

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – February 7, 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, , 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 Craig Bossong

ABSENT: Councilman Lace

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

January 17, 2023

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Minutes approved 2/7/2023

PRESENTATION

REPORT OF COUNTY LIASON

Patricia Keenan

Patricia Keenan Reported

- Deer Management continues at South Mountain and Hilltop Reservation
 - Job Fair on Saturday March 11th 10am -2pm at the Turtle Back Zoo
- COVID
 - Vaccines still offered mobile
 - First Friday infant clinic March 3rd from 2pm -6 at O'Toole community center appointments required

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No Public Comments

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 1438-23 REAPPROPRIATING \$1,800,000 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE TRUCK IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY.

Mr. Tucci gave background on the Ordinance and explained where the funding will be coming from. Mayor Jones thanked the people who made it possible to get this money together, so the Fire Department can get a new truck.

Councilman Cole offered an amendment to the Ordinance, to eliminate the verbiage "No longer needed for original purposes". There being no second, the motion failed.

A motion to amend the June 2, 2023 date in the body of the Ordinance, was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Council President Alonso. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

A motion to introduce Ordinance 1438-23, as amended, was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative, with Councilman Cole voting against. Ordinance was introduced 2/7/2023.

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.

2-52	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SIX SURFACE TABLETS WITH KEYBOARDS FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL FROM CDW GOVERNMENT LLC, 200 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 THROUGH THE SOURCEWELL NATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING CO-OP CONTRACT #081419, FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$11,257.80.
2-53	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 1-5 FOR AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH NISIVOCIA, LLP TO REFLECT THEIR FEE SCHEDULE/RATES.

2-54	AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF JOHN CHIAA, ESQ. AS RENT BOARD ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2023
2-55	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 1-4 WHICH AUTHORIZED THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH ATTORNEY SERVICES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023
2-56	AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT TO SUBMIT THE ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022
2-57	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM TRANSITION ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER FOR INVOICE #156893 FROM BRAEN STONE INDUSTRIES INC., PO BOX 8310, HALEDON, NJ FOR POROUS ASPHALT PURCHASED AND INSTALLED IN THE PARKING AREA AND DRIVEWAY ADJACENT TO THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL TEMPORARY TRAILERS, 24 SMULL AVENUE, CALDWELL, NJ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,459.40
2-58	RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 12-279 TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT TO BE PAID TO MARAZITI FALCON AND TO APPROVE A THREE-MONTH EXTENSION
2-59	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE -The Parent Faculty Association of Mount Saint Dominic Academy - Non-Draw Raffle
2-60	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE -James Caldwell High School - Off-Premise - 50/50 Raffle
2-61	AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF ONE (1) TAXICAB LICENSE TO Esref Ozturk of Flash Limousine LLC, 26 Parkway East, Apt. 6, Caldwell, NJ 07006. APPLICATION AND APPLICANT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.
2-62	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE AMBROSE GROUP LLC, TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.00
2-63	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS
2-64	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2-65	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD MEMBERS
2-66	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
2-67	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS
2-68	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of February 7, 2023
2-69	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2023

A motion to adopt the consent agenda was made by Council President Alonso and seconded by Councilman Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Consent Agenda adopted 2/7/2023

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Buechner: Grover Cleveland Birthplace/ Women's Community Impact Award

- Birth place will be at next meeting to announce events
 - Grover Cleveland week March 11-18th
- Women's Award
 - Will be awarding a Women's Community Impact Award
 - Community service, empowerment and inspiration, positive contribution to the lives of women and girls
 - Application will be online. Link to nomination form and instructions.
 - News and Notice

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones Reported:

- Proud of our team and council for the fire truck. Thank you to the volunteer fire department
- Infrastructure in town beneath the roads. We need to look at stormwater and water lines. Looking into lead pipes in town.
- Internalized grant writing, with staff including Mark Giuliano. No longer working with Millenium as of the 1st of the year
- Finance meeting last week, didn't get records needed from previous administration so we are creating a clear picture of where we are moving forward.
- Staff at Borough Hall have been doing a tremendous job

Thomas Tucci reported:

- 30-year-old fire truck is way beyond the limits of what should be used. We need to protect the public and the fire fighters using the equipment. We also have to make sure we have a good ISO rating which does have an effect on the homeowners.
- Property on 22 Small Avenue. Closing next week. Arraignment for the folks living there
- 80 Roseland Avenue issues. Slip up and we are addressing between borough attorney and COAH attorney.
- Superintendent of public works contacted our landscapers and trees along Bloomfield Ave will be addressed.
- Public Works has been out patching pot holes and will be doing more. Nee program. If you see a pot hole, you call a designated line to report the pot holes so we can get in to repair them. February - end of April is the time of year when they come up
- FEMA Grants - did get some money from insurance for the library. Inspecting culverts and hoping to get FEMA Money for that.
- Parking Meters - Met with Captain DeAngelo and will have a meeting with Park Mobile
- Grants - Clean communities grant last year. Found 177,000 dollars that was unspent. Councilman Brown brought up trash on the avenue. Will use the money to buy new trash cans on the Bloomfield Avenue, and look into sidewalk street sweeping. Island areas need to be spruced up and beautified.
- CDBG - 14 Park 300,000.00 grant to put a barrier free elevator. Parking needs to be addressed as that building has no parking. Trying to negotiate an agreement with them for parking in their lot behind 14 Park Ave.
- Review of PD - this is to make sure the PD is adequately staffed. Years ago, you had many more hours. Paying for an exorbitant amount of overtime. Town goes per your public safety. Evaluating the equipment and setting a schedule for rotation of equipment.
- Bids need to be done every 2 years to make sure we are getting the best use of tax payer money

Mr. Tucci thank Chief Pollara and Mark Giuliano for all their work with getting ne equipment and vehicles.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Brian Block

Craig Bossong Reported:

- The issue with 80 Roseland Ave. Should bee a hearing in about a week and a half. Being taken care of.
- Spoken to outside attorneys. Understand the convoluted and complex matters. Working on a plan to strategize and handle the issues. Mayor releasing a statement about litigation to citizens

Mayor Jones: it is important that the community that we believe in full transparency with what is going on in the Borough.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEMS

Carla Marras, Ashland Street. Can the county get in touch with the County about pot holes on Bloomfield Ave?
Patricia Keenan said that she would like into it with the County.

Andrew Pollara, 21 Brookside Ave. Fire Chief. Thanked the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department for introducing the Ordinance. 526 ladder truck is the oldest in the County. New ladder truck will help protect the citizens of caldwell. Our dedication to our community has always been and will continue to be top notch.

Tim Lally, 24 Brookside Avenue. Thanked Mr. Tucci for the work he is doing for us, and for addressing the audience.

Andy Brown, 13 Birkendene Rd. Confused about where the money is coming from. It sounds like it was essentially a book keeping error. Looking for clarification. What are the plans for the Town Hall, Police Department, and library. Are they staying int eh trailers?

Mr. Tucci said that the meeting was with CFO and Bond Counsel. They indicated that these 2 ordinances were done before redevelopment, and when the redevelopment ordinances were put in place, why over lapped. This governing body will have to make the decision in the next 2 months about Buildings moving forward. Caldwell Borough has the money, but has to pat back a \$600,00.00 debt service payment due this year. Could be a Tax increase of \$149 per household not including any regular increases. Decision has to be made on whether or not they are moving forward with a new borough hall. What you want vs. what you need. Mayor Jones said that \$600,000. Is interest, not principal. We are working every day on getting plans together. We are working with Business people in town on plans for existing infrastructure. Hoping to have it within a month, not 2 months.

Mr. Tucci said when you borrow money, you pay it back like a bell curve. The number is only going to go up, until year 15 when it trends down.

Sue Marinucci, 32 Ravine Avenue. It is refreshing to have Mr. Tucci at these last few meetings. Appreciate introducing prayer. Council is doing a great job.

Mathew Fox, 6 Lockward Road. Status of looking at the community as a whole. Looking forward to being involved and being able to give input. Public involvement Is important. Hoping that there is not someone pushing for deadlines, and that you just get it right.

Councilman Brown said that will be having a structural engineer in to take a look at the Borough Hall and Library. We have had discussions and as we move through the process, we will have town halls to get information out. Bringing information in front of the town.

Mr. Tucci said he have been in contact with a structural engineer, waiting to set a date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

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 8:14PM.

Prepared by: Brittany Heun
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk

2/16/2023
DATE