

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 23, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:25 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 (arrived at 6:29pm); Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

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

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilman Levinson. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

4 OF 2022 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 263 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE VI TRAFFIC CONTROL STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ROAD REPAIRS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 4 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Ordinance No. 4 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. Motion was approved.

5 OF 2022 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 205 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, ARTICLE I, SECTION 205-2, REVISIONS TO STANDARDS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 5 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 5 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

81-2022 A Resolution approving a Temporary Budget for 2022

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 81 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 81. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis 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.

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 71-2022** A Resolution authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement and Contract on behalf of the City of Linwood with the Mainland PBA No. 77 Rank & File and Superior Officers
- 72-2022** A Resolution confirming the promotion of Patrolman Michael Fountas, Jr. to the position of Sergeant in the Linwood Police Department
- 77-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2022-07, to Mainland Girls Track Booster Club
- 78-2022** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of 2021 final and 2022 preliminary taxes due to tax exempt status for Block 98 Lot 6 located at 311 Van Sant Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 79-2022** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Linwood Farmers Market
- 80-2022** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive contract for Professional Services to William McLees Architecture, LLC Services in the City of Linwood
- 82-2022** A Resolution reaffirming the commitment and objectives of the Linwood Green Team
- 83-2022** A Resolution authorizing a Local Recreational Improvement Grant Agreement with the City of Linwood and the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
- 84-2022** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Gold Foundation/Shirley Mae Breast Cancer

Council President Paolone pulled Resolution No. 72 of 2022 from the Consent Agenda. He asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolutions No. 71, 77-80, 82-84 of 2022. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 72 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 72. Council President Paolone advised that he believes Patrolman Fountas is the best candidate for the position. The Mayor and Chief speak very highly of him and he scored the highest on the exam. However, Council President Paolone is voting no on the Resolution due to a problem that existed in the PBA contract, which expired at the end 2021. The problem has been addressed in the future contract. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Council President Paolone in the negative. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,226,734.88

Councilman Michael motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilwoman Albright. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Sandy Hickerson 210 Upland Avenue, Absecon – Ms. Hickerson addressed City Council on behalf of the Atlantic County 2A Sanctuary asking Council to adopt their Resolution to support the Second Amendment rights. She submitted several petitions from Linwood residents in support of the Resolution.

Kathleen Spaeth, 108 Country Club Drive, Linwood – Mrs. Spaeth questioned the residents reaffirmed in Resolution No. 82 for the Green Team, noting that eleven other individuals have been attending the meetings that are not listed in the Resolution. Council President Paolone advised that volunteers are always welcome to assist the Team. Mrs. Spaeth questioned when the public will have input on the new recreation building at Memorial Park and when it will be going to the Planning Board. Councilwoman Albright advised that an architect was hired to design the building and when a design has been finalized, it will be on display for the public to view. The matter will not have to go before the Planning Board.

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

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor advised that a lot of projects are under way in the City; curbing, paving, drainage improvements, a new recreation building at the park, improvements to the Library including a playground and outdoor story area. He encouraged everyone to take a look.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked the public for attending the meeting. He congratulated Sergeant Fountas on his promotion, noting that it is well deserved. He thanked the Mayor and Mr. Youngblood for their help on the PBA contracts and also thanked the PBA representatives. He believes it is a good deal for the City and the PBA.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson echoed Councilman Michael’s comments on the negotiations with the PBA. He also congratulated Sergeant Fountas. Councilman Levinson congratulated the third/fourth grade boys Mainland Basketball Team.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford echoed the comments of the fellow Council members and also congratulated Sergeant Fountas. He advised that spring sports are ongoing. The fields are very busy with children and volunteers enjoying the recreation program. He reminded everyone to drive slowly around the parks.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright echoed the statements of the Mayor and Council. She also congratulated Sergeant Fountas.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and congratulated Sergeant Fountas.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes echoed everyone’s sentiments and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She congratulated Sergeant Fountas and wished Mr. Youngblood a Happy Birthday.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone congratulated Sergeant Fountas. He appreciates the efforts of those who participated in the PBA negotiations acknowledging that negotiations are difficult. Council is the steward of the dollar as former Councilman Marino used to say. He also wished Mr. Youngblood a Happy Birthday and congratulated the Mainland Girls Basketball Team on placing second in the State. Tremendous job.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Michael motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to adjourn at 6:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk