

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
March 22, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:17 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Todd Michael led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Carol Russ, Ford Scott & Associates; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2023 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**ORDINANCES**

**5 of 2023**

A BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,225,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$1,163,750) IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD FOR VARIOUS GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY OF LINWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 5 of 2023 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Ordinance No. 5 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**6 OF 2023**

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 6 of 2023 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 6 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**64-2023**

A Resolution approving the Temporary Budget for 2023

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 64 of 2023 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Resolution No. 64. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**78-2023**

A Resolution introducing the 2022 Municipal Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 78 of 2023 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 78. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved. Councilman Levinson presented a Power Point presentation on the Budget (attached as Exhibit B).

### **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.

- 65-2023** A Resolution authorizing the refund of various tax overpayments made by Corelogic
- 66-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-12, to Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc
- 67-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-13, to Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc
- 68-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-14, to Muckdogs Baseball Club
- 69-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-15, to Muckdogs Baseball Club
- 70-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Bingo License, #2023-05, to Muckdogs Baseball Club
- 71-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-16, to PTO Linwood
- 72-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-17, to PTO Linwood
- 73-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-18, to PTO Linwood
- 74-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-19, to PTO Linwood
- 75-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-20, to PTO Linwood
- 76-2023** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Atlantic County Numismatic Society Coin Show
- 77-2023** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to advertise for bids for Solid Waste Collection Service for the City of Linwood

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions No. 65-77 of 2023. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,223,484.14**

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, 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.

Desiree D'Angelo 213 Alexander Drive, Linwood – Mrs. D'Angelo discussed City Code 241 prohibiting permanent placement of basketball nets in public rights-of-way and asked City Council to consider changing the Code to allow for same.

Elizabeth Soltys, 204 Schoolhouse Lane, Linwood – Mrs. Soltys received a violation for having a permanent basketball net in the public right-of-way. She asked that Council consider changing the Code to allow for them or at least with some provisions.

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 indicated that this was the first year the entire City budget was driven by something the State has done. The Governing Body was unable to keep taxes flat for the first time in a long time. The City has worked very hard over the years to keep costs down with numerous shared services and learned to do more with less. However, due to the State Health Benefits Plan and pension costs, there will be a tax increase. He commended Councilman Levinson and the Finance Committee for their efforts on the budget. The Mayor addressed the public on their comments regarding basketball and advised them that the Elected Officials will talk to the City professionals for suggestions and will talk to the schools for use of their facilities.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight. Council does their best to help resolve issues. He discussed the budget and how all costs have gone up due to inflation. He agrees with the Mayor that the increase in taxes is due to the State Health Benefits increases. The Finance Committee did a tremendous job getting the budget to where it is. Councilman Michael grew up playing basketball in Linwood. City Council will work toward a solution.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson will continue to work for the residents to keep the budget in line. He was told the State Health Benefit Plan is not going to be much better next year. The City did try to shop out of the plan, but did not receive any bids. Councilman Levinson also grew up playing basketball in Linwood. He would also like to see courts in the City and City Council will look into other solutions.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. She also advised that April 1 is the Easter Egg Hunt in Linwood and March 25 is open house in the new Makerspace Room at the Library. Councilwoman Byrnes grew up playing basketball in Linwood. They will work hard to find a solution. She attended the basketball game between the Linwood Police Department and the Mainland Unified Sports Team. It was a nice event.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending and for their comments.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff indicated that it is not easy to digest a fourteen million dollar budget. He thanked Mr. Strazzeri for explaining a lot and thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work. Councilman Walcoff recognized the comments made regarding basketball and indicated that City Council will work for a solution.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford commended the Finance Committee. They worked very hard to make any increase in the budget, the smallest increase as possible. Addressing the basketball comments, Councilman Ford indicated that Council does work hard to resolve issues. They will look for a solution.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 6:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk