

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
February 26, 2020

Councilwoman June Byrnes called the meeting to order at 6:02 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; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Captain John Hamilton, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor referred to the mold problems at the Longport municipal building and reported that Linwood City Hall was recently treated as a precaution and all the air ducts were cleaned. Four new dehumidifiers were also installed in the basement. The drainage problems that had caused leaks in the basement have all been corrected and Public Works just completed dry locking the exterior walls in the basement.

B. The Mayor advised that since Linwood took back the Courts from Northfield in January 2020, all has been going well. They process approximately one hundred and fifty cases every Wednesday and revenue is up.

C. The Mayor discussed the recently adopted Pay to Run program for the Linwood Volunteer Fire Department and noted that more volunteers have been reporting to calls. The cost of the program is still less than hiring another full time Fireman.

4. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes reported that the City is currently in negotiations with the Linwood Library for a new twenty-year lease. The new lease will help with the application to the State for the Library Construction Bond Act. She thanked Mr. Youngblood for all his work on the matter.

5. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed a Resolution rejecting the bid received from ACB Services Inc. for Janitorial Services for the City of Linwood. The bid was non-responsive.

2. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised of a Resolution awarding the Contract to Offshore Carpet Cleaning, LLC for Janitorial Services for the City of Linwood.

6. Councilman Ford

A. Planning & Development

1. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda hiring Whitney MacClemmy Rodriguez as a Part Time Administrative Assistant in the Construction Office.

2. Councilman Ford discussed a Resolution approving a hardship exception from road opening moratorium for 1 Morris Avenue.

7. Councilman Gordon
 - A. Engineering
 1. Councilman Gordon discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Contract with The Tree Man for tree removal services with regard to the Brighton Drive Development Area.
8. Councilman Heun
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Heun discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the execution of a Contract on behalf of the City of Linwood with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #4370.
 2. Councilman Heun advised that Somers Point has a new fire truck on order but asked to lease one of Linwood's while they wait for delivery. Linwood has not been using the truck and will most likely auction the truck when Somers Point is done using it. A Resolution authorizing the lease agreement is on the agenda.
 3. Councilman Heun discussed a Resolution on the agenda to rescind Resolution No. 67 pertaining to an extension of the term of a Contract with TriCare. He explained that the Resolution was passed at the last City Council meeting. However, the City of Northfield did not agree to a few of the changes in the Contract so it needs to be amended once again. Another Resolution is on the agenda to extend the term of the Contract with TriCare for \$3,750 per month.
9. Councilman Levinson
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Levinson advised of the final reading of the Salary Ordinance on the agenda to adjust the salary ranges, which is done every year.
 2. Councilman Levinson reviewed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for 1603 Grant Avenue.
 3. Councilman Levinson discussed the Bond Ordinance on the agenda for an amount of \$4.7 million covering a lot of needed improvements in the City. There is an amount of approximately \$650,000 for recreation improvements to the old recreation building at the Memorial Park. \$540,000 is allocated for improvements to the Library that have been in disrepair for a while. The City is applying for a grant that would pay for half of those costs. However, they need to be done either way. Approximately \$1 million is budgeted for roadway improvements. Several trucks for Public Works are also included to get them to 2024. There is close to \$2 million for the sanitary sewer system that needs to be done as soon as possible. And some vehicles and equipment for the Police Department that will also take them to 2024. Councilman Levinson explained that Council has been discussing this Ordinance for months and these projects really need to get completed.
 4. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution canceling a credit balance in the amount of \$17.14 on a City owned property located at 1201 New Road.
10. Mr. Youngblood
 - A. Mr. Youngblood discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading providing for the purchase of Block 82, Lots 7 & 8 in the City of Linwood. A grant from the Stewart Trust is paying 100% of the purchase price.
 - B. Mr. Youngblood discussed a Resolution authorizing the execution of an Amended Agreement for the Shared Municipal Services with Northfield Sewer to provide service to one additional home located at 3 Shore Road.

At 6:19 P.M., Councilwoman Byrnes called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk