

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES – January 1, 2012**

The council Business meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Caldwell was called to order in the Council Chambers at 2:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Dassing, Council President Richard Hauser, Councilman Murray, Coyle, O'Donnell, Kelley and Rodgers

ALSO PRESENT: Councilman Norton, Councilman Piazza, Paul Carelli, Borough Administrator, Lisa O'Neill, Acting Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney, Greg Mascara

ABSENT:

Adequate notice of this Council Business/Conference meeting was given on January 1, 2012. Notice was posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of the Borough Hall, One Provost Square, Caldwell, New Jersey on January 1, 2012. Four official newspapers of the Borough were notified of this meeting by mail on January 1, 2012. Notice was posted and all persons requesting notice were sent same.

The Mayor acknowledged dignitaries

RECOGNITION OF FORMER COUNCILMAN:

- Councilman Joseph Norton
- Councilman Douglas Piazza

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE:

- Councilman Francis Rodgers by Governor Richard J. Codey
- Councilman John Kelley by Governor Richard J. Codey

Councilman Rodgers, I would first like to thank my wife for giving me permission to do this and she supports me in all my endeavors. I wouldn't be here without her. I would like to thank my children for once again sharing their father with the Community. I like to thank everyone behind the campaign and John Kelley for keeping me company. I would like to thank the people in Caldwell for the opportunity to serve them in this capacity.

Councilman Kelley, I would like to thank my wife Susan, my son and campaign manager Johnny, and his beautiful and brilliant daughter Meredith. I would like to thank Governor Codey and congratulate him on his re-election. Thank you Msg. Desmond for being there today and congratulations on your re-assignment. I thank the Mayor and Council and I would like to acknowledge Mr. Norton and Mr. Piazza who have sacrificed and worked endlessly towards a better Caldwell Community. Thank you the Caldwell Democratic Committee, Susan Garland, Jeff Curley you were there from start to finish, Peter Mescia and Kay Slattery looking forward to working with you. I would like to acknowledge two people that were instrumental in my being here today, Mayor Dassing, when we spoke last winter by phone you encouraged me to run for office if I was unhappy, I have not forgotten that advice and I do look forward to working together with you in 2012. My neighbor and good friend Gary Flynn for your friendship yours was the encouragement to make me run. I also would like to thank Frank Rodgers, who was instrumental. I encourage everyone in Caldwell to consider running for Council, Committee's or Boards our town benefits from the diverse and creative minds of our neighbors.

- **Call to Order - Roll Call**
- **Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act**
- **Invocation by Rev. Anthony J. Randazzo**
- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- **Election of Council President**

Councilman Murray made a motion to nominate Councilman Hauser as Council President, 2nd Councilman O'Donnell. No Discussion. On roll call, all present voted in the affirmative.

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES – January 1, 2012**

2 of 6

- Oaths of Office – Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department by State Senate Kevin J. O'Toole
 1. Fire Chief Gary Garamella
 2. First Assistant Chief Anthony Grenci
 3. Second Assistant Chief Gerard Grenci
 4. Captain Thomas Haight
 5. Lieutenant Andrew Intili
 6. Lieutenant Andrew Pollara
 7. Lieutenant Brian Hebrank

- Oaths of Office – Caldwell Police Department by State Senate Kevin J. O'Toole

1. Police Chief James H. Bongiorno
2. Lieutenant Anthony Marta
3. Sergeant George Henderson
4. Sergeant Michael Geary
5. Probationary Patrolman Michael Kravynanski
6. Probationary Patrolman Justin Rizzo
7. Probationary Patrolman Justin Misano

Senator O'Toole, Caldwell is one of the most well run and wonderful town we have in Essex County. I say that as a life long Cedar Grove resident. He wished everyone on Council good luck.

- Comments by Mayor Ann Dassing

Congratulations once again to our new Fire Chief and his officers, our new Police Chief, Lt. and Sergeant and good luck to our three new officers.

I also wish to extend my best wishes to Chief Dombrowski and Sgt. Fortunato as they begin the next chapter in their lives. Their service to Caldwell will never be forgotten.

My first year as Mayor can only be categorized by four words, weather and challenging budgets.

2011 saw one of the roughest January's in recent history, topped off by more snow until the end of March, a hurricane, an earthquake and more snow this past October! Through every storm, I knew I could count on our emergency personnel, our fire department, first aid squad members, police and DPW departments to keep us safe and our roads open and passable.

Speaking of roads, I want to commend our DPW and Utilities committee for working diligently to create a master survey of all of our roads, which includes their current condition, and infrastructure needs, in one document, prioritized and based on need. This can now be incorporated into a long range capital plan and we can begin to discuss ways to fund these needs, whether it be through NJDOT and CBG grants or property tax dollars.

Our Technology Committee has instituted bill paying online for those who wish to pay their taxes and water bills online. They also spearheaded the process of making Caldwell-TV a reality. For the Senators here today, a call to support our application at the BPU would be most appreciated! We also installed e-ticketing systems in our police cars and were one of the first municipalities in NJ to do so.

I want to thank our Public Safety Committee and the PBA for their tireless effort in reaching an amicable agreement. They also negotiated a new Police Dispatch Contract and conducted interviews for a new chief, Lt and Sgt and three new officers. I thank them for their many hours devoted to these tasks.

BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES – January 1, 2012

3 of 6

Our Community Relations Committee once again sponsored an amazing Luan for our friends from Hawaii. Downtown groups like the Caldwell Merchants Association and Project Main Street were once again supported by Council representation.

Our Personnel Committee searched for new, more affordable employee health benefits and analyzed other services that the Borough offers its employees for cost savings.

The Finance Committee employed the philosophy of a penny saved is a penny earned and identified new revenue sources while slicing unnecessary appropriations to achieve a 0% increase in local tax bills. This was something that very few, if any other towns in NJ were able to do, without reducing staff or services. I would like to read a portion of the Standard & Pooors' evaluation of our fiscal house in 2011:

“Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services’ has assigned its ‘AA-’ long-term rating to the Borough of Caldwell, N.J.

Caldwell’s financial position is good, with operating surpluses reported in two out of the past three audited years. Fiscal 2009 ended with an unreserved current fund balance of \$746,000, or what we consider a good 6.1% of expenditures. The 2010 audit indicates that the borough ended the year essentially with break-even operations.” (In other words, the surplus was fully replenished.) “In preparing the preliminary budget, management reports that officials were successful in trimming spending to ensure that the borough stayed within the constraints of the new state-mandated 2% tax levy cap. Officials also report that cash levels are relatively stable through the course of the fiscal year, and the borough does not borrow for cash-flow purposes.”

We are looking forward to continuing to maintain and possibly upgrade our bond rating in 2012.

To preserve our great historic structures, we introduced an historic commission ordinance and the Historic Commission is now in place. They will be identifying areas of historic significance and will be the gatekeepers for preserving the history in our town.

We are in the process of rewriting the sign ordinance for the downtown to give clear, easy to understand guidelines to business owners erecting a sign in the business district.

Our first 5K run was snowed out and will be held in the spring of 2012 as a 5K CCC Re-run.

We signed a new 10 year recreation agreement with West Caldwell, as well as a ten year Oval agreement. This will ensure that our wonderful recreation program will remain in place for all residents. This December we also signed a ten year agreement with Caldwell College, and this spring there will be college baseball players in our Oval.

I would like to welcome a new Library Director, and I look forward to working with the Library in 2012.

In closing, I want to thank all of our many Board and committee volunteers who work with the Council and the Mayor’s and Borough Administrators’ office. Their volunteer hours are most appreciated and vital to the health and well being of our Town.

I also wish to thank our hard working and dedicated employees and professionals for continuing to work as a team to create a better Caldwell.

In looking to 2012, I want to encourage all of you to talk to us about how we can make Caldwell an even better place to live, work, and play.

Thank you.

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES – January 1, 2012**

| Mayoral Council Committee Appointments | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|---|
| Council Committee | Chairman | Councilman | Areas of Responsibility |
| Community Center | O'Donnell | Murray | Community Center |
| Finance | Hauser | Kelley | Finance / Budget / Banking / Administration / Capital Projects Tax Collection / Annual Audit / Corrective Action Plan |
| Community Outreach | Kelley | Coyle | Downtown Organizations / Board of Education Economic Development / Municipal Alliance |
| Personnel / Health & Human Services | Rodgers | Hauser | Personnel Policies / Employee Handbook / Employee Benefits Senior Citizens / Board of Health / Pension / Medical |
| Public Safety | Murray | O'Donnell | Police Department / Fire Department / Emergency Management Municipal Court / Traffic Committee |
| Public Works / Utilities | Coyle | Rodgers | Streets and Roads / Building and Grounds / Engineering / Utilities Construction Dept/ Sewer & Water / Environmental / Open Space |

Note: Mayor Dassing is the 3rd member of each committee.

Board and Commission Appointments

I. Resolution 1-1: Planning Board - Appointment by Mayor

- Councilman Thomas O'Donnell Class III Member term expiration 12/31/2012
- Marguerite Kenney Alternate #2 term expiration 12/31/2012
- Mayor Ann Dassing Class I Member term expiration 12/31/2012
- Mr. Nathan Gardner Class IV Member term expiration 12/31/2015

II. Resolution 1-2: Zoning Board of Adjustment – Mayor. Consent of the Council

III. Resolution 1-3: Library Board of Trustees - Mayor. Consent of the Council

- Councilman Richard Hauser Council Representative term expiration 12/31/2012
- Cindy Kellenberger Designee for the Superintendent of Schools One-Year Term term expiration 12/31/2012

IV. Resolution 1-4: Board of Health - Mayor. Consent of the Council

- Councilman Frank Rodgers Council Representative term expiration 12/31/2012
- Ann Christensen Member term expiration 12/31/2014
- Ronda DeStefano Member term expiration 12/31/2014

Board and Commission Appointments

V. Resolution 1-5: Local Assistance Board - Mayor, Consent of the Council

- Ms. Sandra Norgren Four-Year Term term expiration 12/31/2014
- Maureen D'Aloia Four-Year Term term expiration 12/31/2014
- Sandra Rock Four-Year Term term expiration 12/31/2014
- Councilman Thomas O'Donnell Council Representative term expiration 12/31/2012

VI. Resolution 1-6: Rent Review Board - Mayor, Consent of the Council

- Ms. Catherine Daly Three-Year Term term expiration 12/31/2014
- Ms. Nancy Busby Three-Year Term term expiration 12/31/2014
- Councilman Peter Murray Council Representative term expiration 12/31/2012

VII. Resolution 1-7: Environmental Commission – Appointment by Mayor

[One of the members must be a member of the Planning Board]

- Councilman John Coyle Council Representative term expiration 12/31/2012
- Christopher Brown Member term expiration 12/31/2014
- Donald Neil Aharrah Member term expiration 12/31/2014
- Douglas Piazza Member term expiration 12/31/2014

**BOROUGH OF CALDWELL
COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES – January 1, 2012**

6 of 6

| | | |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-12 | Licensed Water Operator: | William Frint |
| 1-13 | Licensed Sewer Operator: | Greg Seaman |
| | Sewer Director: | Greg Seaman |
| | Regulatory Compliance Rep: | Greg Seaman |
| 1-14 | Municipal Zoning Officer: | Paul Milani |
| 1-15 | Rent Board Attorney: | Joan Pransky, Esq. |
| 1-16 | Borough Auditors: | Nisvoccia and Company |
| 1-17 | Borough Bond Counsel: | McManimon & Scotland LLC |

XI.

New Business

- 1-18 - Authorizing Appointment of Committee Members for the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Year 2012
- 1-19 - Authorizing the Appointment of the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department Officers for Year 2012
- 1-20 - Designating the Official Depositories of the Borough for the Year 2012
- 1-21 - Designating Official Holidays in Year 2012
- 1-22 - Authorizing Adoption of Temporary Budget for the Year 2012
- 1-23 - Authorizing Annual Schedule of Regular Council Business-Conference Meetings for the Year 2012
- 1-24 - Authorizing Interest for Non-Payment of Taxes or Assessments
- 1-25 - Designating Official Newspapers of the Borough of Caldwell
- 1-26 - Designating Times Dates and Conduct of Meetings for the Year 2012
- 1-27 - Authorizing the Disbursement of Petty Cash Funds to Respective Borough Departments
- 1-28 - Resolution Adopting the Cash Management Plan of the Borough of Caldwell County of Essex For 2012
- 1-29 - Authorizing Adoption of the 2012 Debt Service Requirements
- 1-30 - Designating Dates And Times For The Borough Of Caldwell Quarterly Sewer Board Meetings For The Year 2012
- 1-31 - Resolution Authorizing The Borough Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With Carr, Daley, Sullivan & Weir, Pc As A Financial Services Consultant For The Borough Of Caldwell

CONSENT

Moved by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman Murray. Discussions Ensued. On roll call, all present voted in the affirmative. Resolutions approved 01/01/12.

There being no additional business to be conducted a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Coyle, seconded by Councilman O'Donnell, unanimously affirmed by all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59P.M.

Prepared by: Lisa O'Neill, Acting Borough Clerk

DATE