

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 18, 2024**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the reading of the following Sunshine Law announcement: *“I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this regular meeting of the Califon Borough Council has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the annual notice in the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat.”*

**FLAG SALUTE**

*MOMENT OF SILENCE- Moment of Silence for Bryan Pascale, Deputy Chief of Califon Fire Company*

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero, C. Smith**  
**ABSENT: C. Smith**

**Also Present: Kirsten Nuber, Legal Assistant/ Paralegal, Woolsen, Anderson & Peach**

At this time, Mayor Daniel moved to the Eagle Scout Presentation on the Agenda.

Resident and Scout Fiona Cusack from Troop 192 advised that her Eagle Scout plan is to build and install little libraries in Califon. Ms. Cusack gave each council member a handout depicting what the little libraries would look like and their size. She advised that these structures will hold a dozen or so books donated by residents and that it is a “take a book, leave a book” library.

Ms. Cusack stated that she plans on making two Little Libraries and installing one outside of the Califon Public School, and she would like permission to install one in the Borough. Discussion on where the best place would be for this library took place. It was unanimously agreed that the Califon Commons Park would be the best place. Councilman Medea advised that the town would find a spot, mark it, and let her know where she could install it. Ms. Cusack advised that her installation date for both Little Libraries will be in July.

Mayor Daniel moved to Public Comments on the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lindsey Beates, proprietor of South Branch Outfitters, gave a status update on the Trout Fest that will be taking place on Saturday, April 20th, from 12 to 3. There will be a food truck, dessert truck, beer truck from Sunken Silo, and live music. There are over 25 Vendors, and everything is falling into place.

Ms. Beates inquired with Council members about vendor parking.

Bruce Morrow, 47 Academy Street, shared where he parked vendor cars at the park during his car shows.

Bruce Morrow, Chairman of the Car Show Committee, advised that he has obtained an estimate for 20 tons of stone to be placed in the park's parking lot. The parking lot needs some grading and new stone. Clerk Mastro advised that the Parks Committee Chair inspected the parking lot and confirmed that additional stone was needed.

Chief Almer of the Washington Township Police Department advised that everything is going well and that there are no issues to discuss.

Cynthia Peschl of 62 Academy Street asked why the council advised against installing the Little Library at the Califon Island Park. Councilman M. Medea explained the problems we have experienced in the past with vandalism and that it would be best to install this in the Main Street area, where it is more public.

Sam Meshmen of 31 Main Street asked if Stormwater would be discussed at tonight's meeting. Mayor Daniel advised that, yes, it is an agenda item.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Meeting of March 21, 2024**

Motion was made by seconded by R. Baggstrom to approve the meeting minutes of March 21, 2024.

For: R. Baggstrom, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero

Abstained: E. Haversang

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

### **LIST OF BILLS**

Motion was made by M. Medea, seconded by J. Ruggiero, to approve the list of bills for \$ 19,323.00.

For: R. Baggstrom, E. Haversang, L. Janas, M. Medea, J. Ruggiero

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**Motion Carried**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

cc letter from Mayor Voyce Tewksbury- March 15, 2024, to Assemblyman DiMaio, Peterson, and Senator Steinhardt urging the legislature to take immediate action to restore landlord rights to deny housing in sensitive areas to individuals who pose a risk to the community.

\_ Media Advisory-April 5, 2024-Board of County Commissioners- 4.8 Magnitude Earthquake in Hunterdon County.

\_State of NJ letter to Mayor; April 3, 2024, regarding the State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

\_Memo- April 4, 2024, from Commissioner Kuhl and Commissioner Zach Rich, encouraging municipalities to communicate with their planners concerning Legislation A4/S50 as soon as possible Municipal Bodies must prepare to understand their housing obligations fact check the DCA numbers when they become available. Department of Planning and Land Use at the county will continue to Monitor the status of the DCA numbers. Gave a suggested timeline for municipalities to follow.

\_NJLM Weekly Roundup- OPRA Moderation; ARP Expenditure Reports are due April 30<sup>th</sup>;

\_ Reminder that the Financial Disclosure Statements are due on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

\_ Hunterdon County Planning Board; April 10, 2024- Notification that the Board of County Commissioners will consider accepting the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

\_letter—Mark Anderson, April 9, 2024, regarding Block 14 Lot 2 to owner noted on tax duplicate—( Roy Wimmer) advising that the Tax Assessor is preparing to remove Block 14, Lot 2 from the tax list for 2025. Once again, I am asking if they have any documents that prove the existence of this lot and block and if they would please respond.

\_email- April 10, 2024- advising the Califon EC requests permission to add one pollinator garden to the existing one.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024-02**

The Mayor read Ordinance 2024-02 by title:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY ADDING A TITLE 17, ENTITLED "STATE-MANDATED ORDINANCES", AND INCLUDING WITHIN THAT TITLE PROVISIONS FOR MANAGING PET WASTE; REGARDING WILDLIFE FEEDING; REGARDING LITTER CONTROL; REGARDING YARD WASTE COLLECTION; REGARDING PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING; REGARDING PRIVATELY-OWNED SALT STORAGE; REGARDING CONNECTIONS TO STORM SEWERS ON COUNTY HIGHWAYS; AND TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT.**

The mayor opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2024-02.

Resident Cynthia Peschl of 62 Academy Street inquired about how these ordinances came to the council for adoption. Council members explained that the State of New Jersey requires municipalities to adopt these ordinances.

There being no further comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by L. Janas seconded by J. Ruggiero to approve Ordinance 2024-02.

For: L. Janas, M. Medea, E. Haversang, J. Ruggiero,

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **B. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024-03**

The Mayor read Ordinance 2024-03 by title:

**INTRODUCTION TO ORDINANCE 2024-03 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON BY REPLACING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 15.16 OF TITLE 15, WHICH CHAPTER IS ENTITLED "STORMWATER CONTROL"**

The mayor opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2024-03. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by R. Baggstrom, seconded by E. Haversang, to approve Ordinance 2024-03.

For: L. Janas, M. Medea, E. Haversang, J. Ruggiero,

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **C. Stormwater Remediation –**

Mayor Daniel advised that the Borough is working with our engineer to develop plans to enhance the measures taken in 2014. Mayor Daniel explained several options; however, funding is the biggest problem. We are looking for grant money to assist in controlling water coming down into the Main Street area of Califon.

Mayor Daniel explained that the triangle tract of land that sits between Main St and Academy Street is owned by the Borough and the NJ Watershed Authority. This land has changed significantly and seems to be turning into more of a swamp/wetland rather than woodlands, which is not absorbing much of the water coming down the hill. The mitigation tracts installed ten years ago are not capturing the capacity of water that is coming down. Mayor Daniel advised that the rainstorms have increased in their water capacity, with more frequent “flash floods.” Mayor Daniel advised that he noticed increased water coming onto this property after the county had completed work on Academy Street.

Samuel Mushman of 31 Main Street asked if he could repair the channel running through his property. Council President Medea advised that the Borough has an easement to their property so we could access this channel, but Mr. Mushman owns the property and should do what he can to maintain it. M. Medea advised that a partnership between the Council and professionals must also include the residents.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **B. RESOLUTION-2024-32-**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-32**

#### **APPROVAL OF LIMITED BREWERY OFF-PREMISE EVENT PERMIT TO DONLON BREW WORKS LLC FOR THE APRIL 20, 2024 TROUT FESTIVAL.**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the following brewery off-premises event permit has been approved to be issued in the Borough of Califon for the one-day Trout Festival event on April 20, 2024; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipal Clerk or her duly authorized agent is hereby authorized, directed, and ordered to sign, issue, and deliver such permit to the following licensee:

NAME	License No	ADDRESS
Donlon Brew Works, LLC	3404-11-900-001	1320 US Hwy 22 Lebanon, NJ 08833

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution is certified to be true by the Municipal Clerk and forwarded to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Motion was made by J. Ruggiero, seconded by M. Medea , to adopt Resolution Ordinance 2024-03.

For: L. Janas, M. Medea, E. Haversang, J. Ruggiero,

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **RESOLUTION 2024-33**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-33 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FUNDING MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FORM 1B**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, The Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Voorhees Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2025 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ <u>7,306.00</u>
Cash Match	\$ <u>1,826.50</u>
In-Kind	\$ <u>5,479.50</u>

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Motion was made by L. Janas Seconded by E. Haversang to adopt Resolution 2024-33 as read.

For: L. Janas, M. Medea, E. Haversang, J. Ruggiero,

Absent: C. Smith

Opposed: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Land Transfer Public Hearing Date** – Roll Call Vote to approve July 18, 2024, as the Public Hearing Date for the land transfer of County property to the Borough of Califon, which includes the Weiss Mill Dam.

Motion to approve July 18, 2024, as the date for a public hearing made by E. Haversang seconded by J. Ruggiero.

All Council Members in Favor

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman M. Medea reported that Memorial Day plans are all underway and in order. A new banner for the bridge will be designed by Councilman Ruggiero. Next meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Clay was delivered and spread on the baseball fields at the park. The Washington Township DPW did a nice job. Mulch for the playground will be completed before Memorial Day.

Councilman Medea reported that he did an estimate for the replacement of the front steps and it came out to 50k. This project will have to go out to bid if it is decided that we want to replace the steps and walkway in kind, with the blue stone. M. Medea advised that clerk K. Mastro contacted Hunterdon County Open Space coordinator, and was advised that the Borough could use County Open Space funds for this project as it qualifies as a historic preservation. We will have to forward an application and plans to the State's Historic Preservation office.

Councilman Haversang advised that a member of the Califon EC will be manning the Stream Clean-up at Califon Island Park on April 20, 2024. There will also be tree planting at the park and a seedling giveaway.

Councilman Janas advised that last night's Planning/Zoning meeting was canceled. The next meeting will be on May 15th, and he believes a variance request will be on the agenda.

Councilman Baggstrom reported that the County placed barrel barriers at Main and First St due to damaged guardrails and fallen curbing. The county will repair and replace these as soon as possible.

Councilman Ruggiero advised that he will be getting an additional camera for the park.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Daniel advised that he has nothing further to report.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no further comments from the public.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, motion was made by R. Baggstrom seconded by L. Janas to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mastro, RMC