

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 27, 2013**

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis led the flag salute.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:27 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Tim Tighe; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: Councilman Ralph Paolone.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2013 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

1 OF 2013 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 Clerk read Ordinance No. 1 of 2013 by title only. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve Ordinance No. 1 for final reading. Council President Taylor opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 1. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Taylor closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Paolone absent. Motion was approved.

2 OF 2013 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 241 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, ARTICLE VII, SPORTS EQUIPMENT IN STREETS OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

Council President Taylor explained that Ordinance No. 2 of 2013 has been amended and must be re-introduced. Councilman Matik explained the Ordinance has been amended to include additional language that makes it clear the City is not preventing the use of sports equipment in the streets, but only provides a mechanism for enforcement during times of snow removal, trash pick-up, and a state of emergency. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 2 of 2013 by title only. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Tighe to approve Ordinance No. 2 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Paolone absent. Motion was approved.

3 OF 2013 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 140 FEES, ARTICLE V FEES FOR MUNICIPAL COURT DISCOVERY OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 3 of 2013 by title only. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve Ordinance No. 3 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Paolone absent. Motion was approved.

4 OF 2013 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND THE ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 4 of 2013 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Matik to approve Ordinance No. 4 for first reading. Councilman Matik explained that during budget discussions potential cost increases were identified and Council looked for areas to save money. They reached out to the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) for a price to collect solid waste. The price was good and the savings will be considerable enough for the City to move forward. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative, one abstention by Council President Taylor, and Councilman Paolone was absent. 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.

- 43-2013** A Resolution authorizing the refund of a 1st Quarter 2013 Property Tax Payment that was made in error for Block 70, Lot 4, located at 209 E. Berkshire Avenue, in the City of Linwood
- 44-2013** A Resolution amending Resolution No. 6 of 2013, A Resolution setting a service charge for checks returned for insufficient funds
- 45-2013** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Bishop Mechanical Services, LLC for HVAC Repairs and Service for the City of Linwood
- 46-2013** A Resolution authorizing the submission of a Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
- 47-2013** A Resolution confirming the appointment of Stacey M. Venneman to the Linwood Board of Recreation
- 48-2013** A Resolution honoring Tim Glenn
- 49-2013** A Resolution requesting Atlantic City Electric to relocate one street light pole at 334 Ocean Heights Avenue in the City of Linwood

Council President Taylor asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. She advised that Resolution No. 45 of 2013 was pulled from the agenda in the Caucus meeting. Councilman Tighe motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to include Resolution No. 45 back on the agenda. All present member of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Beinfest, to approve Resolutions No. 43-49 of 2013. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,116,279.12

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

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Wayne Dilks 214 VanSant Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Dilks does not feel that having the ACUA pick up trash in Linwood is good. He asked how the City will collect leaves in the fall without any trash trucks. He heard that the City was selling all its trucks to the ACUA. The City has great service now. He asked about bulk pick and how that will be handled. He is not in favor of limiting bulk pick up. Mr. Dilks indicated that he is not in favor of having the ACUA collect trash.

Kevin Lajiness 104 Garfield Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Lajiness does not believe the City will get the same service with the ACUA as they have now. He knows his trash guys, likes them, and likes the job they do. He would like them all to keep their jobs. He does not believe that Council will find anyone that does a better job than them. The City garage is close by and if there is a problem it can be corrected quickly. He has never had a problem in the thirty years he has lived here. If you call the ACUA with a problem, good luck. Once the City loses this service, they will be locked in and it will be harder to get back what the City has now.

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

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik reported that the ACUA does a tremendous job collecting the City's recyclables and yard waste. The Public Works employees that could be affected by this are assured jobs with the ACUA. Bulk collection will be limited to two items per collection day. However, if a resident has more, they can call the City's Public Works Department. The residents can still call the Public Works Department with any issues regarding trash pickup. This issue was looked at in an effort to save money. The possible savings could be three to four cents on the tax rate with the ACUA providing the exact same service.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Councilwoman DeDomenicis expressed how proud she is of all the hardworking, dedicated individuals in Public Works that do a great service for the City. Council is required to explore options to save money where the residents will get the same service. The proposed contract with the ACUA is a win-win for the residents and employees.

Councilman Beinfest – Councilman Beinfest explained that the proposal under consideration is not a reflection on the job that Public Works is doing. It has everything to do with saving money, approximately \$1.3 million over five years. He understands that change is hard but it is Council's responsibility to explore as it saves a significant amount of money.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon thanked Councilman Matik on his efforts putting the proposal together. He understands the proposal works for the taxpayer and the user of services. Councilman Gordon is sensitive to his neighbor on how his trash is picked up and the last thing he wants to do is diminish the service. Council would only pursue this if it was an equivalent level of service. It is Council's responsibility to keep taxes in check. Councilman Gordon also congratulated Tim Glenn on his award by the Linwood Education Foundation.

Councilman Tighe – Councilman Tighe explained that these types of decisions are not easy to make. What made it slightly more palpable is that all the workers affected are being given jobs at the ACUA. There will be no real drop in the level of service because we will still have our Superintendent, who is very service minded, in charge of things. Councilman Tighe reviewed the following figures over the last ten years: the ratable base is down by \$10 million; State Aid is down by \$191,741; Police salary & wages are up by \$422,685; Public Works salaries are up by \$71,000; Fire salaries are up by \$81,240; City Hall salaries are up by \$39,000; Health Insurance is up by \$300,000; Workers Compensation is up by almost \$200,000; Pension contributions are up by \$192,626; and the Police & Fire pension is up by \$479,060. Council is trying to find ways to save money.

Council President Taylor – Council President Taylor congratulated Tim Glenn on his honor by the Linwood Education Foundation. Their annual gala will be held on March 9, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Tighe motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 6:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk