

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL  
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING  
MINUTES – February 21, 2023**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order on Zoom at 7:16 PM.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jones, Councilwoman Buechner, Councilman Lace, Council President Alonso, Councilman Brown, Councilman Daniolowicz, and Councilman Cole

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy Clerk Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, Borough Interim Administrative Consultant Thomas Tucci, and Borough Attorney Eric Lee

**ABSENT:**

**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 Small 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**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 7, 2023

**A motion to approve the minutes was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, with Councilman Lace abstaining from the vote. Minutes approved 2/21/2023**

**PRESENTATION**

1. Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association – Paul Maloney

**REPORT OF COUNTY LIASON**

Patricia Keenan

Patricia Keenan Reported

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

**Nick Correale, 27 Westville Avenue. Net Debt Handout. Looking for context for the net debt sheet**

Mayor Jones: trying to be transparent with Town Finances. Will hold a Town Hall meeting with our CFO to discuss Finance at that time. We will be announcing that very soon.

Mr. Tucci: RFP for Forensic Accountant will be opened February 28th. That report will be made public

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1439-23**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1322-16 ESTABLISHING SALARIES OR WAGES OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

**A motion to introduce 1439-23 was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1439-23 was introduced 2/21/2023.**

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCE 1437-23**

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTION 1 ENTITLED "LIABILITY INSURANCE AND ANNUAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESSES AND OWNERS OF A RENTAL UNIT OR UNITS" TO CHAPTER 128 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL ENTITLED "GENERAL LICENSING"

**A motion to close the public hearing and adopt ordinance 1437-23, was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Discussion ensued. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1437-23 was adopted 2/21/2023.**

**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.*

2-70	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 12-263 WHICH WAS TO AUTHORIZE THE BOROUGH TO HIRE MANDELBAUM BARRETT PC UNDER A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO CONTINUE REPRESENTING THE BOROUGH BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY IN THE CASE CAPTIONED CARELLI v. BOROUGH -OF CALDWELL, TO REFLECT THEIR FEES
2-71	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF GLENN SNIDER AS A CROSSING GUARD IN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$17.00 PER HOUR

2-72	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT TO ADVERTISE FOR THE POSITION OF PART-TIME MUNICIPAL CONSULTANT
2-73	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT TO ADVERTISE FOR THE POSITION OF TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
2-74	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE FOR A 2022 FORD F-350 PICKUP TRUCK FROM ROUTE 23 AUTO MALL FOR THE CALDWELL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDER STATE CONTRACT #T-2959 FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$69,940.00
2-75	RESOLUTION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION 1-10, RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AND JEFFREY R. SURENIAN & ASSOCIATES, LLC
2-76	AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AND CARLUCCIO, LEONE, DIMON, DOYLE & SACKS, LLC FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING
2-77	AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR A 2024 WESTERN STAR 47X TRUCK
2-78	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD 2/4/2023 THROUGH 2/17/2023
2-79	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2-80	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT TO ADVERTISE FOR THE POSITION OF LABOR COUNSEL FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL

*A motion to adopt the consent agenda was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Councilman President Alonso. Discussion ensued. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Consent Agenda adopted 2/21/2023*

## NEW BUSINESS

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Brown – Environmental Commission
  - Shred Event- April 22nd 10am-1pm at Provost Square
  - Drew Forest at Drew University. EC reached out to Mayor of Madison and Councilman Brown read the letter aloud. Thanked the Mayor for preserving the Drew Forest
- Councilwoman Buechner - Women's Community Impact Award nominations
  - Remind everyone to nominate folks for the Women's Community Impact Award
  - Link is on the Borough website as well as qualification
  - Deadline is March 1st
  - March 21st award

## REPORT OF MAYOR

*Mayor Jones*

Mayor Jones Reported:

- Public safety department has taken big strides, both the Police and Fire Department
- CVFD - vendors for Ladder Truck
- CPD - new firearms and new training for those firearms are taking place.
- Hiring of Full Time Administrator by the end of this week. Committee meeting this week for in-person interviews
- Plans for downtown are moving forward and will be shared moving forward.
- Structural engineer did a review of the Municipal Building and Library. In 2-3 weeks, we should have a report by the Structural Engineer
- Information on Redevelopment Plan and issues that we would like to address, including tax Abatement
- Shared Services agreement with the West Caldwell Library and the student who attend the Caldwell-West Caldwell Library. All students of the Caldwell-West Caldwell Board of Ed can use both Libraries

## REPORT OF INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT

*Thomas Tucci*

*Thomas Tucci reported:*

- Tax Abatement is currently allowed to developers as an encouragement to have people develop in Town. More units to offset the cost of low-to- moderate priced units. The Tax Abatement falls back on the general tax payer. Will review the ordinance and come back to the Governing Body with recommendations.
- BPU Grant for Electric Car Charging Stations has expired because no one acted on it. Theresa Camilleri and other folks are working on reviving this. Locating the Charging station where the trailers are because it needs to be monitored. Will relocate when Town offices are moved.

- State Health Benefits Plan for the Borough Employees. Went up 23% this year, costs the Borough and the Employees. Working with a Broker to review plans for the employees that is equal to or better than current plan at a fair rate.
- Structural report. We just want to know if the buildings are structurally sound or not.
- Friday Councilman Daniolowicz and I took a walk down Bloomfield Ave to determine what needs to be done to spruce up. Start a small pilot program (Personette to Smull) allocate a small amount of money to reduce the Sidewalk, curb area, and trees. Then get public feedback. Stamped concrete where the bricks are currently. All the trees that were planted along the Ave are not appropriate for that location. Need trees that grow tall and straight. Getting a price for replacing all of the trees. Bloomfield Ave needs a makeover
  - Council President Alonso: Clean communities grant to pay for it?
  - Mr. Tucci: yes some of it will be paid for using the grant. Reaching out to the County about the County Crosswalks. Public Service needs to step up and replace the crosswalks they ripped up.
- Thanked the people of Caldwell for his time with Caldwell

**REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY**

*Eric Lee*

Eric Lee Reported:

No Report

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEMS**

Marianne Campion, Arlington Avenue. Burlington County town Mayor had a conversation with the PD about revenue and enforcement with 0 tolerance. This may happen in Caldwell, but I thought it would be something to bring up, if it is already not done. Overnight parking ordinances, speeding laws should be enforced, no matter what. Maybe week can look into ticketing more and make sure the proper things are being ticketed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Jones Announced 7pm Meetings starting in March and the Planning Board meeting on March 8th

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner and unanimously affirmed by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

Prepared by: *Brittany Heun*  
 Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk

3/2/2023  
 DATE