

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE/BUSINESS MEETING
Regular Meeting- October 15, 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 7:03pm.

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Brittany Heun, Borough Clerk, Borough Administrator, Alex Palumbo and 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

Moment of Silence:

Prayers for all those effected by Hurricane Helene

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 1, 2024

A motion to approve the October, 2024 Council meeting minutes, was made by Councilwoman Buchner and seconded by Council President Brown. Upon a voice vote, all members voted in the affirmative, with Councilman Jurgensen abstaining from the vote. The September 3, 2024 meeting minutes were approved 10/15/2024.

PRESENTATION

1. Veterans Day Proclamation
 - o Read by Mayor Jones
2. Proclamation to Ron Berger
 - o Read by Mayor Jones

REPORT OF COUNTY LIAISON

Patricia Keenan

Patricia Keenan reported on the following events:

- o Gardens A Glow; October 18th 6-9pm
- o Strict your Mutt: Saturday Oct. 26th at Grover Cleveland Park at 1:30
- o Trick or Treat at Turtle Back Zoo, Thursday October 31st 4-8pm
- o Electronics Recycling, Saturday October 19th from 8:30am-4pm
- o Hazardous Waste Recycling, Saturday November 9th from 8:30am-4pm
- o Mobile Health Fair "Road to Wellness" Nov. 10th 11-5am at Cherry Blossom Welcome Center at Branch Brook Park

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

No Public Comments

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1470-24

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1446-23 ESTABLISHING SALARIES OR WAGES OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

A motion to Introduce Ordinance 1470-24 was made by Council President Brown, and seconded by Councilman Daniolowicz. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Ordinance 1470-24 was introduced on 10/15/2024.

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.

10-256	RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 9-227, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO CAUSE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE TO FELLS MANOR CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION LOCATED IN CALDWELL PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES ACT
10-257	PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AND OCTOBER 18th AS NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY
10-258	RESOLUTION TO ADJUST THE SEWER BILLING FOR BLOCK 25, LOT 2.04 FOR 64 PARK AVENUE
10-259	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REPLACEMENT PARTS AND EQUIPMENT FROM TROJAN TECHNOLOGIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000 TO BE USED AT THE CALDWELL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
10-260	RESOLUTION URGING AMENDMENT OF THE NEW JERSEY BAIL REFORM ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE CRITERIA FOR PRETRIAL CONFINEMENT FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS
10-261	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF THE OBSOLETE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES THROUGH THE INTERNET SITE GOVDEALS.COM
10-262	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER OF THE CALDWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
10-263	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF CALDWELL TO NATURAL SYSTEMS UTILITIES, FOR LABOR COSTS INVOLVED IN THE NECESSARY REPAIRS MADE AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
10-264	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY TO UPDATE THE BOROUGH'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$13,000 TO BE FUNDED WITH THE BOROUGH'S OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND
10-265	AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD OF 09/28/2024 THROUGH 10/11/2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$985,897.47
10-266	A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOROUGH OF CALDWELL AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS FOR THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER GRANT
10-267	AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HANLON ROAD

A motion to approve the consent agenda, was made by Councilman Alonso, and seconded by Councilwoman Buechner. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in the affirmative. All resolutions listed on the consent agenda were approved 10/15/2024.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Borough Council Members

1. Councilman Daniolowicz
 - a. Library
 - i. December 6th & 7th will be a jewelry fundraiser
 1. Collecting old jewelry for this fundraiser
 - ii. Communications
 1. Hoping to have a meeting with Councilwoman Buechner, the Clerk, and the Company that oversees the Borough website
 2. End of this week, or early next week, there will be a link on the website for a quarterly newsletter.
 - b. Department of Public Works
 - i. Flagpole on the green was refurbished and repainted
 - ii. October 26th – First Responder's Breakfast at the American Legion

2. Councilwoman Buechner: Senior Center / Board of Health/ Grover Cleveland Birth Place
 - a. Senior Center
 - i. Pizza and Bingo from 1-2:30pm tomorrow. Let Anakaren know if you will be attending
 - ii. Friday @ 10am, the walking club will be meeting at the Tennis Courts at Grover Cleveland Park.
 - iii. Fall Fitness Classes start tomorrow from 3-4pm
 - b. Board of Health
 - i. Free Covid tests available at covidtest.com
 - ii. Check their socials and Borough website for updates/newsletters. @CaldwellHealth on Instagram, Caldwell Health, Welfare, Human Services on Facebook.
 - c. Grover Cleveland Birth Place
 - i. Participated in the Street Fair again. Sold 62 items from the gift shop.
 - ii. Dedication will potentially be held in December. The final date will be announced, once it is decided.
 - d. Communications
 - i. Channel 35 streams meetings live. Tonight's meeting will be streaming by the end of the week.
 1. Meeting recordings can also be accessed on the website.
 - ii. Some new tweaks to the website, have made navigation easier.
 1. Mayor Jones reminded the public the reasons for getting away from using Zoom for Borough meetings.
3. Council President Brown
 - a. Election reminders
 - i. Information on the website
 - ii. Early voting October 26th - November 3rd
 - iii. Fairfield rec center and Verona community center are the close locations
 - iv. Ballot box is at 14 Park Ave and open until 8pm on Election Day
 - v. Nov. 5th polls will be open until 8pm
 - vi. Mayor Jones encouraged the use of the website
4. Councilman Jurgensen:
 - a. Historic Preservation Commission
 - i. Proposed members. Mayor Jones said that he will have that for November
 - b. Caldwell Multi-Cultural Society is hosting a Diwali Celebration at the Fire Hall
 - i. Celebrating the Hindi Holiday
 - ii. \$20 for adult \$10 for a child
 - iii. Tickets online

Councilwoman Buchner: Reminded everyone that for the special elections, some districts were held at the Health and Human Services Building. For this election, the Borough will go back to having Districts 1 & 2 at Lincoln Elementary School, and Districts 3-7 at St. Aloysius Church Gymnasium

- Mayor Jones confirmed this information.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones reported:

- Thanked Darren Daniolowicz for spear heading the restoration of the flag pole
 - The American Legion is very happy with this upgrade, as they hold a lot of services there
- 2nd annual First Responders breakfast: for Fire, Police, DPW, and rescue squad
- Vero Amici and American Legion will be helping me with our Home Town Honors, which will be along Bloomfield Ave. This will be done for Memorial Day next year.
- Halloween will be taking place before our next meeting, please be safe out during Mischief Night and Halloween.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR*Alex Palumbo*

- o Attached are the Administrator's remarks.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY*Craig Bossong*

- 80 Bloomfield - Better Life is out of the facility, and the Health Department will be doing their inspections at the new location
 - o Come Nov. 1st the building should be vacant
- 459 Bloomfield Ave. 2 of the units are currently signing the leases, and the other units are being worked on
- Filed a law suit against the former architects. The courts have denied their motion to dismiss. We will go forward with discovery to prepare for trial if needed.

Councilman Alonso asked that the savings from the vacating the storage units be added to the list of accomplishments.

Mayor Jones said he has made a point to not have a gavel, or a time frame to limit public comments, during these Council meetings

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ann Marchioni, 85 Brookside Ave: Co-Chair for Environmental Commission. Thanked the borough for 10-264. Event Tomorrow, Zoom presentation from Anthony Bunting of the Philadelphia. 6 trees to give away and 2 rain barrels. Hope this Weill help to explain how we can help mitigate climate change and flooding

Lisa Jenkins, Roseland Avenue Apt. 26

Recruiting the change of a temporary bus stop into a permanent bus stop. Curtesy Bus Stop #17927. The problem is that sometimes this stop gets missed because there is no bus stop sign at this location. Working with Michael DeCarlo on this as well as the NJ DOT. Ride at this stop every morning. Would like to get the Mayor and Council's help to get this done.

Mr. Palumbo said that he has this with Michael DeCarlo. The first step is to get confirmation that this is an actual bus stop.

Ms. Jenkins said she has a print out of my communications with the DOT. Mike DeCarlo said at one point that a traffic survey may have to be done at some point.

Mr. Palumbo said that he has a contact there and I will get in touch with this them

Councilman Alonso Googled and read a statement regarding curtesy bus stops.

Ms. Jenkins asked how Mr. Alonso got that definition. Councilman Alonso said he got it from Google. Ms. Jenkins said that Google co-pilot with AI does not have the proper information.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Prepared by: *Brittany Heun*
Brittany Heun, Borough Clerk

11/13/2024
DATE



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BOROUGH OF CALDWELL

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST 21 MONTHS

- Purchase of New Fire Department Ladder Truck – \$1.67 Million completed in the first 2 months of 2023 by cancelling an old redevelopment bond.
- Settled Sewer Litigation with West Caldwell and Roseland. We removed Mott McDonald at end of contract with new Operator, NSU (Natural System Utilities). We have seen a large savings in the process with respect to Operational costs.
- Resolved budget issues by receiving the outstanding municipal sewer user fees from the sending towns while maintaining small increase in overall Municipal Budget. This put the Borough back in the “Black”...First time in 3.5 years.
- Borough now has bonding capacity once again to fix roadways, and utility infrastructure systems. This doesn't mean we are looking to spend additional funds, However, the Borough has the capability to borrow once again.
- Purchased new Municipal Building at 80 Bloomfield Ave., eliminating 2/3 trailers at Smull Avenue Lot. The purchase of the building at \$2.7 Million was a huge cost savings for the Borough VS having to construct a new building. In addition to Municipal offices, this building will house the Borough Library and our Court Office.
- Upon relocation of Borough Hall and Library, Smull Avenue Lot will be restored with approx. 40 more parking spaces for the business community with additional landscaping.
- Old Borough Hall at Provost was demolished and a new parking lot created adding 31 additional parking spaces for use by businesses, residents, and those viewing sports activities at the Oval. Last year we also removed the rock stockpile on the lower lot by the firehouse and added approximately 12 additional parking spaces.
- Improvements to The Green were made including a new retaining wall, aluminum fencing, plantings, automatic sprinkler system, etc...at no cost to the Borough.



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- The Police Department personnel was increased from 18 to 21 to ensure public safety in the Borough. We are looking to hire one additional patrolman in November of this year.
- Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department enrollment has increased tremendously and the department is thriving due to new equipment and technology upgrades.
- An addition to the firehouse is planned in 2025 from a grant received from the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in the amount of just over \$200,000.00.
- FEMA Grants are scheduled to be received in 2025 for flood relief from Hurricane IDA. If the demolition of the existing Library building on Bloomfield Avenue was not stopped by Councilman Alonso, the day the contractor was on site, we would have lost \$1.47 Million dollars in FEMA Grants to reconstruct and rehabilitate the building. (\$510,879.11 received plus \$960,625.89 pending... for replacing flood proof doors, windows, stormwater detention system, generator, site grading, etc...)
- As a result of the Sewer Litigation Settlement, remediation work to reduce infiltration in the Borough's sewer system is being performed to increase sewer capacity and relieve flooding conditions.
- The residents of Smull Avenue will have their neighborhood restored back to its original status as all of the trailers are removed and 22 Smull Avenue is listed for sale.
- The Borough has caught up with lingering NJDOT funded Roadway Improvements Projects. We will continue to apply for this annual grant in the upcoming year 2025.
- The Borough in 2023 hired Michael DeCarlo as the Borough Assistant Engineer to oversee all of the infrastructure projects and grants associated with these projects. The prior administration used the consulting engineering firm, Beckmeyer Engineering where in 2021, this firm was paid \$500,519.01 and \$579,484.68 in 2022 for all of their engineering services. Our current use of outside engineering consultants for design and preparation of plans and specifications for our projects, including Michael DeCarlo's salary is accomplished with less than \$150,000.00 per year...resulting in a large savings for our residents.
- The Borough recently signed a "Shared Services" agreement to purchase fuel from West Caldwell instead of paying retail prices at the local Sunoco Service Station. We will see a large savings with this. Cadwell will pay .25 cents above the fuel purchase price from the Morris



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County Cooperative. The fuel pricing is based upon the “RAC” price delivered at the port. Allied Oil supplies the fuel through the Morris County Cooperative.

- We completed the renovations at 14 Park Avenue and named the facility the Irene Gibbons Health and Human Services Building (Named after the first female Mayor of Caldwell).
- Last week we completed the resurfacing and painting of the flagpole on the “Green”.
- With the ending of the NJ Transit Bus commuter route, this administration contacted and assisted with the new DeCamp “Blue” bus service route along Bloomfield Ave to NY Port Authority supplement the commuters in the Borough.