

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL  
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING  
Regular Meeting- March 19, 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 7.08pm.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jones, Councilman Jurgensen, Council President Brown, Councilman Daniolowicz, Councilwoman Rodeffer, and Councilwoman Buechner.

**ABSENT:** Councilman Alonso

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy Clerk, Brittany Heun, Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, 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 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**

- Moment of Silence for the Garamella family, for the passing of Joseph Garamella on Monday, March 18th

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 5, 2024

February 20, 2024 - Oversight Committee Meeting

A motion to approve the above meeting minutes was made by Councilwoman Buchner, and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes were approved on 3/19/2024.

**PRESENTATION**

1. Grover Cleveland Proclamation
  - a. Councilwoman Buechner presented the proclamation
2. Women's Community Impact Award
  - a. Councilwoman Buechner and Councilwoman Rodeffer presented the awards to:
    - i. June Cowell
    - ii. Ashleigh Greci
    - iii. Pamela Leicht
    - iv. Marjorie "Midge" Winnicki

**REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON**

*Patricia Keenan*

No Report, Ms. Keenan was absent

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**Sally Cogen, 58 Mountain Ave. Thanked for zoom and for revision Ordinance 1456-24. Feel all riders should be required to wear helmets. Concerned about the negative language in the 2nd whereas, and the usage of the word "drastic" in the Ordinance. Having trouble discovering the NJ laws on e-bike. Same rules of the road as bicycles. E-bikes are a benefit to those who cannot use manual bikes. Hoboken has adopted vision 0 Guidelines and have made e-bikes riders more acceptable**

**Rich Hauser, 33 Arlington Ave. Resolution 3-104, details of this resolution.**

Mayor: removing myself from oversight committee and replacing Ken Jurgensen. Due to his occupation, he is more suitable to be on the committee.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING**

**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 Jurgensen. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. There being no comments, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Daniolowicz, and seconded by Councilwoman Buchner. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion to adopt ordinance 1456-24 was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1456-24 was adopted 3/19/2024.

**ORDINANCE 1457-24** AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 175 OF THE BOROUGH CODE REGARDING REQUIREMENT FOR INSPECTION OF LEAD-BASED PAINT IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

A motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 1457-24 was made by Councilwoman Buechner and seconded by Councilman Jurgensen. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. There being no comments, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Council President Brown, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion to adopt ordinance 1457-24 was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1457-24 was adopted 3/19/2024.

**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.*

3-96	AUTHORIZING THE SHADE TREE DEPARTMENT, LLC TO DRAFT REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 227 REGARDING TREE REMOVAL AND PROTECTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00
3-97	AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL TO PARTNER WITH THE PASSAIC RIVER COALITION
3-98	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF AN EMERGENCY CONTRACT FOR ROOF REPAIRS AT 24 SMULL AVENUE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,950.00
3-99	RESOLUTION ASUPPORTING THE CALDWELL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AS THE OFFICIAL GREEN TEAM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY MUNICIPAL PROGRAM
3-100	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF TY MILANO AS A PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER OF THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
3-101	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF ROSELAND AS A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT FOR DOCKET # ESX-L-3907-21
3-102	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY SPOTTED LANTERNFLY GRANT
3-103	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JORDAN GRUZAS AS A JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER OF THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
3-104	RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 10-262, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE PROCESS FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AT 1 PROVOST SQUARE
3-105	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2024 APPROPRIATION RESERVE TRANSFERS
3-106	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANTS FROM THE FY25 CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING PLAN
3-107	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 03/02/2024 THROUGH 03/15/2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 3,160,581.77

3-108	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 500 RECYCLING BINS FROM T.M. FITZGERALD & ASSOCIATES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,875.00
3-109	BOROUGH OF CALDWELL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH WEST ESSEX PBA LOCAL 81 (CALDWELL UNIT)
3-110	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE 80 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, BLOCK 65, Lot 2

**A motion to approve the consent agenda, was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members present, voted in the affirmative. All resolutions on the consent agenda were approved 3/19/2024.**

## NEW BUSINESS

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Borough Council Members*

1. Councilwoman Buechner: Senior Advisory Board & Board of Health
  - A. Senior Advisory
    - a. First event at Irene Gibbons health and Human services event
    - b. St. Patrick's Day party
    - c. Assistant by senior advisory
  - B. Board of Health
    - a. Channel 35 has Board of Health slides up
    - b. Caldwell residents are eligible to participate in any Bloomfield Board of Health Events. Web address on slides, and can also be found on the Borough website.
2. Councilwoman Rodeffer: Local Assistance Board
  - A. Local Assistance Board
    - a. Met for the first time in person at the Irene Gibbons Center
    - b. The goods work the board is doing is eminent
    - c. Food collection bin behind the building
    - d. First of many farewells to Maria Burak on her Retirement
3. Council President Brown
  - A. Environmental
    - a. 4/20 at GCMS parking lot on Prospect St. 10am-1pm
      - i. No cardboard or paper clips included
      - ii. Donations will go towards James Caldwell High School Scholarships
    - b. Earth day event
    - c. Keeping out water supply health
    - d. 5/4 - 12pm -3pm at Caldwell University
    - e. Water quality presentation
    - f. 2 native trees, rain barrel, pollinator garden give always
    - g. Information is on website
4. Councilman Daniolowicz
  - A. Rec
    - a. 3/30 Easter egg hunt at EVS on Henderson drive. Turf field
      - i. 3 under = 10
      - ii. 4-kind = 10;30
      - iii. Grades 1-3 = -2 11am
      - iv. Bring your own baskets
    - b. Library
      - i. DPW has started moving items out of storage and into 24 Smull Ave including library materials
      - ii. 4/8 solar eclipse viewing. Free glasses to all card holders while supplies last
    - c. Communication
      - i. Discussions on revamping the website and our social media
      - ii. Remyndr app will hopefully be rolling out at a meeting in the future

## REPORT OF MAYOR

*Mayor Jones*

- Thanked all of the Junior Firefighters that have joined including those on tonight's agenda
- Outlook is good at best. State has put the burden on us, to carry out
  - We are struggling in the administration to right this ship. I believe we can do better.
  - The removal of me from the oversight committee is not a political move, but a smart move. With his background and previous job, he is a good fit on the committee.
  - We will not tolerate the historical spending of the previous administration.

- We will have sports beginning again at the Kiwanis Oval, which means we will see children crossing Bloomfield Ave because we do not have parking. We have to keep the children in our town first.
- We want to make sure that all of our municipal sites keep child safety in mind.
- We would love to put in Bike lanes, but Bloomfield Avenue cannot be amended.
- In the last 15 months we have
  - Purchased a new fire truck
  - Hired new police officer and worked with the Ambrose report to enhance the Police Department
  - Add to DPW staff and new equipment
  - Forensic accounting of the Borough's finance
  - New home for our Borough Hall within the next year, and will be out of the trailers
  - Old Borough Hall is just about ready to be torn down
- Putting together a task force to study merged and shared services. The commission will include former mayors, councilmen, and community members. Announced at next meeting

#### REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

*Alex Palumbo*

- Demolition of Borough Hall. Friday the contractor will start asbestos abatement
- Phone call about DMV today, and meeting about hours day about possible locations and dates. In addition to the inspections that are done.

#### REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

*Craig Bossong*

- Resolution 3-101 settles the litigation with Roseland. Entire sewer litigation is not concluded, and advised the court of this
  - . We now have to have the Special master continue the re-rating
  - I&I issues that need to be addressed still
  - Hydronic issues, but still meeting our permit number with discharge. The additional water during wet weather conditions needs to be addressed immediately.
  - Every town needs to address the issues as per new contract
- Resolution 2-110 - purchase agreement with 80 Bloomfield. Will hopefully be able to close in 60-90 days from today

Councilwoman Buechner asked if the DMV inspection this month is still going to happen on the 25th. Captain DeAngelo said it is still on for Monday, 3/25.

Mayor Jones asked that a crossing guard is available for crossing on Bloomfield Ave and Forest Ave during children's games at the Oval. Asked the Captain to work with Recreation on obtaining a schedule.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Jack Gavin, 44 Elis Road. Parking Meters. Less convenient to impossible for the residents. Used to take me 3 seconds with the coins, now it is a lot difficult. The weather causes some issues as well. My wife had issues with the App, I have not tried it myself. I have heard reports of customers complaining, I have not seen much in way of education. My concern is for those that do not have cards, and can no longer park at metered spots. Meter does say "insert card or coin". I ask that you unblock the coin slot and let people use the coins**

**Rich Hauser, 33 Arlington Ave. Applaud the idea of more shared services, it is something I tried to do when I was on council. I suggest/request the Council be so bold as to do a merger with other towns. One suggestion from when I was on the council was a merge of the PD with another town. I understand the purchase of a new Borough Hall is in the works. We had our own challenges when I was on council and I'm sure it is 20 times worse now.**

Mayor Jones said that new building for us on 80 Bloomfield. Looking at a savings of the Borough of about 6-7 million as opposed to building new town hall. No one wants to take on the debt of our town. I encourage you to join the task force that we are establishing

**Mr. Hauser said it is easy enough to build a financial model. There is a lot of value to the financial tax base. There are discussions that can be had, discounts, etc.**

**Kathleen Carlson, 16 Lynn Road, Verona, NJ 07004. Director of First Pres. Nursery. We feel that this will have a significant negative impact on our school. Enrollment of 99 students and 18 staff members. Families value the importance early childhood education. We are the only nursery school in Caldwell. We go above and beyond what the state requires, and have built and great reputation within the community. We have safety concerns. 5 staff members have had parked cars hit in recent months. Parking is already a challenge and loosing spaces due to construction will mark it impossible for children to come to school. We are hearing this could take years to build. The building will be built right next to our school, and I imagine we will not be able to use it. Concerns about the park that currently exist is. It is a favorite green space for kids to gather and play after school. There mere talk of this had had parents voicing great concerns. Please consider us. We are a community of educators and parents, and many of our staff and students live in Caldwell.**

Mayor Jones recommended that she discuss with the governing body of the church as well.

**Evelyn Loesser - 2 Lockwood Road. Clarify comment that you just made. I echo Kathleen Carlson said in her speech. We have a big presence of parents here tonight, but we are here because we are passionate about it. Encouraged to hear you speak about the children**

Mayor Jones said that there was a large attendance of people spoke out against Westville and so we have been looking at other options. My opinion is that Westville is the 3rd of these options. Every decision we make up here, other options may cost the tax payers of Caldwell. Children crossing is an issue.

**Ms. Loesser ask what the other options are.**

Mayor Jones said that he cannot comment on the details right now

**Ms. Loesser encouraged everyone to come to the location at drop off and pick up and you can see the safety and traffic concerns that we have.**

**Kristen Middleton "Kay", 10 Ridge Terrace in West Caldwell. Member at FPC and sends her child to Nursery School. The church is definitely a highlight and beacon to our church. The nursery school does provide a good amount of support to the church and to see the nursery school decline, would negatively impact the church.**

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Closed Session*

*Deputy Clerk Heun, 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; Contract Negotiations; 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.*

3-111

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of March 19, 2024

**A motion to go into executive session was made by Councilman Daniolowicz, and seconded Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a voice vote, all members presented voted in the affirmative. The Council went into executive session at 8:31pm.**

## ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Prepared by: Brittany Heun  
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk

4/3/2024  
DATE