

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
February 22, 2017

Councilman Darren Matik called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 Eric Ford; Councilman Brian Heun; and Councilman Darren Matik.

Absent: Councilman Todd Gordon and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Doug Carman, Police Department; Captain John Hamilton, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with one abstention from Councilman Matik. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor announced the appointment of Jodi Kahn to the Environmental Commission and the re-appointment of Mike Reynolds to the Planning Board.

4. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilman Beinfest reported that the Recreation Board had their annual Reorganization. Tim Longnecker will remain as the President and there are no changes to report. The Board is very excited for this year's upcoming events.

5. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that Public Works just had their first claim after being 1,700 days of being claim free. The employee is doing fine.

6. Councilman Ford

A. Planning & Development

1. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda appointing Kevin Cain as the Acting Plumbing & Fire Sub Code to replace an employee that resigned.

7. Councilman Heun

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Heun discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing application and participation in the Law Enforcement Office (LESO) 1033 Program. This is a Federal program that donates surplus equipment to other governmental entities at no cost. The Linwood Police Department is looking to obtain a Humvee. There would be some costs to convert it to civilian use and put lights and lettering on it for Linwood. Those costs would be paid out of the Police Department's forfeiture fund, which can only be used for police purposes. Councilman Heun addressed a concern of the maintenance costs for the vehicle. The vehicle is diesel and will cost a lot less than the vehicles that are used now while idling on road details. He also discussed a concern that it would look as if the City was militarizing. The vehicle will not be armored. It will be very helpful in flood waters. If the City is not happy with the vehicle, the Federal government will take it back. Councilman Heun will explain to the media the benefits of having the vehicle before it is purchased. Councilwoman DeDomenicis agreed that there needs to be a positive perspective about it.

Councilman Matik discussed the vehicles use as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City, specifically the benefits during a storm emergency and possible evacuation needs. He would like to see the vehicle used for construction details.

8. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the execution of a Separation Agreement with John M. Henchy, Jr. Councilwoman DeDomenicis indicated that she had several questions regarding the agreement and everything had been explained. Councilman Matik indicated that this agreement is good for the taxpayers saving approximately \$70,000 per year. The new PBA contract now has twelve steps instead of three and the new patrolman will be starting at a lower salary.
2. Councilman Matik announced that the salary ordinance is on the agenda for final reading.
3. Councilman Matik reviewed the 2016 Tax Collector's report and all present members of Council accepted said report. (Attached as Exhibit B)
4. Councilman Matik discussed the Internship program at Stockton. Diane Hesley, the City's Tax Assessor, uses them in her office in Somers Point and would like to do the same in Linwood. She has said they are extremely professional, there is no cost to the City, and the student receives college credits. She can really use the help with all the tax appeals and other offices can use them too. All present members of Council were in favor of the program.
5. Councilman Matik discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the cancelation and refund of taxes for 505 W. Kirklin Avenue due to 100% permanent disable veteran status.
6. Councilman Matik advised that Jim Rutala and the Environmental Commission have been working on a Living Shoreline Project for along the Patcong Creek and have asked for a Resolution in support of a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant to help fund the project. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to add a Resolution, No. 51, in support of the application. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

9. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda to authorize the issuance of a Raffle License, #2017-04, to Auxiliary to the Betty Bacharach Rehabilitation Hospital.

10. Mr. Youngblood

- A. Mr. Youngblood advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading granting consent to Verizon Wireless to locate and operate small network nodes in the public right of way in the City of Linwood.

At 6:22 P.M., Councilman Matik called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk