

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REORGANTIZAITON MEETING
January 7, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M., noting the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Darren Matik led the flag salute.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for Dr. Allen Lacy.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Dominic DePamphilis, Esq., administered the Oath of Office to Richard L. DePamphilis, III as Mayor of the City of Linwood.

Assemblyman Chris Brown administered the Oath of Office to Elliot C. Beinfest as Council Member, Ward 1 of the City of Linwood.

Assemblyman Chris Brown administered the Oath of Office to Todd Gordon as Council Member, Ward 2 of the City of Linwood.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Councilman Tim Tighe.

Absent: Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis

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

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The Clerk opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Councilman Paolone motioned to nominate Tim Tighe. The Clerk called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilman Gordon and a second from Councilman Heun. 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 Tim Tighe to Council President. All members of Council were in favor. The nomination of Tim Tighe for the position of Council President was approved. Judge Anthony Gibson administered the oath of office to Tim Tighe as Council President.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Council President Tighe opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tempore. Councilman Matik motioned to nominate Elliot Beinfest. Council President Tighe called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilman Gordon and a second from Councilman Heun. Council President Tighe 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 Tighe called for a voice vote for Elliot Beinfest to the position of Council President Pro Tempore. All members of Council were in favor. The nomination of Elliot Beinfest for Council President Pro Tempore was approved. Judge Anthony Gibson administered the oath of office to Elliot Beinfest as Council President Pro Tempore.

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor DePamphilis welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting. He reminded everyone how honored he is to be the Mayor. The Mayor thanked his wife, Sally, for her support all these years and for allowing him to continue to serve the community. He congratulated Councilmen Beinfest and Gordon on their re-election to Council. Elliot has been on City Council for over 20 years now and of course Todd has a way to go.

He thanked Leigh Ann and Mary, Lynn Roesch, Anthony Strazzeri, Ed Beck and all the staff at City Hall who continue to do a great job. He welcomed the new tax office employees: Diane Hesley, the Tax Assessor; Kacey Johnson, Tax Collector, and Tax Assistant, Danielle Kelly.

Each year, the Mayor commends Hank Kolakowski and his men for the job that they do on a regular basis. He congratulated Tony Hare, the 2015 Public Works Employee of the year. As of December 31, 2015, Public Works has gone three and a half years without a loss time accident.

New Fire Chief, Marty Walley, and the Volunteer Fire Department continue to provide Linwood with quality service with little cost to the tax payer. He thanked them for all they do and for assisting at all city functions and special events.

The Mayor announced that the Police Department went through a transition and this year with a new administrative staff. Doug Carman is the new Police Chief, John Hamilton was promoted to Captain, and Jason Weber was promoted to Lieutenant. He also announced that two new additional experienced police officers were hired. The Police Department's National Night Out this summer was a huge success and they predict this year's will be even better. The Police Department also received a grant to outfit every officer with new body worn cameras which is a major plus to the patrol division.

The Mayor thanked Vince Polistina, the City Engineer, for all his hard work and expertise, as well as for the great assistance he has provided to the Planning Board and Engineering Committee.

He thanked Richard Sless and the Linwood Board of Education who had a busy year. The Mayor also commended them for the professional manner they handled a very sensitive situation concerning the Superintendent. Linwood has a great school system with excellent teachers, a quality administration and an experienced School Board that is responsible for establishing and maintaining the quality education that Linwood is famous for. The Mayor has heard talk lately about an elected school board. BAD idea! Most elected boards have problems. Elections put money and politics into the process, it does not remove it. There is no room for politics on the School Board.

City Council and all of Linwood will miss Dr. Allen Lacy who passed recently. He was influential in the planning, construction and maintenance of the beautiful Arboretum, which once again played host to the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

The Planning Board is certainly going to miss its Chairman, Jim Rutala who is stepping down. He was a fixture on the board for years. The Mayor thanked Jim for his years of service to board and to the City of Linwood. Jim will remain a phone call away.

The Mayor thanked Mary Todd, Maria Moss and the Library Board who continue to provide a number of valued services to the residents. They provide many activities including cooking, computer classes, and programs for kids and adults. Their Children's Summer Evening Program sponsored by the Friends of the Library is a huge success.

The Mayor also thanked Eric Food and the entire Board of Recreation for their great work with the sports programs and Memorial field, as well as for providing all the super holiday celebrations for the residents and children of Linwood. The City's new Park Director, Laurie Montgomery, is doing a super job.

The Mayor considered changing the format for this message this year. He was going to say how living in New Jersey affects our region, our county and our city. But, he didn't want everyone to go home and put their houses up for sale. So, he decided just to tell everyone what everyone already knows.

