

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
January 27, 2010

Council President Donna Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Alex Marino; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: Councilman Tim Tighe.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; Chief Jim Baker, Police Department; Hank Kolakowski, Public Works Superintendent; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2009 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilman Beinfest attended the Recreation Board meeting. The Board reorganized. Darren Matik is now the Secretary. The Board is discussing ideas for the use of the Hi Neighbor Hop funds. Mike Dalessio is heading the task of obtaining proposals for beautifying the park. Councilman Beinfest will update Council in the future.

4. Councilman Levinson

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Levinson discussed the Ordinance amending Chapter 238, Stormwater Management to include language for Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting and Refuse Containers/Dumpsters.
2. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda to advertise for bids for the 2009 State Aid Improvements to Maple Avenue, Phase 1.
3. Mr. Mazur will conduct a presentation on Stormwater Management at the regular meeting.
4. Mr. Mazur reported that work began yesterday on the 2009 Roadway Improvement project.

5. Councilman Marino

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Marino discussed the costs of the December snow storm. Fifteen employees worked a total of 358 hours. They used 100 tons of salt. The cost of overtime and salt totaled \$20,508. The next storm is predicted this weekend.
2. Councilman Marino discussed the amount of consolidated aid that municipalities receive from the state. Linwood's aid has reduced by \$258,000. At the end of 2009, municipalities were told they were not getting their final aid figures. However, Governor Corzine later allowed the aid. Councilman Marino explained that the 2010 budget has been prepared without the anticipation of state aid.
3. The salary ordinance is on the agenda for first reading. This provides for ranges only.
4. Two Resolutions to refund taxes based on tax appeals are on the agenda.
5. A Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the New Jersey Environmental Trust Financing Program is on the agenda. This project will include the pond outfall improvements.
6. All departmental budgets have been submitted. The Department Heads did a good job keeping requests down or in line with last year. Councilman Marino will be distributing copies to the Mayor and Council for their review.

7. The City has submitted a Request for Proposals to the State for the Local Energy Audit Program. They made several recommendations that are being addressed. The City will soon go out for proposals. This program will help the City become certified under the Sustainable Jersey program.
8. Councilman Marino reported that the tax collection rate for the end of 2009 was 99%.
9. Since 2009, the City has been receiving notices of foreclosures. Councilman Marino reported that they have been declining.
10. A Resolution is on the agenda to transfer appropriation reserves.
- B. Sustainable Jersey
 1. Councilman Marino reported that the Green Team met in early January. Andrew Oster has been very aggressive in getting things together for the City to reach certification in the Sustainable Jersey program.
 2. The 2010 Smart Growth Planning Grant applications are out. Councilman Marino will work with the Environmental Commission on a suitable project for the City. The deadline for the applications is March 31.
 3. Councilman Marino is still reviewing a fertilizer ordinance for the City. He is meeting with representatives from the South Jersey Landscapers Association for their input.
 4. A wind Ordinance is still being proposed for Linwood. The Mayor reported that the Planning Board did discuss it at the last meeting and created a sub-committee for further review.
 5. Atlantic Electric began trimming the trees in the south end of the City.
 6. Councilman Marino discussed a presentation he attended for the New Jersey Council of Mayors Association.
6. Councilman Paolone
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Paolone explained that he, Councilman Marino and Mr. Youngblood negotiated with representatives from the International Association of Firefighters for the past five to six months. A Resolution is on the agenda to approve a new contract.
 2. Councilman Paolone discussed the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program. The program provides for a credit on tuition at a county or vocational college in exchange for a four year commitment to a volunteer fire organization. Council President Taylor asked who would monitor the program. Councilman Paolone explained that the volunteer would sign an agreement with the City and would be responsible to submit the required documentation to the City according to the program. He will have his committee review the program further. He would hope to have a Resolution on the next Council agenda to authorize the City's participation in the program. Mr. Youngblood will have to prepare the agreement for the City.
 - B. Linwood Arboretum
 1. Councilman Paolone recommended that everyone take a look at the Arboretum. Things are beginning to bloom now.
 2. The schools are working on their five year strategic plan. The teachers are getting involved with Dr. Lacy to include the Arboretum in the planning process.
7. Councilman Tighe
 - A. Planning & Development
 1. Councilman Levinson discussed a request for the Electrical Inspector to inspect a project at 650 New Road on a Saturday due to them having to shut down the electric at the building. Approval for the overtime is needed by Council. All present members of Council were in favor of the overtime.
8. Council President Taylor
 - A. Administration

1. Council President Taylor discussed an Ordinance on the agenda increasing the application fee for a Public Defender from \$100 to \$200.
2. Council President Taylor discussed an Ordinance on the agenda to change the curfew time from 9:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This will be consistent with the neighboring towns, Northfield and Somers Point.
3. A Resolution is on the agenda to reappoint Merrilee Carlson to the Deputy Court Administrator position. She was the Acting Court Administrator. However, after appointing Donna Clark to the Court Administrator position, it is necessary to reappoint Ms. Carlson to the Deputy position.
4. Resolutions are on the agenda to award contracts for Municipal Solicitor, Bond Counsel and Auditor.
5. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority for 2009 Community Development Block Grant Funds.
6. A Resolution is on the agenda confirming the appointments of the Municipal Prosecutor and Municipal Public Defender that were made by Northfield in accordance with our Agreement for Shared Court Services.

At 6:34 P.M., Council President Donna Taylor called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk