

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
February 9, 2011

Councilman Marino 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; and Councilman Tim Tighe.

Absent: Councilman Ralph Paolone and Council President Donna Taylor.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; Chick Kisby, Fire Chief; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Tighe motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2011 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with one abstention from Councilman Beinfest. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis announced that the City of Linwood received a Certificate of Approval from the New Jersey Division of Forestry for their Community Forestry Management Plan. She thanked the Shade Tree Commission for all their hard work on preparing the plan. An approved status will now qualify the City for future grant opportunities as well as score the City twenty points under the Sustainable Jersey program.

4. Councilman Levinson

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda supporting the Department of Transportation's proposed mid-block crosswalk on Route 9.
2. Resolutions are on the agenda to authorize the advertisement for bids for the Linwood Ponds Outfall Improvement project and the Wabash Avenue ADA Curb Ramp Improvements, Phase 4 project.
3. A Resolution is on the agenda to authorize the City's application for interim financing to the NJEIT.
4. Mr. Mazur reported that he received a call from the construction supervisor at South Jersey Gas regarding low pressure gas mains on Wendy Drive. The Gas Company would like to install a regulator at the end of Wendy Drive along the bike path as a temporary solution until they are able to replace the gas mains. After discussion, Mr. Youngblood advised that the City will need to approve the request by Ordinance after receiving appropriate paperwork including insurance, an indemnification agreement, a sketch, and the posting of a bond for removal.
5. Councilman Levinson advised that the City received a grant for the Poplar Avenue Sidewalk Improvement project through the Safe Streets to Transit in the amount of \$209,000. He thanked Mr. Mazur for his work on the grant application. Councilman Marino noted that of that State funding allocated, Mr. Mazur earned 46% of it for the two municipalities he is working for, Linwood and Galloway. He congratulated Mr. Mazur, noting that the grant program is very competitive.

5. Councilman Marino

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Marino discussed the Salary Ordinance on the agenda for final reading. This Ordinance is setting ranges only.

2. Councilman Marino advised that the budget committee consisting of Councilman Levinson, Councilwoman DeDomenicis, and himself met last week. He advised that the Fund Balance for the City is lower than last year at this time. Tax appeals have gone up in Linwood as they have all over the State. The tax collection rate is down by one percent. Because of the increase in tax appeals and the lower collection rate, the City has less revenue. The committee will continue to meet and review the City's budget and will report back to all Council.

6. Councilman Paolone
 - A. Arboretum
 1. Allen Lacy, the Arboretum Curator, presented a brief report on the Arboretum. He advised that he is currently working on a newsletter that will be distributed by email in the near future.

7. Councilman Tighe
 - A. Planning & Development
 1. Councilman Tighe discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the release of unused Planning Board application fees with regard to Block 160, Lots 1, 2 & 3 and Block 105, Lot 11 (1011 Maple Avenue).

8. Council President Taylor
 - A. Administration
 1. Councilman Marino advised of the Ordinance amending the City Code for the terms of the Assistant Tax Collector and the Deputy Municipal Clerk that is on the agenda for final reading.
 2. Councilman Marino announced that a Scoping Hearing for the disposal of parkland will take place at 7:00 p.m tonight.

At 6:23 P.M., Councilman Marino called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk