

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES**  
**February 12, 2020**

Councilwoman June Byrnes called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; and Councilman Matt Levinson.

Absent: Council President Ralph Paolone.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vincent Polistina, City Engineer; Gary Auer, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Captain John Hamilton, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilman Levinson. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Councilwoman Byrnes discussed the Library Construction Bond Act. The Linwood Library has advised us that they are interested in submitting an application. The grant is a 50/50 match. Most of the interior work includes ADA improvements such as doors and repairs to the elevator. Mr. Polistina is working on cost estimates for the improvements the Library wants to do and the outside improvements that need to be done. Jim Rutala will prepare the grant application. The deadline for the grant is April 1. The City's match for the grant could be included in the Bond Ordinance. Mr. Polistina discussed the improvements needed to the outside of the building noting that the building is in need of a lot of attention. Mayor Matik is hopeful that the City will receive the grant, but noted that the improvements need to be done regardless. Councilmen Heun and Ford agreed with the need for the improvements. Councilwoman Byrnes also discussed a requirement of the grant is a long term commitment from the City and noted that the City's current twenty-year lease agreement with the Library expires on December 31, 2020. A new lease would need to be approved prior to applying for the grant. Discussion ensued on the improvements and the need to move quickly. All present members of Council were in favor of moving forward with the grant application and items needed for submission.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed a Resolution authorizing a Mosquito Control Agreement with Atlantic County that is done every year.

5. Councilman Ford

A. Planning & Development

1. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution authorizing the refund of a Construction Permit to Central Park East.

2. Councilman Ford reviewed a Resolution authorizing the refund of a Rental Registration Fee to Sepahan, LLC.

3. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution authorizing the refund of a Construction Permit to Pulse Plumbing.

6. Councilman Heun

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Heun discussed a Resolution on the agenda approving the certification of qualified volunteers for LOSAP.

2. Councilman Heun explained that TriCare, the City's current EMS provider, submitted a significant increase in the monthly fee of almost 100%. This is a shared provider to both Linwood and Northfield. The current contract expires at the end of February. This is one of the two contract extensions provided in the initial three year contract. He discussed renewing now for a year and then going out to RFP next year or going out for RFP now. Mr. Youngblood reviewed the terms of the current contract. The Mayor discussed the previous bidders and costs submitted as well as the City's current response time required in the contract and the difficulty in finding another vendor that can provide that response time. Discussion ensued upon the increase and the explanation provided by TriCare for the increase. Councilman Heun motioned, to add Resolution No. 67 to the agenda to renew the contract with TriCare. Councilwoman DeDomenicis seconded the motion. All present members of Council were in favor of adding the Resolution to the agenda. Motion approved.
7. Councilman Levinson
  - A. Revenue & Finance
    1. Councilman Levinson advised of the first reading of the Salary Ordinance on the agenda providing for salary ranges for all employees. This Ordinance is adjusted every year.
    2. Councilman Levinson reviewed Resolutions on the agenda authorizing the refund and cancellation of taxes for 208 East Drive, 404 Joseph Avenue, and 103 W. Dawn Drive due to 100% permanently disabled veteran status.
  - B. Planning Board
    1. Councilman Levinson discussed a Resolution on the agenda awarding Non-competitive Contracts to Eric Goldstein as Planning Board Solicitor and Vincent Polistina as Planning Board Engineer.
8. Council President Paolone
  - A. Administration
    1. Councilwoman Byrnes advised of Resolutions on the agenda authorizing Bingo and Raffle Licenses to Mainland Crew, Mainland Performing Arts Parent Organization, the Alcove Center, EHT Softball, and Gilda's Club.
9. Mr. Youngblood discussed an Ordinance on the agenda providing for the purchase of Block 82, Lots 7 & 8 in the City of Linwood. This is the empty lot on Poplar Avenue near the Poplar Avenue bridge. The seller has come down in price and the Stewart Trust has agreed to award the City 100% of the purchase price. This will protect a nice piece of open space from being developed.

At 6:21 P.M., Councilwoman Byrnes called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk