

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL BUSINESS/CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES- May 18, 2021**

The Council Business Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order on Zoom at 7:20 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Kelley, Council President Schmidt, Councilman Rodgers, Councilman Cole, Councilman Lace, Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi, and Councilman Gates.

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Kim Conlon, Borough Administrator Tom Banker, and Borough Attorney Vincent Nuzzi

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference Meeting was given on January 22, 2021. Notice was posted on the bulletin board of the first floor of Borough Hall, One Provost Square, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 4, 2021

Moved by Councilman Lace and seconded by Councilman Gates. Upon a roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative. Minutes approved 5/18/2021.

REPORT OF COUNTY LIASON

Patricia Keenan

Patricia Keenan Reported

- The number of positive cases is down and the number of people vaccinated is rising.
- 73% of Caldwell residents 18 and older have been vaccinated through the County
- Testing Continues on Tuesdays and Saturdays
- W. Caldwell Tech and Donald Paine are no longer open for vaccination appointments
- Livingston site has the J&J shot only
- K-mart and Essex County College sites are offering Moderna & Pfizer. Appointments available online

Councilman Gates gave some information from mark Guiliano.

Councilman Lace thanked the Caldwell Fire Department and neighboring towns for their quick response to the Caldwell University call

Mayor Kelley asked the Borough Administrator to speak to the current road work and issues regarding tree removal. Main issue was that the contractors went out and marked the trees, when they should not have done so. Mr. Banker has directed our Borough Engineer and Public Works Director to notify the contractor to cease and desist. Mr. Banker apologized for any confusion that the contractor may have caused and for the contractor not adhering to our Tree Policy. Notices will be hand delivered to all residents in the area regarding the tree marking.

Councilman Lace asked Mr. Banker what steps can be done in the future to prevent this from happening. Mr. Banker said that he would suggest that we add a section to the Bid Documents that explicitly say what contractors can and cannot do regarding the trees. Councilman Cole suggests that we have a third-party tree expert come in to review the process and determine the viability of trees, and put a moratorium on this until the process is cleared up. Mr. Banker said that we do have a forester that we can have determine the viability of the trees in the future. Mayor Kelley said that he does not want to see this road improvement project slow down because of this error. Some trees do need to come down and should be taken down. Councilman Cole said that the DPW Director had said that the sidewalks need to be removed due to DOT grant funding. Mayor Kelley believed that the DOT funding is related to ADA Compliance. Tom clarified that the DOT funding does connect to ADA Compliance of the sidewalks, but that does not mean that trees automatically need to come down. Council President Schmidt said that the real issue is lack of communication. Councilman Cole said that Caldwell prides itself on trees, and therefore we should try our hardest to protect our trees.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS OR ANY TOPIC

Barbara Buchner, 1 Park Lane, said there were problems with the Zoom link posted on the website. She read that North Caldwell is looking into opening a rec center. Are there plans to do preliminary steps to be able to open the Community Center by 2022 and to solicit members?

Council President Schmidt said that the Advisory Board is up and running. There have been delays with getting the pool ready. They are working on doing a membership drive in January 2022, and having a more active presence on social media. Councilman Cole said that they are looking into the possibility of coordinating an outdoor activity with the Street Fair.

Ms. Buchner suggested window dressings of some kind. Asked if a January 2022 opening is really possible.

Mayor Kelley said that they are committed to opening and that the center needs 2.5-3 million dollars' worth of work done in order to open the building properly.

Ms. Buchner said that many people, like her, can't keep waiting for the Community Center to reopen. People are joining other gyms like the YMCA now.

Mayor Kelley said that he is confident that when the Community Center reopens, it will have a much stronger membership than before.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE 1411-21 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AID TO THE DOWNTOWN CALDWELL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED IN THE DOWNTOWN CALDWELL REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$17,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$17,000,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Mr. Banker introduced the Ordinance

A motion to introduce Ordinance 1411-21 was made by Council President Schmidt and seconded by Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi. Discussion ensued. Upon a roll call vote, Councilman Gates, Rodgers, Cole, Council President Schmidt, and Councilwoman DePalma Iozzi voted in the affirmative, and Councilman Cole voted against. Ordinance introduced 5/18/2021

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.

- 5-132** AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 5/4/2021 THROUGH 5/17/2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,497,994.47
- 5-133** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED For the Meeting of May 18, 2021
- 5-134** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER
- 5-135** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF LICENSE FOR RAFFLE. APPLICANT AND APPLICATION HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CLERK'S OFFICE –Caldwell College Alumni Association -On Premise – Calendar Raffle – June 21, 2021
- 5-136** RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO ECHELAN SERVICES, 270 SPARTA AVENUE, SUITE 104, PMB 224, SPARTA, NEW JERSEY 07871 FOR THE BOROUGH PROJECT ENTITLED THE COMMUNITY POOL HVAC-DEHUMIDIFICATION SYSTEM
Mr. Banker and Mayor Kelley spoke to resolution 5-136
- 5-137** RESOLUTION TO INSTALL SHARED LANE MARKINGS AND SIGNAGE
Council President Schmidt spoke to the resolution and read the resolution into the record. Councilman Gates asked if "Sharrows" will interfere with parking. Council President Schmidt said it will not. Councilman Lace thanked the Council President and informed bikers that they are allowed to ride on the sidewalk if they feel traffic is too heavy.

I'm excited to see this finally happen. It represents years of work grant writing by Sgt Michael Pellegrino and our Human Services director, Maria Burak. It is through their work that we have received multiple awards from NJ DOT's Safe Route to School and the NJ Healthy Communities program.

Over the past year I have seen more and more people in our community riding bikes. Kids who walk or ride bikes to school have been proven to achieve better as they arrive already with the benefits of fresh air and exercise. As more people walk or ride bikes, it reduces traffic, the pollution created by cars and idling vehicles. Here's some explanation about sharrows or shared lane markings.

First things first: A sharrow is [not a bike lane](#), as it does not create road space nominally reserved for bicycles. Instead, it is meant to be used in situations where cyclists and drivers must coexist in the same lane on slower-moving neighborhood streets; you're never supposed to see sharrows in areas with speed limits above 35 mph.

Multiple studies have found that sharrows "increase the distance by which motorists pass bicyclists, reduce wrong-way riding, and reduce the number of bicyclists riding on the sidewalk." A 2004 study conducted in San Francisco, which found that passing drivers tended to give cyclists more than two extra feet of space when sharrows were present.

Shared Lane Marking Benefits

- Encourages bicyclists to position themselves safely in lanes too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to comfortably travel side by side within the same traffic lane.
- Alerts motor vehicle drivers to the potential presence of bicyclists.
- Alerts road users of the lateral position bicyclists are expected to occupy within the travel lane.
- Indicates a proper path for bicyclists through difficult or potentially hazardous situations, such as railroad tracks.
- Advertises the presence of bikeway routes to all users.
- Provides a wayfinding element along bike routes.
 - Demonstrated to increase the distance between bicyclists and parked cars, keeping bicyclists out of the "door zone."
 - Encourages safe passing by motorists.
- Requires no additional street space.
- Reduces the incidence of sidewalk riding.
- Reduces the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.

What do shared lane markings mean for motorists and bicyclists?

Motorists:

- Expect to see bicyclists on the street in the travel lane
- Remember to give bicyclists three feet of space when passing
- If the lane is too narrow, wait until the lane widens or until it is safe to change lanes before passing

Bicyclists

- Use the shared lane marking to guide where you ride within the lane
- Remember not to ride too close to parked cars
- Ride with the flow of traffic

5-138 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR PLANT WATERING BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
Mayor Kelley said the baskets are ready and the watering will be starting.

A motion to pass the consent agenda was made by Councilman Lace and seconded by Council President Schmidt. Discussion ensued. Upon a roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative. Resolutions passed 5/18/2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Cole asked about putting the red table and chairs back on the green.

- Mr. Banker said that the furniture can be put back up.
- Councilman Lace asked about putting a Chess table up
- Mayor Kelley said maybe lighting should be put up as well

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

Councilwoman DePalma-Iozzi

- Rain Garden will be going up at the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
- Environmental Commission is looking into grants for residents interested in rain gardens

Council President Schmidt – Library

- Looking to set up Constant Contact to provide residents with updates by email.
- Hopes to share more information on this soon

REPORT OF MAYOR

John Kelley

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Thomas Banker

Thomas Banker reported:

- Bond Ordinance embraces the things we are doing
- Hoping to share more information soon

Councilman Lace asked about the Crosswalk on Central Ave and Wakefield. The crosswalk is in but there has not been signage in over a year. Mr. Banker said that the Borough Engineer has been in contact with the County Engineer regarding this issue for over a year. Councilman Lace asked why the speed limit on Central goes from 25 mph – 35mph – 25 mph. Tom suggested engaging a traffic engineer to see what our options are.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Vincent Nuzzi

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council President Schmidt and seconded by Councilwoman Gates, and unanimously affirmed by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Prepared by: 
Brittany Heun, Deputy Borough Clerk


DATE