

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 14, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Ken Kelly; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: None

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

1 OF 2024 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 263 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE I GENERAL REGULATIONS, SECTION 263-4 PROHIBITED PARKING; STOPPING OR STANDING OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

PULLED

2 OF 2024 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES, COMPENSATION AND SALARY RANGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 2 of 2024 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 2 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 2. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. 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.

- 47- 2024** A Resolution authorizing submission of a Local Recreation Improvement Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
- 48-2024** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2024-08, to Court Appointed Special Advocates CASA for Children of Atlantic Cape May & Camden Counties
- 49-2024** A Resolution confirming the appointment of Kelsea Meers to the Linwood Recreation Board
- 50-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of unused escrow funds posted with regard to a dumpster permit
- 51-2024** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2024-09, to Margate Education Foundation Inc

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 52-2024** A Resolution authorizing the renewal of a Memorandum of Agreement for the sheltering of City residents during time of emergency with the City of Northfield, the City of Somers Point and the Linwood Community Church
- 53-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of a Disabled Veteran 2024 Tax Payment for Block 64 Lot 8 located at 1441 Franklin Boulevard in the City of Linwood
- 54-2024** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2024-10, to Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc
- 55-2024** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2024-11, to Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc
- 56-2024** A Resolution authorizing an Agreement with Network Connectivity, Inc. for Information Technology Network and Support for the Linwood Police Department

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolutions No. 47-56 of 2024. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,741,449.55

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council President Ford opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

Janice Trama 900 Maple Avenue, Linwood – Ms. Trama indicated that drivers are not stopping at the new stop sign on Maple Avenue and she fears someone will get hurt.

Tim Votta 901 Maple Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Votta emailed his opinion on Ordinance No. 1 2024 (Attached as Exhibit B). His principle concern is the lack of available street parking in his area and the further strain the Ordinance would create. He suggested extending the one-way traffic pattern from Shore Road as a possible solution.

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

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor advised that after receiving the email from Mr. Votta, he drove around the area to look at it again. The Ordinance was pulled for more time to consider a possible solution.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and a safe President's Day weekend.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked the public for their comments. The Chief of Police is here to listen to the comments regarding drivers not stopping at the stop sign and she is sure he will look into that. With the building of the new homes on Maple and around the City, we have new issues. Council will re-visit the Ordinance after more consideration. She wished everyone Happy Valentine's Day.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff appreciates Mr. Votta's email. This process allowed Council to look at the situation again. They will come up with a solution.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for their comments. He advised that the Chief of Police will look into the vehicles not stopping at the stop sign. He wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and a safe President's Day weekend.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. He appreciates the public providing their comments. He understands there are issues and Council members will sit down and review the situation.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly attended a Library Board meeting last week. There are a lot of good things happening there. He will be attending the Recreation Board meeting next week. He is motivated to participate on Council. He thanked Mr. Votta for his email noting how nicely written it was and that this is an indication of how the process works.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

Council President Ford – Council President Ford indicated that there is a great group on City Council. They are individually looking at the intersection. Council added two new stop signs on Maple Avenue and will look into this further. It is a great discussion and Councilwoman Albright’s committee will come up with a solution.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 6:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk