**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Mayor Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. *“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 legal notice in the Hunterdon Review and the Hunterdon County Democrat. In addition, a copy of this notice was posted on the bulletin board in the municipal building and is on file in the Clerk/Administrator’s office”.***

**FLAG SALUTE –** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Present | Absent |
| Baggstrom | X |  |
| Haversang | X |  |
| Janas | X |  |
| Ruggiero | X |  |
| Smith | X |  |
| Medea | X |  |

Others present: Mayor Daniel, Clerk/Administrator Haughey, Borough Attorney Anderson (via Zoom)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(Adoption upon Roll Call)

“Consent Agenda items are routine and will be enacted with a single motion. Any items that require expenditures are supported by a certification of funds; any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in the full minutes.”

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting

**\*LIST OF BILLS**

\*CONSENT AGENDA

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Motion | Second | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
| Baggstrom | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Haversang |  |  | X |  | From minutes |  |
| Janas |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Ruggiero |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Smith |  |  | X |  | From minutes |  |
| Medea |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Raritan Headwaters is offering all homeowners who own property within the project boundary for the Cole’s Mill dam removal project the opportunity to schedule a 30-minute, one-on-one meeting. The goal of these meetings are to further clarify how the project may impact their properties and to seek their input on those potential impacts. The project team will be present to answer any questions they have. They will be meeting at the Methodist Church on Saturday, February 15th from 12-4pm and Thursday, February 20th from 3-7 pm.
2. The annual brush pick up by the Tewksbury DPW is scheduled to begin May 12th. Postcards will be mailed to residents the 3rd week in March. Then the DPW will do the street sweeping the following week so it is ready for the Memorial Day parade.
3. On the 3rd Tuesday of every other month, beginning on February 18, 2025, Congressman Kean and Assemblymen DeMaio and Peterson’s offices will host mobile office hours here at the Municipal Building. The intent is to provide Califon residents with access to assistance any issues at either the state or federal levels. Note: The Congressman and Assemblymen will not be in attendance, just their staff.
4. Two emails were forwarded to Council regarding elections:
   1. New Jersy Division of Elections email stating, “No holder of a public office or position shall demand payment or contribution from another holder of a public office or position for the campaign purposes of any candidate or for the use of any political party.”
   2. County Clerk Mary Melfi’s email stating that A5117, revising the number of required signatures for candidate petitions, has been passed by the Legislature. In Califon, 5% republican votes cast =3, 5% democrat votes cast =4, 5% of votes cast for the general assembly, which is the requirement for an independent/unaffiliated candidate = 17

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Public Hearing and Final Adoption – Ordinance 2025-01**

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

**Mayor Daniel opened the meeting for public comment on Ordinance 2025-01. There were no comments. Mayor Daniel closed the meeting to the public.**

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON**

**ORDINANCE 2025-01**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

**(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS,** N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon in the County of Hunterdon finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to $7,069.55 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary and,

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, in the County of Hunterdon, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2025 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Califon shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to $24,743.43, and that the CY 2025 municipal budget for the Borough of Califon be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

ORDINANCE 2025-01

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Motion | Second | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
| Baggstrom |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Haversang |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Janas |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Ruggiero |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Smith | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Medea |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Resolution R-35-25**

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH LINDA LEIDNER, CERTIFIED RECYCLING COORDINATOR, FOR CERTIFICATION OF CALIFON’S TONNAGE REPORT IN 2025**

**WHEREAS,** all municipalities are required to collect their towns' recycling data and produce a tonnage report and

**WHEREAS,** the State and County require these tonnage reports to be certified by a certified recycling coordinator before submission to the County and

**WHEREAS,** Califon does not have a certified recycling coordinator. Hampton Borough does, and this recycling coordinator, Linda Leidner, has agreed to review and perform the certification of our tonnage report, before submitting it to the County:

**WHEREAS,** Linda Leidner has submitted a copy of her Certified Recycling Coordinator certification and W-9 form and has agreed to provide this once-a-year service for $50.00.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon that the contract between the Borough of Califon and Linda Leidner for Certification of Tonnage Reports in 2025 is hereby approved.

R-35-25

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Motion | Second | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
| Baggstrom |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Haversang |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Janas | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Ruggiero |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Smith |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Medea |  |  | X |  |  |  |

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Comm. Medea** – Parks and Recreation Committee will hold meetings the second Wednesday of each month. Wednesday, February 12, the Committee will hold an Open House for all interested residents. The Committee has a number of events planned for the year, and volunteer hours are always available to students.

**Comm. Haversang** – The Environmental Committee held an Invasive Species presentation that was well attended. April 12 is the Raritan Headwaters Stream Cleanup. A few years ago Trout Unlimited placed line tubes in the river which are still being used. Comm. Haversang cleaned them out recently and noted that they have lessened the amount of litter in the River. Saturday, February 8, the First Aid Squad is having a team-building event with a bowling outing.

**Comm. Janas** – On January 29, 2025, the Planning/Zoning Board of Adjustment granted 4 variances, contingent on DEP approval, to the owners of 69-71-73 Academy Street. The proposal, if approved, will consolidate the 3 lots, remove the old house/garage structure and build a new garage; impervious coverage will be reduced. The lots are in the Historic district, but the Borough Planning/Zoning Board Attorney has determined that it is not on any list of historic structures deemed to have value.

**Comm. Smith** – The Board of Education held their Reorganization Meeting on January 8, 2025. Chris Keiser will continue to serve as President, and Michael Reaves as Vice President. The current enrollment of the school is 94 students, with the Preschool for the 2025-2026 enrollment filled at 12 students. Kindergarten Round-Up is scheduled for March. The 2025-2026 tuition rates have been approved as follows: Preschool/Pre-K (5 days) $5,700, Grades K-5 $7,000, Grades 6-8 $7,500.

**Comm. Baggstrom** – No report.

**Comm. Ruggiero** – The Borough is looking to revamp email for Council and employees. Comm. Ruggiero and C/A Haughey will meet to review the proposals and select an option to discuss at the Budget meeting.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

**Mayor Daniel** – Comm. Ruggiero and Mayor Daniel attended a meeting hold by County Commissioner Van Doren on January 25, 2025, regarding shared services. They were both impressed with the library presentation and all the services the library provides, including a “Maker’s Space” with crafts, t-shirt printing, pottery wheels and 3-D printing, LinkedIn courses, and free museum passes, among others. (Comm. Ruggiero stated that he and C/A Haughey discussed the presentation and determined that he will reach out to the Library Director and ask for the presentation to be offered at an upcoming Council meeting.)

RCAP Solutions, a non-profit organization that receives funding from federal sources, reached out to the Borough and offered to do the required Tier A GIS stormwater mapping at no cost to the Borough. Mayor Daniel and C/A Haughey will follow up.

There was discussion concerning a grant for an inlet on Bank Street. C/A Haughey will follow up with Borough Engineer Boorady.

Borough Planner Kyle has submitted a proposal totaling $25K to complete the 4th Round Housing Element and Fair Share plan, for the affordable housing obligation for ten years commencing July 1, 2025. DCA requires the plan be submitted by June 30, 2025. Mr. Kyle stated that there is a grant the Borough can request from the Highlands to complete this plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jessica Daehnke, resident, commented that the school may be interested in the library presentation.

**Resolution R-36-25**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN   
ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: Attorney-Client Privilege**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that an Executive Session, not open to the public, shall be held immediately following the adoption of this Resolution for:

Attorney-client discussion with the Borough Attorney.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the regular meeting will continue, and further public discussion and action may occur.

Since the attorney-client privilege has no specific expiration date, the Borough Council may disclose the minutes when it determines that the public interest no longer requires confidentiality.

R-36-25

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| Council Member | Motion | Second | For | Against | Abstain | Absent |
| Baggstrom |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Haversang |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Janas |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| Ruggiero |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| Smith | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Medea |  |  | X |  |  |  |

The Borough Council entered Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

The Borough Council emerged from Executive Session at 8:26 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Council Member | Motion | Second |
| Baggstrom |  |  |
| Haversang |  |  |
| Janas |  |  |
| Ruggiero |  | X |
| Smith | X |  |
| Medea |  |  |

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.