything that can be done to assist is welcome.**

Councilman Alonso asked if she can give Cpt. DeAngelo the date of the event.

**Kate: it was the 17th of February. 11pm was the arguments party started**

**Joe DeBellis, 16 Gould Place. Westville ave location is terrible place to think about putting a police station. It is a side street, residential area. The preschoolers play on that green space. Getting to Bloomfield Ave will be tough to get out of at the Westville and Roseland ave intersection, and Roseland & Bloomfield intersection. I do not like putting police departments on Side Streets. Just like Smull Avenue is a terrible place to put trailers.**

**I do not understand why the Police Department cannot be rebuilt where it was. That location could not be better. We took like 1/4 of the whole building, so you don't have to make it as big. I know the regulations are different then when I was on the job. Put the deck back up. I never heard conversation as to why it was knocked down. Let's find a better spot for the building that would be safer for the children in the area. Let's do it right, and put it where it was.**

**Ted Magzen, 28 Westville Ave. I think the people up and down the block are pretty much united in our opposition of putting the building on Westville Ave. The former women's club building hosts events every weekend and the streets are lined with cars. This seems like a highly inappropriate spot for a Police Department. Can 80 Bloomfield be expanded to include the Police Department?**

Mr. Palumbo that wouldn't be a possibility. There are certain designed paramotors that would have to be added. We would eliminate parking to build it out. It would not be feasible. We are exploring a few different options. Provost has a sever lack or parking and flooding issues.

**Mr. Magzen asked about the parking lot next to the firehouse? Can you put a building there?**

Mr. Palumbo said to keep in mind there is a lot of usage of that area so we would need more parking. We are exploring our options and trying to keep an open mind.

**Mr. Magzen asked when will the people be notified of a decision**

Mr. Palumbo This administration has shown that they are transparent. When it comes time to make an announcement they will.

**Bill Shaner, 1 Oak Grove Road, Unit 2D. I have been tuned in since the beginning of the meeting and appreciate seeing the Police Officers sworn in at the beginning. I have 2 issues. 1) Racist equity program for the County. Affirmative action was just shot down. I would ask that you look at these equity programs 2) Free Speech issues against religious Minority.**

Councilman Alonso asked how does this pertain to our Council?

**Mr. Shaner said let's be real the officers will not be trained to uphold the constitution. The Anti-Defamation league training them,**

Ms. Fina we are approaching the timeline for public comments. If you have further concerns that you put concerns in writing and submit them to our Borough Administrator.

**Juen Cowell, 29 Brookside Ave. I would like to speak about the Blue Rose. There were also cars parked across my driveway and in front of a fire hydrant. They did not move their vehicles after the Police were called. A delivery driver would not move her car from across my driveway, making it difficult for me to leave**

Cpt. DeAngelo said that on Saturday night 3 summonses were issued for parking after the event.

Council President Brown asked what time do you have to shut down loud noises.

Cpt. DeAngelo said that if the officers witness the loud noises, they can issue a summons. IF we do not witness the violation, we cannot issue a summons.

**Nick Correale, 27 Westville Ave. It is not just the parking from the Blue Rose. All of our driveways have been blocked at some point. The quality of our life on that street deteriorates when there are events. They smoke marijuana in public which I believe is not legal. Before the event there is a lot of double parking. The real issue starts at 11pm. Music is going all night, they liter all over the streets. They do shut the music at 11pm but then the after party starts on Westville ave. People are very loud and destructive. If there could be more presence after 11, encouraging people to be on their way. There was noise until 11:40pm on Saturday. This is our new normal and it shouldn't be. The owners need to be respectful of the residents on Westville Ave. We could benefit for more of a presence after 11pm. We appreciate the times that the PD are called and respond, and enforce the law. I want to congratulate you on 20 Bloomfield Ave and encourage you to explore all options for the Police Department. I echo my neighbors' sentiments.**

Council President Alonso asked for an explanation of the after-hour party?

**Mr. Correale said if the party is successful people stay around the property, blast music from their cars, and smoke marijuana on the streets. People do call the police because of the disturbance. The instances are fairly consistent at this point.**

Mayor Jones said that we have a decibel level noise Ordinance, correct.

Cpt. DeAngelo said yes, and we will continue to monitor. I will speak with Mark Giuliano as well to work on enforcement.

Mayor Jones said that maybe we can get an idea of decibel reading during events there.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business to be conducted, a motion to adjourn the public meeting was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon voice vote, all voted in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Prepared by: Brittany Heun  
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk

3/6/2024  
DATE