We live in the greatest little town in the best run County even if it is in the State of New Jersey. A friendly, residential community that cares about itself and residents that care about each other. The services provided are excellent. With safe streets, parks and recreation, a bike path, an Arboretum, and a great school system K thru 12.

We are lucky to have dozens of residents that are willing to serve the community as volunteers on our boards, clubs and committees. Very talented professionals who serve without compensation, sometimes for long hours, because they love their homes, their neighbors and care about the Linwood community.

We have a young and talented City Council that works hard to provide the services the residents have become accustomed to at the lowest possible cost. Actually, Linwood is in better shape than most because of this Council. They do not sit around waiting for things to happen, Darren won't let them. They are constantly looking for new ways to save the taxpayers. The Mayor has said many times that Linwood does things that other town's just talk about which is evident by the numerous amounts of shared services we have done and continue to do.

Since he has become the Mayor of Linwood and thanks to the hard work of this and prior Councils, we have witnessed many improvements. A new City Hall, a new public library, additions to both Seaview and Belhaven Schools, lights and playing field improvements at Memorial Field and Poplar Avenue, and improved traffic safety throughout the city. They also lowered the speed limit, established no passing on New Road, added 4-way stops, and new crosswalks over New and Shore Roads.

The Mayor thinks many residents believe that their property taxes are a direct result of the actions of their Mayor and Council. Well guess what, there are many variables that go into the make-up of your taxes. The municipal portion of your tax bill is quite small. There are portions the Mayor and Council do not control.

The Mayor believes that many of the City's residents believe that their elected officials are directly responsible for everything that happens within the city limits. This couldn't be further from the truth and it's not an accident. There are safeguards built into our system to ensure proper function without any political interference. That is why our Planning Board, Zoning Board, Board of Education and Police Department are not under Council's direct control. And you would not want it any other way.

Linwood is a wonderful place to live and raise a family even through the toughest of times. That is why we have asked City Council and the Board of Education to develop a zero increase budget as a starting point for 2016 and will encourage Mainland School Board to do the same. We must make every attempt to avoid a major increase in taxes at this time. It will not be easy and it may be difficult. But, we will get through this, because we must. Adversity often provides us with lessons learned. So the way to approach adversity is to welcome it as opportunity. That's what we intend to do.

The Mayor thanked everyone, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and God Bless America.

RESOLUTIONS

15-2016 A Resolution approving the Temporary Budget for 2016

The Clerk read Resolution No. 15 of 2016 by title only. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Paolone, to approve Resolution No. 15. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative, and Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. 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.

1-2016 A Resolution setting dates for Caucus and Regular Council Meetings

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 2-2016** A Resolution adopting a Cash Management Plan for 2016
- 3-2016** A Resolution naming check signers
- 4-2016** A Resolution authorizing the Finance Office to maintain a Petty Cash Fund in the amount of \$100.00
- 5-2016** A Resolution setting interest rates on delinquent taxes
- 6-2016** A Resolution setting a service charge for checks returned for insufficient funds
- 7-2016** A Resolution authorizing the allowance of a grace period before charging a penalty for late payment of taxes
- 8-2016** A Resolution authorizing the imposition of a penalty on tax delinquencies in excess of \$10,000
- 9-2016** 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
- 10-2016** A Resolution appointing an authorized agent for the sale of City owned land and/or property
- 11-2016** A Resolution appointing the Tax Assessor as Agent in appeals to reduce assessments for the year 2016
- 12-2016** A Resolution designating the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the City of Linwood
- 13-2016** A Resolution adopting Robert's Rules of Order
- 14-2016** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to enter into a Contract with the attached list of vendors for State Contract Purchases
- 16-2016** A Resolution authorizing the canceling of small balances of tax refunds or delinquencies
- 17-2016** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-fair and Open Contract to Joel M. Fleishman as Municipal Bond Counsel for the Year 2016 for the City of Linwood
- 18-2016** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-fair and Open Contract to Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr. as Municipal Legal Counsel for the Year 2016 for the City of Linwood
- 19-2016** A Resolution authorizing the award of a Non-fair and Open Contract to Ford Scott & Associates, LLC as Municipal Auditor for the Year 2016 for the City of Linwood
- 20-2016** A Resolution approving Council appointments for the year 2016
- 21-2016** A Resolution confirming Mayoral appointments for the year 2016
- 22-2016** A Resolution confirming the appointment of Darren Matik as Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Linwood
- 23-2016** A Resolution appointing Tim Longnecker as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Linwood
- 24-2016** A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Charles E. Kisby, III as Fire Official for the City of Linwood
- 25-2016** A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of David G. Buzby as the Uniform Fire Safety Inspector for the City of Linwood
- 26-2016** A Resolution authorizing a New Jersey Tax Court Judgement in reference to Block 1, Lot 49, C01, 1201 New Road in the City of Linwood
- 27-2016** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Archer & Greiner, P.C. for Legal Services with regard to Redevelopment Matters
- 28-2016** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to advertise for proposals for Emergency Medical Services for the City of Linwood and the City of Northfield
- 29-2016** A Resolution authorizing submission of a Grant extension for the Linwood Municipal Alliance Grant

The Clerk read the Consent Agenda by title only. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve Resolutions 1-14, 16-29 of 2016. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

ORDINANCES

1 OF 2016

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 205, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY BY MORTGAGEES; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT, AS WELL AS THE REGULATION, LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OF ABANDONED REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE, OF THE CODE 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 2016 by title only. Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilman Matik to approve Ordinance No. 1 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$199,268.22

Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilman Matik, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. Motion approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council President Tighe 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 Tighe closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY COUNCIL

Councilman Beinfest – Councilman Beinfest wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked the community for re-electing him noting that it is a privilege to work with the Mayor and fellow Council members. Councilman Beinfest indicated the Linwood has an excellent staff at City Hall and thanked Mrs. Napoli for her constant support. He also thanked the Recreation Board and Laurie Montgomery, the Park Director for all their efforts and great community events. Councilman Beinfest also thanked Carolyn Patterson, the City Historian and Catherine Evinski, the President of the Historical Society. Councilman Beinfest concluded by thanking his wife, Adrienne, for her continued support.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon thanked his wife, Maureen, for her support. He believes it is an honor and a privilege to serve on Council. He also believes the heart of this small town is its volunteers. Dr. Allen Lacy, who recently passed away, was a great volunteer. They are treasures that make the City what it is today. Councilman Gordon thanked the City Hall employees, especially Mrs. Napoli for all her assistance. He thanked the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Councilman Gordon congratulated the Mayor and Councilman Beinfest on their re-elections and congratulated Councilman Beinfest for remaining on Council for over twenty years. Councilman Gordon thanked Assemblyman Brown for attending and administering the Oaths of Office tonight as well as for his continued commitment to our region. Councilman Gordon is Chair of the Engineering Committee. There are a lot of projects going on in Linwood. He thanked Vince Polistina, the City Engineer, for all his work, especially managing the numerous utility upgrades throughout the City. Mr. Polistina also helped to secure approximately \$500,000 in grant money. Councilman Gordon also thanked his re-election committee and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Paolone – Councilman Paolone thanked his wife, Deborah, for all her support. He thanked the Auditors for all their help with the budget process. He also took a moment to remember Dr. Lacy. Dr. Lacy taught Councilman Paolone so many things and was a true friend. Councilman Paolone will take pleasure thinking of Dr. Lacy whenever he passes by the Arboretum.

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik wished Council President Tighe Happy Birthday. As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Councilman Matik thanked Police Chief Carman, Captain Hamilton, and Lieutenant Weber for all their cooperation. He also thanked Fire Chief Walley and prior Chief Kisby and all the volunteers of the Fire Company. Councilman Matik also serves on the Board of School Estimates and thanked those members for all their work and tireless efforts. He also thanked Tim Longnecker, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, as well as Mrs. Napoli.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun thanked all the employees of Linwood. He welcomed back the Mayor and Councilmen Beinfest and Gordon. He is honored to serve on Council. He discussed what might happen with County taxes and advised that Linwood Council is making a commitment with the schools to look for zero tax increases. Everyone will be working very hard. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council President Tighe – Council President Tighe indicated that Council will start with a flat tax increase and do their best. He thanked his wife, Michelle, for her continued support. He congratulated Councilman Beinfest for over twenty years on Council and advised that he will be inducted into the NJ Elected Officials Hall of Fame on February 3. Council President Tighe thanked all the City Hall employees and welcomed all the new ones. He noted how each year gets more and more difficult and this Council works very hard. This past year, Council was very busy and met on every “if needed” meeting. The first time in over thirty years. He also thanked Council for tolerating him with more committee meetings. The volunteers of Linwood really keep and make the City a great place to live and grow up. He thanked Eric Ford, Brian Meyers, Junetta Dix, Tim Longnecker, and Sam Watt, as well as all the volunteers. He also thanked the volunteer Firefighters and Police Department. Council President Tighe advised that the next Council meeting is January 27.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to adjourn at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk