

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 23, 2013**

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Todd Gordon led the flag salute.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: Councilman Tim Tighe.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2012 Regular meeting and the January 7, 2013 Reorganization Meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was 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.

- 20-2013** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to release unused Planning Board application fees to 2000 Shore Road Inc. located at Block 32, Lot 2 in the City of Linwood
- 21-2013** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to release unused Planning Board application fees to Peter Pindale/David Fedor with regard to Block 159, Lot 10.05 in the City of Linwood
- 22-2013** A Resolution authorizing a refund of an overpayment of permit fees to Michael Portnoy
- 23-2013** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 2 (Final) with L. Feriozzi Concrete Company with regard to the Poplar Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements in the City of Linwood
- 24-2013** A Resolution authorizing a refund to Lucy Grigis with regard to a Hazardous Handling Fee
- 25-2013** A Resolution in support of a No Passing Zone on Route 9 in the City of Linwood as recommended by the New Jersey Department of Transportation
- 26-2013** A Resolution awarding a Contract to UniFirst Corporation for Public Works Department Uniforms
- 27-2013** A Resolution authorizing the appointment of Scott Raring to the Linwood Zoning Board of Adjustment
- 28-2013** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Ford Scott & Associates, LLC as Municipal Auditor for the Year 2013 for the City of Linwood
- 29-2013** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Michele C. Verno as Shared Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2013 for the Cities of Linwood and Northfield
- 30-2013** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Frank J. Lentz as Shared Municipal Public Defender for the Year 2013 for the Cities of Linwood and Northfield
- 31-2013** A Resolution authorizing the partial release of Surety with regard to Block 79 Lot 5.02 (211 E. Essex Avenue) in the City of Linwood
- 32-2013** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Joel M. Fleishman as Municipal Bond Counsel for the Year 2013 for the City of Linwood

- 33-2013** A Resolution authorizing an Escrow Refund with regard to Linwood Road Opening Permit #S048-12
- 34-2013** A Resolution authorizing an Escrow Refund with regard to Linwood Road Opening Permit #S070-12
- 35-2013** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr. as Municipal Legal Counsel for the Year 2013 for the City of Linwood
- 36-2013** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Brian D. Heun as Conflict Solicitor for the City of Linwood
- 37-2013** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 (Final) with Johnson Baran Corp. with regard to the 2011 State Aid Improvements to Poplar Avenue in the City of Linwood

Council President Taylor asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolutions No. 20-37 of 2013. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$3,446,950.21

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Paolone, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Tighe absent. Motion was 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.

Alice Deniz - 14 Frances Avenue, Linwood

Ms. Deniz presented the Mayor and Council with a petition protesting the use of the sirens to summon the volunteer firemen. The petition is signed by Linwood residents who are living in proximity to the alarm. Ms. Deniz questioned why the siren is still in use considering the advanced technology available. She indicated that there were no siren calls this year from mid June till early November and firefighters managed to learn of the fires during that period of time, possibly through pagers. She contacted City Council several months ago regarding this issue and was informed that the use of the siren is left up to the Chief of the Fire Department and that City Council supports his decision. Ms. Deniz questioned if Council understands how detrimental the siren is to her and other resident's quality of life. She presented material to Council on technology used in other small towns with volunteer fire departments. She was happy to learn of the City jumping to the 21st Century via the Nixle Community Information Service.

Anne Bullen – 14 Elm Avenue, Linwood

Ms. Bullen shared a story about her neighbor who recently passed away. The neighbor had no family and was going through physical and financial problems. Ms. Bullen described how before the neighbor passed away, Ms. Bullen had been in contact with several County offices of social services and other government agencies looking for assistance for her but was unsuccessful. Ms. Bullen feels as if her neighbor slipped through the cracks. She believes that Linwood has a lot of caring individuals and hopes that people are aware of others who are in need of assistance.

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

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilman Beinfest – Councilman Beinfest reported that the Recreation Board held its reorganization meeting. Dianne Robbins is the President and Mike Dalessio is the Vice President. The Board is reviewing ordinances to require background checks for volunteers. Councilman Beinfest suggested that Ms. Bullen contact the State Legislatures regarding her story. Maybe they can introduce new legislation that will help.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that Public Works brined the City streets in anticipation of the predicted snow storm.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon thanked Ms. Bullen for attending tonight’s meeting, noting that her neighbor was very lucky to have her. He is not sure what can be done in those situations, but thanked Ms. Bullen for caring and all she did to help.

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik advised that he has struggled with the use of the fire siren. He is working with the Chief on this matter. He advised Ms. Bullen that he will look into a list of services that may help.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to adjourn at 7:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk