

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 3, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M., noting the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. He also announced that the meeting is being live streamed through Zoom. Instructions on how to attend the meeting via Zoom are posted on the City's website.

FLAG SALUTE

Councilwoman Elect Blair Albright led the flag salute.

INVOCATION

Deacon Joe Lonergan delivered the Invocation.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Judge Michael Blee administered the Oath of Office to Matthew Levinson as Council, At-Large of the City of Linwood.

Commissioner Maureen Kern administered the Oath of Office to June Byrnes as Council Member, Ward 1, of the City of Linwood.

City Solicitor Joseph L. Youngblood administered the Oath of Office to Blair Albright as Council Member, Ward 2 of the City of Linwood.

Mayor Darren Matik administered the Oath of Office to Todd Michael as Council Member, Ward 2 of the City of Linwood.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes (via live stream); Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis (via live stream); Councilman Eric Ford (via live stream); Councilman Matt Levinson (via live stream); Councilman Todd Michael (via live stream); and Councilman Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor (via live stream); Vince Polistina, City Engineer (via live stream); and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The City Clerk opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned to nominate Ralph Paolone with a second from Councilman Ford. The City Clerk called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilman Levinson and a second from Councilwoman Albright. The City Clerk called for a voice vote to close the floor for nominations. All members of Council were in favor to close the floor for nominations. The City Clerk called for a voice vote for Ralph Paolone to Council President. All members of Council were in favor. The nomination of Ralph Paolone for the position of Council President was approved. City Clerk Leigh Ann Napoli administered the oath of office to Ralph Paolone as Council President.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Council President Paolone opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tempore. Council President Ralph Paolone motioned to nominate June Byrnes with a second from Councilwoman Albright. Council President Paolone called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilwoman Albright and a second from Council President Paolone. Council President Paolone called for a voice vote to close the floor for nominations. All members of Council were in favor

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE (continued)

to close the floor for nominations. Council President Paolone called for a voice vote for June Byrnes to the position of Council President Pro Tempore. All members of Council were in favor. The nomination of June Byrnes for Council President Pro Tempore was approved. Commissioner Maureen Kern administered the oath of office to June Byrnes as Council President Pro Tempore.

RESOLUTIONS

15-2022 A Resolution approving the Temporary Budget for 2022

The Clerk read Resolution No. 15 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 15. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion approved.

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under item, **Consent Agenda**, are considered to be routine by City Council, and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds and any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately. All Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- 1-2022** A Resolution setting dates for Caucus and Regular Council Meetings
- 2-2022** A Resolution adopting a Cash Management Plan for 2022
- 3-2022** A Resolution naming check signers
- 4-2022** A Resolution authorizing the Finance Office to maintain a Petty Cash Fund in the amount of \$100.00
- 5-2022** A Resolution setting interest rates on delinquent taxes
- 6-2022** A Resolution setting a service charge for checks returned for insufficient funds
- 7-2022** A Resolution authorizing the allowance of a grace period before charging a penalty for late payment of taxes
- 8-2022** A Resolution authorizing the imposition of a penalty on tax delinquencies in excess of \$10,000
- 9-2022** A Resolution naming the official City Newspapers, for purposes of publication, specifically, The Mainland Journal, The Press of Atlantic City, The Ocean City Sentinel-Ledger, and The Current of Northfield, Linwood and Somers Point
- 10-2022** A Resolution appointing an authorized agent for the sale of City owned land and/or property
- 11-2022** A Resolution appointing the Tax Assessor as Agent in appeals to reduce assessments for the year 2022
- 12-2022** A Resolution designating the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the City of Linwood
- 13-2022** A Resolution adopting Robert's Rules of Order and establishing rule of order and conduct for all City Council, Caucus, and Special Meetings in the City of Linwood
- 14-2022** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to enter into a Contract with the attached list of vendors for State Contract Purchases
- 16-2022** A Resolution authorizing the canceling of small balances of tax refunds or delinquencies
- 17-2022** A Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to substitute two mailings in lieu of advertising of the Tax Sale to be held in 2022
- 18-2022** A Resolution confirming Mayoral appointments for the year 2022

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 19-2022** A Resolution confirming the reappointment of Darren Matik as Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Linwood
- 20-2022** A Resolution reappointing Tim Longnecker as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Linwood
- 21-2022** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Joel M. Fleishman as Municipal Bond Counsel for the Year 2022 for the City of Linwood
- 22-2022** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Ford Scott & Associates, LLC as Municipal Auditor for the Year 2022 for the City of Linwood
- 23-2022** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr. as Municipal Legal Counsel for the Year 2022 for the City of Linwood
- 24-2022** A Resolution authorizing the appointment of Glenn Insurance as the Risk Management Consultant for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 25-2022** A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Belford Rivera as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III, for the City of Linwood
- 26-2022** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and Agreement with Premier Computer Services
- 27-2022** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation and prorated refund of the 2021 tax payments for Block 118 Lot 6 located at 509 Wilson Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 28-2022** A Resolution confirming the promotion of Steve Cunningham to the position of Chief in the Linwood Police Department
- 29-2022** A Resolution supporting the New Jersey Department of Transportation's reconstruction project of Route 9 from Chapman Boulevard to Route 30
- 30-2022** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Christopher T. Nazha to the position of Patrolman in the Linwood Police Department

The City Clerk read the Consent Agenda by title only. Council President Paolone removed Resolutions No. 18 and 28 from Consent. Councilman Michael motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions 1-14, 16-17, 19-27, 29-30 of 2022. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 18 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael to approve Resolution No. 18. All members of Council were in favor with two abstentions from Councilwoman Albright and Councilman Levinson. Motion approved.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 28 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 28. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

ORDINANCES

- 1 OF 2022** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES, COMPENSATION AND SALARY RANGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

ORDINANCES (continued)

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 1 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$221,416.09

Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council President Paolone opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic. Seeing and hearing no members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor congratulated all the members that were sworn in tonight.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright is honored to be elected to serve on Council. She thanks her family and Councilman Todd Gordon for his support and wisdom. She also thanked the Police and Public Works for their efforts in the snow storm and thanked everyone for their support.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked Commissioner Kern for swearing her in tonight and for her continued commitment to the County. She welcomed Councilwoman Albright and is looking forward to working with her. She also congratulated Chief Cunningham on his promotion. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts in the snow storm.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson congratulated Chief Cunningham on his promotion and Councilwomen Albright and Byrnes and Councilman Michael on their elections. He also thanked Judge Blee for swearing him in. He thanked the Recreation Board and Tim Donovan, the new Park Director. Mr. Donovan has been a good addition to the team. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated Councilwoman Albright and Byrnes and Councilman Levinson on their elections. He congratulated Chief Cunningham and is looking forward to working with him. He thanked Councilman Gordon for his years of service and support of the years.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford echoed the congratulations to everyone elected. He also congratulated Chief Cunningham. He is excited for the new culture he will bring to the Department. Councilman Gordon will surely be missed. They did a lot of great work together. He is excited to work with Councilwoman Albright on the upcoming projects. He wished everyone a happy and safe New Year.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone thanked his wife and kids for allowing him to serve on Council. His son has been sick but is on the mend and he thanked everyone for their well wishes. He wished everyone a safe New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk