

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting- January 23, 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 7.01pm.

PRESENT: Councilman Alonso, Councilman Brown, Councilman Daniolowicz, Councilwoman Rodeffer, and Councilwoman Buechner.

ABSENT: Mayor Jones

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk, Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, Police Captain Mathew DeAngelo Borough Administrator, Alex Palumbo, 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 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 to the Flag

Prayer/Moment of Silence

Council President Brown asked for a moment of Silence for Monsignor Ed Ciuba, former Monsignor at Notre Dame Church. Mayor Jones is absent tonight as he is overseeing the funeral service for Monsignor Ed this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Closed Session

1-51	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of January 23, 2024
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A motion to enter into executive session was made by Councilman Daniolowicz and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the Council went into executive session at 7:04pm. Upon returning to the public session, a motion to close executive session and reopen the public session, was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the public session reopened at 7:14pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 19, 2023
January 2, 2024
December 7, 2023 – Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023 – Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the above meeting minutes was made by Councilman Alonso, and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in a affirmative. The minutes were approved on 1/23/2024.

PRESENTATION

1. Stormwater Presentation- Borough Assistant Engineer, Michael DeCarlo
 - a. Assistant Engineer, Michael DeCarlo gave a presentation to the Council and to the Public regarding the Stormwater Study that was done by Mott MacDonald.

REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

- Events:
 - EC Center offers seasonal education programs virtual and in-person
 - South mountain and Turtle back zoo - January 28 - Feb 17 march 16 job fairs
 - 18th annual project homeless connect - Jan 24th 11am-2pm county college Newark
 - Jan 30 - Feb 16 deer management
- Health:
 - Mobil health clinic offering vaccines and screenings
 - Covid Vaccines 1/26 at O'Toole Center in cedar grove

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Steven Kramer 27 Washburn – 2005 first occurrence. Sewer back up issues caused by stormwater. Has been a more frequent occurrence. Stormwater being redirected into the sewer system on our street
Mr. DeCarlo said that there is no evidence that this is happening, but that doesn't mean that there is no infiltration. This would be a big part of the I/I study which we are working with as well.

Council President Brown asked if there a way to zero in on what is happening in on Washburn Place
Mr. DeCarlo said that most of the sanitary sewers are only 8/9 inch in diameter. Our sanitary system goes all the way into West Caldwell, which has to be considered as well.

Councilman Jurgensen asked if the sanitary and storm water systems are connected?

Mr. DeCarlo said that they are not directly, but could be cross contaminated through I&I. Stormwater is more globally whereas sanitary is more localized.

Councilman Jurgensen stated that when the ground gets saturated, the water in the ground can infiltrate. Into the sanitary system and the stormwater.

Mr. DeCarlo said that there are about 50 clean ups that are cracked broken or missing, on people's lawns. If the pipe is broken or cracked homeowners must be notified. There are also a host of illegal connections inside of people's homes. The discovered this by smoking the systems. Public information and training can help people understand the issues. May of townships won't do this work because of the cost

June Cowell, 29 Brookside Ave. Ever since Rita and Ida we have had stormwater that has undermined the sidewalks on Brookside. Can I come see the footage?

Mr. DeCarlo said that we can set up a time for you to look at it

Greg Knox, 29 Washburn place. We are 4 consecutive houses, where there is raw sewage coming into our houses. It is disgusting, and we have to take the time off work to do clean our houses after these events. Major issue on Washburn

Alexis Diaz, 1 Oak Grove Road. We have grant writers now, are there any grants for planting trees or anything on town property or on residents' property. Easy thing that could be on Caldwell's public land to absorb water?

Mr. DeCarlo said that the township had done investigation and applied for a grant to acquire land in front. Of the college to make it a bout of a flood mitigation. The township only owns so much property with a small amount of open space. You cannot build on property that is open space.

Ms. Diaz you could set up a sponsorship idea, and plant trees or plants to absorb it

Council President Brown said that this is something that the EC is working on

Mr. Palumbo said that I am not aware of grants for planting trees, but when we do DOT projects, if we take some down, we will replant. In better locations

Ms. Diaz asked if better trees can be planted?

Mr. Palumbo said that yes, we will replant with proper species of trees for the locations and the purposes.

Sally Cogan, 58 Mountain Ave. Will PowerPoint slides be available online?

Mr. DeCarlo said that we can probably put it up on the website, but will check with the Administration first.

Ms. Cogan said that PSEG have been working on the gas lines. They apparently broke into a sewer line and found the ground water was being pumped down the street and into the stormwater drain at my house. Part of it was between Caldwell and the neighboring town. Are there procedures for this?

Mr. Palumbo said that from time-to-time PSEG does hit a line. They are supposed to follow procedures and adhere to. They are supposed to pump from upstream to downstream manhole. This helps them isolate and flake the repair

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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.
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A motion to introduce Ordinance 1455-24 was made by Councilwoman Buecher and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance 1455-24 was introduced 1/23/2024.

Councilman Daniolowicz clarified that this Ordinance is State Mandated.

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 introduce Ordinance 1456-24 was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance 1456-24 was introduced 1/31/2024.

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.

A motion to add resolutions 1-67 and resolution 1-68 to the consent agenda, was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative.

1-52	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR BINGO. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE -St. Aloysius Church- On-Premise - Bingo
1-53	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH'S PLANNING BOARD TO UNDERTAKE A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW AS TO WHETHER THE FOLLOWING LOTS AND BLOCKS SHALL BE DESIGNATED AN AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT. BLOCKS 28, LOTS 13, 14, AND 15 (COMMONLY KNOWN AS 423, 429, & 433 BLOOMFIELD AVE)
1-54	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE -Caldwell University Alumni Association- On-Premise Merchandise Raffle
1-55	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH'S PLANNING BOARD TO UNDERTAKE A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW AS TO WHETHER THE FOLLOWING LOT AND BLOCK SHALL QUALIFY AS A NON-CONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA: BLOCK 65, LOT 2 (COMMONLY KNOWN AS 80 BLOOMFIELD AVE.)
1-56	APPROVAL OF THE SEWER CONNECTION FOR A PROPOSED ADDITION TO AN EXISTING SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE AT 44 RENSSELAER ROAD, ESSEX FELLS, NEW JERSEY (BLOCK 6.02, LOT 10)
1-57	APPROVAL OF THE SEWER CONNECTION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE AT 14 SKYLINE DRIVE, NORTH CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY (BLOCK 706, LOT 7)
1-58	RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MONSIGNOR ROBERT E. EMERY AS THE POLICE CHAPLAIN OF THE CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 23, 2024
1-59	RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ESSEX COUNTY RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND 2020 OPEN SPACE LOCAL AID PROGRAM FOR THE HARRISON SCHOOL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
1-60	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ETHAN CHARPENTIER AS A PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER OF THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
1-61	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 01/01/2024 THROUGH 1/19/2024
1-62	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 10-276 AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CUNEO PAVING INC, 4 WOODPORT ROAD, WHARTON, NJ 07885, FOR SAMPLE CONCRETE BETWEEN SIDEWALK AND CURB ALONG BLOOMFIELD AVENUE TO REPAIR BROKEN/MISSING PAVER BLOCKS TO INCREASE THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT \$31,744.50
1-63	RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE PLANTING OF NATIVE PLANTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
1-64	RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HANLON ROAD, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000.00
1-65	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF KIM CONLON AS THE RECYCLING COORDINATOR AND JAKE POHLMAN AS THE ALTERNATE FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL FOR THE YEAR 2024

1-67	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY'S REQUEST TO RECEIVE THE UNUSED FUNDS FROM THE TROPICAL STORM IDA INSURANCE CLAIM AS WELL AS UNUSED FUNDS FROM THEIR 2022 AND 2023 BUDGET
1-68	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AMBROSE GROUP TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE EXECUTIVE POSITIONS WITHIN THE CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00

A motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. All resolutions on the consent agenda were approved 1/31/2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Daniolowicz:

- Discussion to introduce an ordinance to enforce the maintenance of culverts or detention basins. Can mike and Craig help us to make an ordinance of this nature.
- With culverts being on private property, Craig, is there anything that we can put in place to allow for us to help where we can with limited liability.

Brown:

- I think this is a good idea. Maintenance of these features is important. This is a step in the right direction to promote the maintenance of these detention/retention assets.

Craig:

- We can look into it. There is a stormwater ordinance that addresses major developments. We can look at these other ones as well. It is for the betterment of everyone. A lot of it is for education of the public, a lot of people don't know they are responsibility for these things on their property.

Buechner:

- I do think a large important part of this is education of the public. Getting the word out to as we can all work together

Craig:

- People don't realize that sump pumps are not able to be connected to certain things, or how it effects the system.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

Councilwoman. Buechner:

- Women's Community impact award now open for nominations.
 - On the website
 - Awards on march 19th council meeting
- Board of Health
 - Free rabies clinic on Saturday from 10-12

Councilwoman Rodeffer

- Local Assistance Board
 - Reorganization meeting last night
 - Grand opening at 14 Park Ave will hopefully be. By the end of February
- Municipal training will be attended by myself and Jurgensen

Councilman Daniolowicz:

- Eagle Scout court of honor. Represented the mayor and council
- New parking meters have been installed. They can be paid by the park mobile app or credit cards

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Jones

No Report

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Alex Palumbo

DMV has mobile vehicle that we are trying to schedule to come into Caldwell. We will keep everyone posted

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Craig Bossong

No Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Closed Session

1-66	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of January 23, 2024
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A motion to close the public session and enter into public session, was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the Council left public session and entered closed session at 8:41pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:54pm.

Prepared by: Brittany Heun
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk

2/7/2024
DATE