

**BOROUGH OF CALIFON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2015**

Mayor Charles Daniel called the regular meeting to order at 8:00 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

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT: K. DEBLASIO, P. FARMER, T. FORRESTER, M. MEDEA,
M. RICCIO
ABSENT: G. SMITH**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by T. Forrester seconded by M. Riccio to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 16th with the following correction:

Page 55 – Committee Reports – Paragraph 4 should read “Councilman Forrester reported that the Board of Health had **“no meeting scheduled in March”**; not that the meeting was **“cancelled”** as incorrectly stated.

For: K. DeBlasio, T. Forrester, M. Medea, M. Riccio

Opposed: None

Abstain: P. Farmer

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

LIST OF BILLS

Motion was made by P. Farmer seconded by M. Medea to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$10,549.88.

For: K. DeBlasio, P. Farmer, T. Forrester, M. Medea, M. Riccio

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT

The Tax Collector’s Report was reviewed and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

___ Police report for month of March, 2015

___ Califon School: “Notice of Board of Education Vacancy (1)”

__ Voorhees High School Students Against Destructive Driving Club to hold a 5K run on the Columbia Trail on Saturday, June 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

__ J. Peter Jost, Esq. to Hunterdon County Board of Taxation; Borough of Califon vs. United Telephone Co. of NJ; filing of petition regarding the tax appeal of the Borough of Califon of the tangible personal property assessment of United Telephone for the tax year 2015.

__ letter from Department of Transportation regarding Califon's application through Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program; Main Street Sidewalk Improvements; not selected to receive funding.

__ Fire Marshall monthly report for month of March 2015

__ Kevin A. Baumann, contractor, proposal/quotation for chipping of brush and dead trees in Island Park

__ letter from Highlands Water Protection and Planning council to Mayor Daniel regarding "Highlands Implementation Grant Status" reflecting a prioritization of funded implementation tasks for FY 2016

__ copy of Califon Stormwater Improvement Project – Project Progression, for all of Council

OLD BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION – STORMWATER PROJECT – REJECTION OF REIVAX CORP. BID AND AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ROCK SOLID CORP.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2015-45

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were opened and read in public on March 31, 2015 on a **re-bid** for the project known as "**RAILROAD AVENUE/MAIN STREET STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**"; **CONTRACT NO. 15-01**; and

WHEREAS, following the bid opening, the results were subject to **re-bid review** for determination as to the "**lowest responsible bidder**" and award of contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that the receipt of bids for the **re-bid** for the subject project, opened on March 31, 2015, and the subsequent review of same, is subject to the following actions:

1. Following a detailed re-bid review, the Borough Attorney has opined that the bid of the apparent low bidder, Reivax Contracting Corp. in the amount of \$1,091,014.00, must be declared non-responsive and the bid **rejected**, due to the failure by Reivax to submit certain required documents at the time of bid opening.
2. Recommendation is hereby made that Contract 15-01 Railroad Avenue/Main Street Stormwater Improvements Project be **awarded** to Rock Solid Construction, Inc., the next lowest bidder, in the amount of \$1,168,831.00; subject to and pending the Authorization to Award by the EPA and the NJEIT.

Motion was made by P. Farmer seconded by M. Riccio to adopt Resolution 2015-45 as read.

For: K. DeBlasio, P. Farmer, T. Forrester, M. Medea, M. Riccio

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

**B. RESOLUTION – FINAL ADOPTION OF BOND ORDINANCE 2015-02
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING**

The Clerk read the following Bond Ordinance 2015-02 by title: **BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2012-04 (PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MAIN STREET STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM) HERETOFORE FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE “BOROUGH”) ON NOVEMBER 19, 2012, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED AND RESTATED BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-03 HERETOFORE FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH ON JULY 7, 2014, TO INCREASE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION THEREIN FROM \$1,554,500 TO \$2,061,460, TO INCLUDE A \$130,000 GRANT FROM THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AS A PORTION OF SUCH APPROPRIATION, AND TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS AND NOTES THEREIN FROM \$1,033,500 TO \$1,410,460.**

Mayor Daniel opened the public hearing on Bond Ordinance 2015-02. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2015-46

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Bond Ordinance 2015-02 entitled as stated above is hereby adopted upon final reading following the public hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Notice of Final Passage of Bond Ordinance 2015-02 is to be published in the April 15th edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by T. Forrester seconded by P. Farmer to adopt Resolution 2015-46 as read.

For: K. DeBlasio, P. Farmer, T. Forrester, M. Medea, M. Riccio

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS**A. RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2015-03 (2015 SALARY & WAGE)**

The Clerk read Ordinance 2015-03 by title: **AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2015-47

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2015-03 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY** was hereby introduced upon first reading; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ordinance 2015-03 is to be considered for final passage upon second reading following the public hearing to be held on May 4, 2015; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Notice of Ordinance 2015-03 will be published in the April 15, 2015 edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by P. Farmer seconded by M. Medea to adopt Resolution 2015-47 as read.

For: K. DeBlasio, P. Farmer, T. Forrester, M. Medea, M. Riccio

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

B. RESOLUTION – INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2015-04 AMENDING HIGHLANDS EXEMPTION ORDINANCE/ELIMINATING APPLICATION FEE FOR EXEMPTION #5

The Clerk read Ordinance 2015-04 by title: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HIGHLANDS AREA EXEMPTION ORDINANCE, PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE 2014-05 TO SUPPLEMENT AND AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR PAYMENT OF AN APPLICATION FEE IN CONNECTION WITH AN APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION #5.**

The following Resolution was introduced for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2015-48

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Califon that Ordinance 2015-04 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HIGHLANDS AREA EXEMPTION**

ORDINANCE, PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE 2014-05 TO SUPPLEMENT AND AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF AN APPLICATION FEE IN CONNECCTION WITH AN APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION #5 is hereby introduced upon first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ordinance 2015-04 is to be considered for final adoption on May 4, 2015 following the public hearing on same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Notice of Ordinance 2015-04 is to be published in the April 15th edition of the Hunterdon Review as required by law.

Motion was made by T. Forrester seconded by P. Farmer to adopt Resolution 2015-48 as read.
For: K. DeBlasio, P. Farmer, T. Forrester, M. Medea, M. Riccio

Opposed: None

Absent: G. Smith

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Medea reported that the Parks Committee met and discussed various matters. There was vandalism at the Park involving broken beer bottles in the mulch in the playground. Mayor Daniel led the cleanup and many thanks to him for his efforts.

The Park Committee members discussed the topic of installing cameras in the Park as a way to thwart the many incidents of vandalism. Councilman Medea discussed this issue with the Council and asked the Councilman Farmer resurrect his cost estimates from previous meetings where this subject was seriously discussed. Councilman Farmer agreed and said that he had spoken with Comcast who agreed that they would be willing to trench the parking lot to the shed so there would be equipment costs and probably administrative costs. Councilman Medea stated that providing the cost estimates to the Parks Committee members would enable them to take the project forward. Councilman Medea stated that the Parks Committee discussed better lighting at the park and updating signage. Councilman Medea reported that Washington Twp. has begun maintaining the ball fields and reported that there have been many applications submitted for usage of the fields this year. LTAA has only one team so that does open the fields for use by other organizations, however, the Parks Committee does want to draft updated usage rules and the fee schedule.

Kevin Baumann, contractor, has submitted a quotation to cut back brush and dead trees at the Park and to chip all for a cost of \$1900. The dumpster will be an additional cost. Council approved this project.

Councilman Medea reported that Railroad Ave. E. is in really bad condition. The DPW will need to fill the numerous potholes. There is a seam coming apart on Railroad Ave. W. caused by the freezing and thawing this winter that will need to be reported to our Borough engineer to request remediation by the contractor that did the recent Railroad Ave. W. project.

Councilwoman Riccio reported that the Recreation Committee will meet next Tuesday night.

Councilwoman Riccio read the Police report for the month of March and there was a surge in the calls in March; 140 residential and 63 traffic. Councilwoman Riccio reported that there is an obvious increase in police presence lately all over town.

Councilman Farmer reported that the Environmental Commission did not have a quorum so the last meeting was cancelled. Councilman Farmer was not able to attend the last Planning Board meeting but did report that the Planning Board has been engaging in an ongoing discussion about the R-1 and R-3 zones and related impervious coverage issues within these zones.

Councilman Farmer will research the ordinance recently adopted by Princeton, as reported by Councilman Medea.

Councilman Farmer announced to Mayor and Council that he is not seeking another term in the upcoming election.

Councilman Forrester reported that there is a vacancy on the Board of Education to be filled at the general election in November.

Councilman Forrester reported that the Board of Health was notified of a dog bite involving two Califon residents. The dog was quarantined.

The Board of Health is in contact with Andrew Gale from DEP regarding the status of the work on a new septic system at 74 Main St.

Councilman Forrester reported on the 4 cases of bad vaccine at various rabies clinics, causing 4 animals to get sick. The State was notified and the State asked municipalities to cancel their rabies clinics.

Councilman Forrester reported that feral cats account for 90% of rabies cases in the State.

Councilwoman DeBlasio reported that she; Alison Ramarge and Claudia Gangemi have been talking about the possibility of sponsoring a plein-air Art fund raising event at the Nellie Hoffman house sometime in September; possibly in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the Columbia Trail. Plans may include an auction of the paintings; wine and cheese; tents, etc.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Daniel reported that when he heard from Chris Keiser, Parks Committee Chair, about the 18 or so broken beer bottles in the playground, he was aware that the Easter Egg hunt was scheduled for Sunday of that weekend. He, Bill Gensch and other volunteers helped pick out the pieces of broken glass from the mulch so it would be safe for the children to play on Sunday. There was also clear broken glass that needed to be cleaned up on the pavilion and on the basketball court.

Mayor Daniel reported that Chris Keiser has access to a free gazebo, which he intends to install in the park close to the cherry tree.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, motion was made by T. Forrester seconded by P. Farmer and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura G. Eidsvaag, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator