

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
February 8, 2023

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: Councilman Todd Michael.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Steve Cunningham, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the City to participate with Atlantic County in applying for a Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Challenge Grant for a Feasibility Study for a Countywide Fire & EMS Centralized Dispatch

4. Councilwoman Albright

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilwoman Albright advised of a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Contract to Duke's Root Control, Inc. for Sanitary Sewer Root Treatment.
2. Councilwoman Albright discussed an Ordinance on the agenda amending and supplementing Chapter 277, Zoning regarding Sober Living Facilities. These facilities are licensed by the State and the City has very limited oversight.

5. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending Chapter 140, Fees to include the Recreation Board fees. Councilman Walcoff questioned the fee schedule as it pertains to residents and non-residents. Councilman Levinson explained that the intent of the Ordinance is to collect user fees from the sports organizations to help pay for maintenance of the fields.
2. Councilwoman Byrnes advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the appointment of Joseph Daily to the Linwood Green Team.

6. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised that the City's Contract with the ACUA for Solid Waste Collection expires on March 17, 2023. Representative from the ACUA informed the City that a renewal of the contract would include a substantial increase. They have offered to extend the current contract until October 31, 2023 to give the City the opportunity to explore options that might be less expensive. The Public Works Committee is meeting to discuss all options and will report again at the next Council meeting.

7. Councilman Levinson

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Levinson advised that the Finance Committee met to discuss the 2023 budget. The City will see a substantial increase from the State Health Benefits Plan. The City did shop out for benefits, but no other companies would respond. The increase from the State's plan is almost three cents. The City has not had a tax increase in four years. With this increase along with the ACUA increase for trash, the City is looking at a possible 5.5 cent increase. The Finance Committee is exploring all options to reduce the increase.

8. Councilman Michael

A. Public Safety

1. Council President Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the participation with Atlantic County in applying for a Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Challenge Grant for the purchase of two portable traffic lights.

9. Council President Ford

A. Administration

1. Council President Ford discussed an Ordinance on the agenda amending Chapter 124 Development Fees. This ordinance was added years ago to comply with the Affordable Housing requirements. When it was adopted, fees could be collected on single-family residential homes. In 2010, that section was deleted. This Ordinance adds that language back in.
2. Council President Ford advised of Resolutions authorizing Raffle Licenses to the Margate Education Foundation.
3. Council President Ford discussed a Resolution authorizing a second Amendment to the Interlocal Services Agreement with the Egg Harbor Township Municipal Utilities Authority. He explained that post COVID, the authority is facing increased labor and supply costs. They are looking into other shared services to help bring the costs down in the future.

At 6:26 P.M., Council President Ford called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk