

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF REORGANTIZAITON MEETING**  
**January 4, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Councilman Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., noting the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Councilwoman June Byrnes led the flag salute.

**INVOCATION**

Father Paul D. Harte 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.

Adam Walcoff, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Eric Ford as Council Member, Ward 1, of the City of Linwood.

Judge Donna Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Ralph Paolone as Council Member, Ward 2 of the City of Linwood.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis (via live stream); Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon (via live stream); Councilman Brian Heun; and Councilman Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None

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

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

The Clerk opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Councilman Ford motioned to nominate Ralph Paolone with a second from Councilwoman Byrnes. The Clerk called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilman Levinson and a second from Councilman Gordon. The 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 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. Judge Donna Taylor 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. Councilman Todd Gordon motioned to nominate June Byrnes with a second from Councilman Levinson. Council President Paolone called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilman Heun and a second from Councilman Gordon. Council President Paolone called for a voice vote to close the floor for nominations. All members of Council were in favor 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. Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk, administered the oath of office to June Byrnes as Council President Pro Tempore.

## RESOLUTIONS

**15-2021** A Resolution approving the Temporary Budget for 2021  
The Clerk read Resolution No. 15 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, 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.

- 1-2021** A Resolution setting dates for Caucus and Regular Council Meetings
- 2-2021** A Resolution adopting a Cash Management Plan for 2021
- 3-2021** A Resolution naming check signers
- 4-2021** A Resolution authorizing the Finance Office to maintain a Petty Cash Fund in the amount of \$100.00
- 5-2021** A Resolution setting interest rates on delinquent taxes
- 6-2021** A Resolution setting a service charge for checks returned for insufficient funds
- 7-2021** A Resolution authorizing the allowance of a grace period before charging a penalty for late payment of taxes
- 8-2021** A Resolution authorizing the imposition of a penalty on tax delinquencies in excess of \$10,000
- 9-2021** 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
- 10-2021** A Resolution appointing an authorized agent for the sale of City owned land and/or property
- 11-2021** A Resolution appointing the Tax Assessor as Agent in appeals to reduce assessments for the year 2021
- 12-2021** A Resolution designating the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the City of Linwood
- 13-2021** A Resolution adopting Robert's Rules of Order
- 14-2021** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to enter into a Contract with the attached list of vendors for State Contract Purchases
- 16-2021** A Resolution authorizing the canceling of small balances of tax refunds or delinquencies
- 17-2021** A Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to substitute two mailings in lieu of advertising of the Tax Sale to be held in 2021
- 18-2021** A Resolution confirming Mayoral appointments for the year 2021
- 19-2021** A Resolution reappointing Tim Longnecker as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Linwood
- 20-2021** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Joel M. Fleishman as Municipal Bond Counsel for the Year 2021 for the City of Linwood
- 21-2021** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Ford Scott & Associates, LLC as Municipal Auditor for the Year 2021 for the City of Linwood

**RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

- 22-2021** A Resolution authorizing the appointment of Glenn Insurance as the Risk Management Consultant for the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 23-2021** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Polistina & Associates, LLC as Municipal Engineer
- 24-2021** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of the first and second half 2021 sewer billing for Block 130 Lot 1 located at 301 Davis Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 25-2021** A Resolution authorizing the refund of various tax overpayments made by Corelogic Mortgage
- 26-2021** A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Belford Rivera as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III, for the City of Linwood
- 27-2021** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to James P. Grimley, Esq. as Shared Municipal Prosecutor for the year 2021 for the Cities of Linwood and Northfield
- 28-2021** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Darrin M. Lord, Esq. as Shared Municipal Public Defender for the year 2021 for the Cities of Linwood and Northfield
- 29-2020** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr. as Municipal Legal Counsel for the Year 2021 for the City of Linwood

The Clerk read the Consent Agenda by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Resolutions 1-14, 16-29 of 2021. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

**ORDINANCES**

- 1 OF 2021** 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.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 1 of 2021 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve Ordinance No. 1. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$658,185.08**

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, 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 announced how proud he is of the entire Linwood staff; Police, Fire, Public Works, OEM, and City Hall. The City remained open through the Pandemic in one way or another. The staff was always available to assist the public. He expressed his thanks to all the departments.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes echoed the Mayor's remarks regarding City employees. She thanked Father Harte for his Invocation. She also thanked her fellow Neighborhood Services Committee members, Councilwoman DeDomenicis and Councilman Levinson. They had an interesting year. She thanked the Recreation Board and outgoing Board member Rick Dill and welcomed the new Board members. She thanked Maria Moss and the Library Board. She also thanked those who previously served on the Library Board specifically, Liz Delessio, Mary Todd, Susan Speirs, and Mary Lou Breidenstine. She welcomed the new members to the Board. Councilwoman Byrnes announced that the Historical Society building got a new roof this past year with grant funds. She recognized the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and their efforts. She announced that renovations to the Library are moving forward. She also thanked Lisa Pilli, the Drug Alliance Coordinator.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis congratulated her fellow Councilmembers on being re-elected. 2020 was certainly a challenge year. Zoom was useful to help navigate through the meetings. She believes we are stronger now and 2021 will be better. She thanked Chip Jones and the entire Public Works Department for all their efforts. As the Department Chair, she appreciates all their hard work. She wished everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon welcomed everyone for attending. He congratulated Councilmen Levinson, Ford, and Paolone on their re-election. And congratulated Councilman Paolone on being elected President and Councilwoman Byrnes on being elected President Pro-tempore. He is honored to serve with them all. Last year was a challenging year. This year will be as well. He thanked all the City Hall staff lead by Mrs. Napoli. They are a great group and do a fantastic job. He thanked all the board members and volunteers. He thanked the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. He welcomed back Vince Polistina as the City Engineer. He appreciates his guidance. Councilman Gordon concluded by thanking his wife and family for their continued support.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun thanked the City staff. As Chair of Public Safety, he thanked the Police & Fire Departments. He thanked the Public Works Department. It is nice to see people in attendance at tonight's meeting. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson congratulated Councilmen Paolone and Ford on their re-election. He is proud to serve the residents of Linwood. He thanked his family for allowing him to do this. He thanked all the City Hall staff, Police, Fire, and Public Works employees. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and reminded everyone to wear a mask and stay safe.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford echoed everyone else's sentiments. He thanked his wife and family for their continued support. He also thanked his team on City Council. They work hard and well together. They are doing great things and not all is seen by the public. There is a lot of planning in the works. He thanked the voters for his re-election. He echoed the comments on the City employees and thanked them all and the volunteers. He also thanked Mrs. Napoli for all her efforts.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone noted that 2020 was a challenging year. He thanked his fellow Council members for all their support and hard work. He can always count on them and they do a good job. They are truly committed. He thanked the Mayor, who spends a lot of time and works very hard on City projects. He thanked all of them for their service and efforts. Council President Paolone Chairs the Administration Committee and does a lot of personnel work. He could not do it without Mrs. Napoli. She makes everyone on Council look good. It is not an easy job. He thanked his wife Debbie and his children for their continued support. This is his sixth term on Council and he truly appreciates all the support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to adjourn at 6:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk