

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
March 23, 2016

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: None

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Gary Auer, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; Lieutenant Jason Weber, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2016 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor, with one abstention from Councilman Beinfest. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor reported that the Board of School Estimates approved the budget last night as it was proposed with a zero tax increase.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the submission of the annual Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant application.

5. Councilman Heun

A. Councilman Heun is a member of the Board of School Estimates and noted that he is proud of the budget approved last night.

6. Councilman Paolone

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Paolone met with the Finance Committee to discuss the budget. Last year the local tax rate was an increase of 2.6 cents. Mr. Strazzeri prepared two budget scenarios, one at a zero increase and one with a 1.4 cent increase. Councilman Paolone discussed the different cuts that were included in each scenario. Council President Tighe discussed the FUND balance currently and years prior and the importance of maintaining. Councilman Matik indicated that the City cannot ask the schools to go to zero and the City not do the same thing. Councilman Heun agreed with Councilman Matik. Councilman Paolone advised that he met with the Auditor who advised that if the City is at zero this year, there will be a minimum 3 cent increase next year and a possible 3.3 cent increase with a 1.4 cent increase. Council President Tighe discussed the need for more revenue. Councilman Paolone discussed the large number of tax appeals and the negative effects on the tax rate. He also discussed the large number of vacant and foreclosed homes. Council reviewed the number of shared services that the City participates in to help save money. Councilman Paolone reviewed the increase in taxes last year totaling a 14.6 cent increase. He believes that if north jersey gets casinos, things will not get better for Atlantic County. Councilman Gordon discussed the need to raise additional funds and to manage the budget closely as they have been. Discussion ensued on the budget and future projections. Councilman Matik discussed selling the liquor license with the option for a Broad C component to sell packaged goods, which would require a referendum question on an

Election ballot. This matter will be discussed further. Councilman Paolone advised that the budget will be introduced at the April 13, 2016 Council meeting and asked Council to let him know how they want to proceed.

7. Council President Tighe

A. Administration

1. Council President Tighe advised that Ken Steinberg was supposed to attend the meeting tonight to discuss the liquor license.
2. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda to authorize Raffle Licenses to the Alcove Center & Jewish Family Services.
3. The Resolution for a Bingo License to the Linwood Nursey School has been pulled because the school did not meet the qualifications for a bingo license.
4. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda honoring the Mainland Boys Swim Team

B. Planning & Development

1. Council President Tighe advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending the Redevelopment Plan for the Prudential Site.

At 6:39 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk