

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF REORGANTIZAITON MEETING**  
**January 6, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Councilwoman Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM, noting the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Councilman Tim Tighe led the flag salute.

**INVOCATION**

Rabbi David M. Weis performed the Invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Alex Marino; Councilman Ralph Paolone; Councilwoman Nancy Ridgway; Councilman Tim Tighe; and Councilwoman Donna Taylor.

Absent: None

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

**OATHS OF OFFICE**

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

Ambassador William J. Hughes administered the Oath of Office to Alexander C. Marino as Council Member, Ward 2 of the City of Linwood.

Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson administered the Oath of Office to Matthew B. Levinson as Council Member, At Large of the City of Linwood.

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

The Clerk opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Councilman Paolone motioned to nominate Donna Taylor. The Clerk called for any other nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilman Marino and a second from Councilman Tighe. 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 Donna Taylor to Council President. All members of Council were in favor. The nomination of Donna Taylor for Council President was approved. Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson administered the oath of office to Donna Taylor as Council President.

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM**

Council President Taylor opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tem. Councilman Beinfest motioned to nominate Alexander C. Marino. Council President Taylor asked for any other nominations to Council President Pro Tem. Hearing none, nominations were closed by motion from Councilwoman DeDomenicis and a second by Councilman Levinson. Council President Taylor 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 Taylor called for a voice vote for Alexander C. Marino to Council President Pro Tem. All members of Council were in favor. The nomination of Alexander C. Marino for Council President Pro Tem was approved. Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson administered the oath of office to Alexander C. Marino as Council President Pro Tem.

**PRESENTATION:**

**19-2010** A Resolution honoring Nancy L. Ridgway

The Clerk read Resolution No. 19 of 2010 by title only. Councilman Marino motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 19 of 2010. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved. The Mayor read and presented the honorary Resolution to Nancy L. Ridgway for her service on City Council. Mrs. Ridgway thanked the Mayor, Council, Mr. Youngblood, Mrs. Napoli and Mr. Mazur for all the help they provided to her as a Council Member. She also thanked the residents of Linwood.

Councilman Beinfest indicated that Mrs. Ridgway is the epitome of City Council. She is bright, articulate, an excellent communicator and a true leader. He thanked her for her dedication to City Council. Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked and praised Mrs. Ridgway for her work on Council. Councilman Marino indicated that Mrs. Ridgway is very enthusiastic, spirited, caring, and looks at things in a positive way. He thanked her for all she did on Council. Councilman Paolone indicated that Mrs. Ridgway is the definition of grace, noting that it was a pleasure to serve on Council with her. He thanked Mrs. Ridgway for her service and support. Councilman Levinson thanked Mrs. Ridgway for her guidance during his transition to Council. Councilman Tighe indicated that he will miss Mrs. Ridgway very much. She provided a fresh perspective and unique insight. He learned a lot from her. She kept Council grounded and accessible to the public.

### **MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor DePamphilis welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting. He noted what an honor it is for him to serve as Mayor. Mayor DePamphilis congratulated the newly re-elected Councilmen Beinfest and Marino and congratulated Donna Taylor who does an excellent job as Council President. He also welcomed Matt Levinson to City Council, noting that he is a very talented Linwood resident. Mr. Levinson is not only a new Councilman, but is also a new father. The Mayor congratulated Mr. & Mrs. Levinson on the birth of their son, Luke. The Mayor's grandfather, Chief Senior, gave the Mayor advice when he heard he was entering politics. He said work hard for the people, always tell the truth, stay out of the newspaper and always kill them with kindness. To the Mayor, that describes Councilwoman Ridgway. The Mayor thanked her for her service on City Council. Considering how hard she worked these past four years, it probably felt like twelve. Mrs. Ridgway's direct, no nonsense approach to Linwood City government gained her the respect and admiration of the residents as well as her peers. She was a pleasure to work with and he will miss her. The Mayor thanked Leigh Ann Napoli, Lynn Roesch and all the staff at City Hall for all their hard work during the year. He also thanked Hank Kolakowski and the employees of Public Works who finished the year on a high note. They must have cleared the City of leaves in record time and did a super job battling a record snow storm. The Mayor also thanked the Fire Department and Chick Kisby, the Emergency Management Coordinator, for another year of generous service. Every year, the Mayor commends Carl Wentzell and Chris Desch for the great job they do at collecting taxes. This year was the best by far with a tax collection rate of 99% for 2009. There are so many residents who volunteer to serve their community on boards and committees and those residents deserve our thanks and admiration. Special thanks this year to Larry Lhulier, the Planning Board Chair, and Brian Meyers, the Zoning Board Chair, and Robert McAllister, a Planning Board Member, for all their hard work in revising our land use and zoning ordinances. The Mayor commended Dr. Finkelson and the school board, who continue to hold down costs in the face of ever decreasing state school aid. Linwood's Board, along with the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education decided that they would lead by example by sharing a Superintendent. Mainland finally realized what Linwood already knew. That Dr. Baruffi is the best Superintendent in the State of New Jersey. Dr. Baruffi, Teri Weeks, the staff, and the teachers from both schools continue to provide our children with the best education possible. Even after last year when they celebrated Seaview becoming a Blue Ribbon School, they continue to strive for excellence. The school district is in the process of renewing their strategic plan for the future. This is a community wide process made up of several committees to get input for the purpose of making Linwood schools even better. The Mayor thanked Councilman Paolone and his Arboretum Committee for changing a deserted triangle into a beautiful garden oasis at Belhaven and Wabash Avenues. He can only imagine the amount of time and hard work they put into this project. The Mayor thanked Dr. Allen Lacy, George Butrus and especially Doortje Fenwick for their contributions to the City of Linwood through their work on the Arboretum. The Mayor thanked Mary Todd and the entire Library Board for all their hard work in making the Library a success. Maria Moss, her staff and volunteers do a great job. He is told that times are changing at the Library. They are constantly expanding their collection of books, CD's, DVD's, and magazines. They are now open on Sundays and have a tutor to provide homework assistance for students of all ages. The Mayor acknowledged Lars Hyberg and the Board of Recreation, and especially Patty Ogradnek, for all the super holiday celebrations they provide to the residents. He is glad the Hi Neighbor Hop is returning in 2010. The Mayor congratulated the Linwood Little League 11 & 12 year olds who won the District 16 Championship for the third year in a row. This is a huge accomplishment for a very small town. As most of the people know, for the last couple of years, City Council has made a concentrated effort to provide the safest roadways possible for the residents. Street closures, additional four way stops, new crosswalks

and signage on New Road, Shore Road and the bike path were just part of that effort. The most important part of this commitment has been the Police Department's increased traffic safety enforcement. They have been working with other state and county law enforcement agencies to help make Linwood's roads safe. This includes Motor Vehicle Inspection stops, DWI stops, Click It or Tickets, and yes, the Pedestrian Decoy Program. The purpose of these programs is very simple, public safety, nothing more, and they will continue. As the Mayor said in his letter in The Current last week, the Linwood Police Department does not receive and Linwood does not need additional income. He would be perfectly happy if not one summons was issued. Council realized that this effort was not going to be easy. Nothing worth doing ever is, but Linwood will be the better for it. The Mayor has often reminded residents that Linwood is not immune to the ills of society and he is grateful that the City has an excellent Police Department. The professionalism and expertise of the Police Department was never tested as it was in 2009. Chief Jim Baker continues to build a Police force that provides quality police service. Here is an idea of the depth of that service. There were 13,984 incidents recorded, 310 arrests were made, and there were 1880 motor vehicle stops. The department obtained just over \$38,000 in the form of State and/or Federal grants to run the City's traffic safety programs. Last year, the Mayor reminded everyone that Linwood was also not immune to the economic and financial ills that our country and state were experiencing. He also assured everyone that City Council would continue to look for ways to save. Council did not disappoint us. While others were talking the talk, Linwood was walking the walk. The School Board shared superintendent announcement was quickly followed by City Council entering into an agreement with Northfield to share emergency medical services. Not long after that, City Council announced an agreement, again with Northfield, to share municipal court services. And they are not finished yet. That announcement was immediately followed by a decision to share emergency dispatch services with Somers Point. These actions coupled with the City's continued sewer inter local agreement with Northfield, will result in a savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars next year alone. Each one of these decisions was the result of months of hard work by City Council. The Mayor is, and the residents of Linwood should be, very proud that they have a Council that truly cares and is not afraid to make difficult decisions. 2009 saw many changes not only in Linwood but in State government and on the National scene. It was change that was welcomed by some and dreaded by others. As you remember last year, he said that change could never stand by itself but needed further definition. The City is still waiting for the change that was experienced in 2009 to be clearly defined. Linwood's goal was change accompanied by progress. The Mayor believes the City has accomplished that goal. The governing body will continue to work hard for the residents of Linwood, but the tough times are long from over. As the new Governor, Chris Christie, begins making those painful budget decisions that will hopefully bring New Jersey back from the brink of financial collapse, the Mayor is sure it is going to hit home. However, City Council is not just waiting for disaster to strike. They are taking steps and planning ahead to lessen the impact. At the very least, the residents of Linwood can be assured that Council and the Mayor will always do what is best for the City of Linwood. Thank you, Happy New Year, and God Bless America.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**18-2010** A Resolution approving the Temporary Budget for 2010

The Clerk read Resolution No. 18 of 2010 by title only. Councilman Marino motioned, seconded by Councilman Paolone, to approve Resolution No. 18. 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.

- 1-2010** A Resolution setting dates for Caucus and Regular Council meetings
- 2-2010** A Resolution adopting a Cash Management Plan for 2010
- 3-2010** A Resolution naming check signers
- 4-2010** A Resolution authorizing the Finance Office to maintain a Petty Cash Fund in the amount of \$100
- 5-2010** A Resolution setting interest rates on delinquent taxes
- 6-2010** A Resolution setting a service charge for checks returned for insufficient funds

- 7-2010** A Resolution authorizing the allowance of a grace period before charging a penalty for late payment of taxes
- 8-2010** A Resolution authorizing the imposition of a penalty on tax delinquencies in excess of \$10,000
- 9-2010** 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
- 10-2010** A Resolution appointing an authorized agent for the sale of City owned land and/or property
- 11-2010** A Resolution appointing the Tax Assessor as Agent in appeals to reduce assessments for the year 2010
- 12-2010** A Resolution authorizing the renewal of an Inter-local Sewer Maintenance Agreement with the City of Northfield
- 13-2010** A Resolution designating the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the City of Linwood
- 14-2010** A Resolution appointing members to the Linwood/Egg Harbor Township Joint Bargaintown Lake Committee
- 15-2010** A Resolution adopting Robert's Rules of Order
- 16-2010** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to enter into a Contract with the attached list of vendors for State Contract Purchases
- 17-2010** A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Mary Cole as Deputy Municipal Clerk and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for the City of Linwood
- 20-2010** A Resolution confirming the reappointment of Henry G. Broome, Jr. as the Municipal Court Magistrate for the City of Linwood
- 21-2010** A Resolution confirming the appointment of Charles E. Kisby, III as Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Linwood
- 22-2010** A Resolution appointing Carl J. Wentzell, Sr. as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Linwood
- 23-2010** A Resolution confirming Mayoral appointments for the year 2010
- 24-2010** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Agreement with Animal Control of South Jersey
- 25-2010** A Resolution appointing Donna Clark as Court Administrator for the City of Linwood
- 26-2010** A Resolution changing the schedule for Linwood Municipal Court
- 27-2010** A Resolution approving Council appointments for the year 2010

The Clerk read the Consent Agenda by title only. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolutions 1-17, 20-27 of 2010. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$256,808.91**

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Marino, 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 Taylor opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

Dawn Frese 30 Crossing Drive, Linwood

Mrs. Frese congratulated the Mayor and Council and thanked them for their efforts. Mrs. Frese serves as President of the Linwood Education Foundation (LEF) and it is the role of the LEF to secure funding for the schools. Their biggest fundraiser is the Gala for Education, which is scheduled for March 6, 2010. The Gala provides an opportunity for the LEF to recognize individuals who have made a difference. This year's honoree is Mayor Rick DePamphilis for his continued support of the LEF and the schools.

Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Taylor closed the floor.

### **FINAL REMARKS BY COUNCIL**

Councilman Beinfest – Councilman Beinfest welcomed everyone and thanked them all for attending the meeting. He congratulated his running mates on their election. Councilman Beinfest chairs the Neighborhood Services Committee. In that capacity, he gets to work with a lot of volunteers. This is his sixteenth year on City Council. The cost of education is a hot topic. When he compared the costs, Linwood is in the median range, yet their test scores are the highest. He thanked Dr. Finkelson and all the School Board members for their efforts. The Board of Recreation had a very successful year with well attended events. Over two thousand children participate in Linwood's sports programs. He thanked Lars Hyberg and all the board members. Councilman Beinfest also thanked Patty Ogrodnek, the Park Director, who really works hard putting events together. He congratulated the Little League Teams on their successes. Next year, there will be a more improved web site for the Board of Recreation. Linwood's Historical Society has a very dedicated group of people. They are sponsoring ongoing events. He thanked Carolyn Patterson, Catherine Evinski, and all the board members. The City recently received a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to hire an architect to prepare a Preservation Plan for the old Leedsville School House that was built in 1867. It is now the Historical Society Museum. However, that building has been a public building since it was built. Councilman Beinfest thanked Mrs. Napoli and all the City employees for their efforts.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She congratulated the elected officials. She chairs the Public Works Committee. She thanked and commended Public Works Superintendent Hank Kolakowski and all the Public Works employees for their outstanding work. She also congratulated Matt Levinson on his election. His enthusiasm, leadership, and compassion are very much a part of his character. She is proud of him and proud to serve on Council with him. Councilwoman DeDomenicis pledged that Council will continue to strive to maintain, preserve and secure Linwood through Education, Family and Recreation.

Councilman Marino – Councilman Marino congratulated the Mayor for his honor by the Linwood Education Foundation. He also congratulated Donna Taylor as Council President and thanked her for her leadership. He acknowledged Judge Broome, Nancy Ridgway's parents, and former City Administrator Ken Mosca. The City has been operating without an administrator for about three years due to the great team Mr. Mosca put together. The employees in Linwood work as a team as does the governing body. The Mayor and City Council have Linwood's heart in mind. Councilman Marino thanked his wife and kids for their continued support. He also thanked Ambassador Hughes, his parents, in-laws, and friends. Councilman Marino thanked his Council colleagues and everyone for their support during his campaign. He will miss Nancy Ridgway.

Councilman Paolone – Councilman Paolone indicated that it is his pleasure to chair the Public Safety Committee again. Public Safety is not easy. It is a thankless and criticized area in town. He is fortunate to work with Police Chief Baker and Fire Chief Demetrios Foster. He thanked Chick Kisby as Emergency Management Coordinator. Councilman Paolone thanked his fellow Council members. It took three years to get an ambulance service completed. They got it down to a shared service with the City of Northfield. One of his favorite projects that he was involved with is the Linwood Arboretum. He thanked the Freeholder Board for funding the project. It took a lot of volunteers to complete this project. He thanked Doortje Fenwick for designing the Arboretum. Dr. Allen Lacy has done an outstanding job on the project as did George Butrus and Lang's Garden Center. The tree lighting was held at the Arboretum this year, with a record attendance. Councilman Paolone thanked his wife and children, noting that anyone who is involved in public service has a lonely family.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked Council, especially Nancy Ridgway, the Mayor and Mrs. Napoli for helping him with his transition to City Council. He also thanked the residents of Linwood and a special thanks to his wife for her support.

Councilman Tighe – Councilman Tighe thanked his wife and family. He congratulated Councilmen Beinfest, Marino and Levinson. He thanked Council President Taylor, the Mayor and Mrs. Napoli for their help. The new zoning ordinances were finally passed in 2009. Councilman Tighe thanked the Zoning Board and its Chair, Mrs. Roesch, the Planning Board, Larry Lhulier, Joe Breidenstine, Willis Flower, and all the volunteer boards. The volunteers make Linwood great. Councilman Tighe thanked the City Hall staff for their professionalism and efficiency. He is proud to be a member of Council.

Council President Taylor – Council President Taylor thanked Nancy Ridgway for her time on Council. Mrs. Ridgway is a very caring, dedicated person and Council President Taylor is sorry to see her leave. Council President Taylor knows of Mr. Levinson's commitment and dedication. She is excited to work with him. Council President Taylor thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited everyone to the Linwood Country Club for a reception after the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk