

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting- March 5, 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 7.04pm.

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

ABSENT:

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 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 Chief Johnson, former Caldwell Police Chief from the 1970s, upon his passing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 20, 2024

A motion to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Councilman Daniolowicz, and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes were approved on 3/5/2024.

PRESENTATION

1. Proclamation Welcoming Jeffrey Senese, Ph.D., as Caldwell University's Tenth President
 - a. Councilwoman Buechner presented the proclamation to Beth Gorab of Caldwell University

REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

- Events:
 - Forest Egg hunt. 3/23 9:30am-10:30am at the Environmental Center
 - Wonders of the wild at Turtle Back Zoo
 - 2024 Senior Services writing contest (deadline 4/16)
 - 3/16 11am-2pm Job fair
 - Cherry blossom events starting soon
- COVID
 - Vaccines and screening a viable
 - 3/7 at O'Toole Community Center from 1pm - 5pm
- 2024 Essex Municipal guides available

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Richard Basta, 24 Washburn Place. Asked for an explanation of Resolution 3-94.

Mr. Palumbo said that this is a resolution authorizing Trinity Solar to Solicit in town
Mr. Bossong explained that it is for 1 solicitor from the company to go door to door
Mayor Jones clarified this is an application for a permit/license to solicit.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

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 Council President Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1456-24 was introduced 3/5/2024.

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 introduce Ordinance 1457-24 was made by Councilman Alonso and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1457-24 was introduced on 3/5/2024.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

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.

3-92	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF 2024 AMENDED AND RESTATED BOROUGH OF CALDWELL CUSTOMER SERVICE SEWER CONTRACT
3-93	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST CALDWELL AS A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT FOR DOCKETS # ESX-L-3754-22, ESX-L-4668-21 AND ESX-L-5697-21
3-94	AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF CANVASSER AND/OR SOLICITOR PERMIT. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS- Daniel Checca, SOLICITING ON BEHALF OF Trinity Solar, 2211 Allenwood Road, Wall, NJ.
3-95	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 02/17/2024 THROUGH 03/01/2024

A motion to approve the consent agenda, was made by Council President Brown and seconded by Councilman Alonso. Upon a roll call vote, all members present, voted in the affirmative. All resolutions on the consent agenda were approved 3/5/2024.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

1. Councilman Daniolowicz: Library

- a. Alex has been working with the library to relocate from the storage unit to 24 Smull Ave. This would make it easier for the library staff to access the books in storage.

2. Councilwoman Rodeffer: Caldwell/West Caldwell Board of Education & Congressman Donald Payne Jr's Black History Celebration

- a. Caldwell/ West Caldwell Board of Education
 - i. Short but uplifting meeting focusing on the students of the district
- b. Caldwell Food Pantry
 - i. Opening tomorrow at 11am and will once again be taking donations
 - ii. There is a donation bin behind the building
- c. Congressman Payne Jr. 's Black History Celebration
 - i. Councilman Jurgensen and I attended the event
 - ii. Celebration of 6 African American Individuals and their achievements in their fields.
 - iii. There was a time for fellowship during a lunch after the ceremony

3. Councilman Jurgensen: Rent Review Board & Historic Preservation

- a. Rent Review Board
 - i. 51% of Caldwell citizens are renters
 - ii. Rent review board is made up of two tenants, two landlords, and 1 homeowner, and myself as Council Liaison
 - iii. 1982 Rent Control was established in Caldwell
 - iv. This year, the board is once again viewing the ordinance. They want to make sure it is current to modern times. So far, no changes have been finalized or brought to Council,

- v. 10 residents attended the last meeting, and we are working on making online attendance even more accessible than it has been. Rent Board page on website has been updated as well.

b. Historic Preservation Commission

- i. I have reached out to many of the former commissioners to gauge their interest in moving forward with the Board. Would like to thank former member Frank Godlewski for suggestions that he gave me on moving this board forward.
- ii. Primary goal is to try and get a first meeting set and get this commission together moving forward.

4. Councilwoman Buechner: Women's Community Impact Award

a. Women's Community Impact Award

- i. Nominations due by 3/10
- ii. Warding at 3/19 council meeting

b. GCBP

- i. Grover week in April 13th even though his birthday in march
- ii. Construction at the site caused time to be pushed back

c. Senior Center

- i. Opening 3/14 for 11:30 Saint Patrick's party
- ii. Reservations can be made by calling Maria Burak t 973-403-462
- iii. Reservations are a must
- iv. 50-person limit

5. Councilman Brown

a. Environmental Commission

- i. 4/20 shred event at GCMS parking lot. 10-1pm
- ii. 4/4 - earth day presentation at CU
- iii. Compost bins and rain barrels for sale from the County

b. Fire Department

- i. Gold outing July 29th at Greenbrook County Club

c. Police Department

a. Cpt. DeAngelo will give update on parking meters

- i. Cpt. DeAngelo said that at Rotary lunch today to discuss meters and give them a demonstration. Continuing to schedule meeting to educate about the parking meters.
- ii. Thanked the library as we will try to schedule another demonstration there
- iii. Business owners voiced concerns about not having small time frames
 - 1. Adding 30 min increments to the meters instead of the 1 hour minimum. 60cents per 1/2 hour. Go into effect tomorrow
- iv. Pedestrian enforcement details daily
- v. Councilman Alonso said that he has received phone calls from business merchants in town.
- vi. Cpt. DeAngelo said that a video should be on the website, if not we will add them. Working on a park mobile video. Signage for park mobile will be up in every zone within the next 3-4 weeks. 2-3 weeks we will have stickers on the meters themselves.
- vii. Councilman Alonso asked if we can add anything to the message board?
- viii. Captain DeAngelo said we are limited on the sign board but I will come up with a way that we can post the message.
- ix. Councilwoman Buechner asked if people are having issues with the meter what do they do?
- x. Captain DeAngelo call the 972-226-2600 and we will have parking enforcement come out to assist. Meter numbers on each meter.
 - 1. Darren asked if there is a cost for shredding event?
 - 2. No cost. Money donated goes to Scholarship fund. Cali carting donates the shredding trucks

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

- Demolition of borough hall- electrical work completed yesterday. Contractor will provide asbestos abatement notice
- Hopefully this will be done by the end of the month

- No Report
- Mayor Jones ask Councilwoman Buechner to let Maria know that Marion Manor is having their St. Patrick's Day party at the same day and time as her.
- Councilman Alonso asked Mr. Palumbo if anything or any part of the building that we will be saving for historic measures. Alex: the building has been gone through and anything we wanted to save; we have kept.
- Councilman Jurgensen asked about the Mural. Major Jones said that we have a high-resolution digital copy that will be done in our new building. Bob silver saved a portion that is in the Grover building

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Basta: 21 Washburn Place. Can we update the town calendar to include notice about these meetings and all other meetings and events.

Councilman Daniolowicz said that he has made a note of this and will discuss with the people revamping our website

Mayor Jones apologized for the error.

Christine Gurriere, 26 Welshman court. Thanked for all the things that have been done for the town. Meeting minutes have been approved but don't see them on the website

Deputy Clerk Heun said that the minutes will be under municipal documents by the end of the week

Ms. Gurruere asked if the whole building being used by municipal offices. Concerns with the library being in the Community Center due to humidity.

Council President Brown said that there will be no tenants. Municipal offices will definitely be in there, but we are still working with the architect on plans for the building layout.

Mayor Jones said that the Court will be in there and does have strict requirements that we will have to follow

Kate Alicea - 38 Westville Ave. Safety concern. Ask that the schools and school safety be considered for the students at our schools. Three main concerns 1) traffic can be dangerous 2) perpetual hole in the fence behind the playground. West Caldwell resident constantly repairs the fence. I have watched people go through this hole, and walk around the playground when children are present. Voiced concern to school and was told nothing could be done. Spoke with West Caldwell health dept. hole was patched but it is back. Regular foot traffic through this hole, which is dangerous for little kids. 3) no security guard at my daughter's school (Jefferson). Security at each door would be a good investment. I witnessed a small child being tormented by their brother at the school. I did report the incident, but find this extremely concerning. If there were a security officers there, I could have had them involved, instead of going to the teacher who has other responsibilities after school. I don't think the schools are equipped with the population they have now, and increasing amounts of residences in town does not help the situation.

Mayor Jones asked if she has gone to the board of education meeting for this? That would be the correct venue for this.

Cpt. DeAngelo suggested contact Dr. Conklin and West Caldwell police for that.

Councilman Daniolowicz said that we have a meeting with Dr. Conklin next week, and I will bring this to their attention

Ms. Alicea said that the traffic can be incredibly dangerous and backs up to the middle school. There are cars that Line prospect and make it hard for us and the crossing guards to navigate that area. I do ask that you keep in mind the impact on our schools when the population increases.

John, Brookside Ave. Proposed location of the Caldwell police department is a. High traffic area and would like to voice that opinion. Is there a way to get a sign regarding the intersection of Brookside and Westville.

Mayor Jones said that we just had a meeting about this today and are working on this.

Councilman Alonso said that it has been on my radar as well, do not block intersection.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Prepared by: 
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk


DATE