

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
March 24, 2010**

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Tim Tighe led the flag salute.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Donna Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:46 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 Matt Levinson; Councilman Alex Marino; Councilman Ralph Paolone; Councilman Tim Tighe; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: None.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Tighe, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2010 regular meeting without formal reading. Five members of Council were in favor with two abstentions from Councilmen Beinfest and Marino. Motion was approved.

**PRESENTATION:**

**66-2010** A Resolution honoring the U-14 Mainland United Knights Soccer Team

The Clerk read Resolution No. 66 of 2010 by title only. Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilman Tighe to approve Resolution No. 66. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. Councilwoman DeDomenicis read and presented the Resolution to the team and its coaches. The Mayor and Council congratulated the team and thanked the coaches and parents.

**67-2010** A Resolution honoring the Linwood Girls Varsity Travel Basketball Team

The Clerk read Resolution No. 67 of 2010 by title only. Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilman Tighe to approve Resolution No. 67. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. Councilman Tighe read and presented the Resolution to the team and its coaches. The Mayor and Council congratulated the team and thanked the coaches and parents.

**ORDINANCES**

**8 OF 2010** A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO TWO MILLION TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,010,000), AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CLEAN WATER PROJECT WITHIN THE CITY OF LINWOOD, ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 8 of 2010 by title only. Councilman Marino motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve Ordinance No. 8 for final reading. Council President Taylor opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 8. 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 seven in the affirmative. 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.

- 59-2010** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to share costs with the New Jersey Department of Transportation associated with a traffic control device at the intersection of Route US 9 and West Avenue in the City of Linwood (PULLED)
- 60-2010** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Craig Testing Laboratories, Inc. for Bituminous Concrete Coring and Testing Services with regard to the State Aid Improvements to Maple Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 61-2010** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to NW Financial Group, LLC for Financial Services
- 62-2010** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to advertise for bids for the Wabash Avenue ADA Curb Ramp Improvements, Phase 3 in the City of Linwood
- 63-2010** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to release unused Planning Board Application Escrow Fees with regard to a Minor Subdivision for Block 62, Lot 3 (24 E. Cambridge Avenue) and an Amended Site Plan for Block 1, Lot 49 (Liberty Dialysis) in the City of Linwood
- 64-2010** A Resolution awarding the Contract to Action Landscaping for Lawn Treatment Services of City owned Properties for the City of Linwood
- 65-2010** A Resolution authorizing a Bicycle Auction and an Auction of certain municipally owned property on Saturday, May 1, 2010
- 68-2010** A Resolution scheduling a Caucus Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Linwood

Council President Taylor announced the Resolution No. 59, 2010 was pulled from the agenda during the Caucus meeting. Council President Taylor asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilman Beinfest, to approve Resolutions No. 60-65, 68 of 2010. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,601,198.55**

Councilman Marino motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, 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 Taylor opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

Marc Ginsberg 96 Myrtle Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Ginsberg indicated that he is a volunteer for the City of Linwood and Atlantic County. He understands that governments are going through tough times. He hopes that Public Safety does not take the brunt of money short falls and hopes that the rumors he has heard are not true. He heard that City cell phones are being removed from Public Safety employees and that a Special Class II Officer will not be hired. Mr. Ginsberg feels that the shared dispatch services with Somers Point stinks and that the communication was not good during the storms. He respectfully asked the members of the Governing Body that if they say they are working for the community than they should work for free. They are all professionals. He asked them to set an example and show the community that they care about serving Linwood. Mr. Ginsberg discussed the letters that Councilman Paolone sent to thank the volunteers and indicated that he should have invited them to a Council meeting and honored them by Resolution in front of Channel 2 as they did for the sports teams.

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**

Mayor DePamphilis – The Mayor addressed Mr. Ginsberg indicating that the small salaries that Council earns to offset the hours spent on City business are not enough to offset their time.

Councilman Tighe – Councilman Tighe indicated that the salary Council earns does not make up for the time they spend on City business nor the time it takes away from their families. He also felt that it was uncommon that someone who volunteers is looking for so much recognition. Mr. Ginsberg has not lived in town long enough to understand the volunteers in Linwood. Councilman Tighe also advised Mr. Ginsberg that it was the Chief of Police who decided to hand in the cell phones to help reduce the budget. Councilman Tighe congratulated the Chief on being proactive.

Councilman Beinfest – Councilman Beinfest announced that the annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for this Saturday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m. and the annual Historical Society Meeting is Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis agreed with Mr. Ginsberg that the members of Council are professionals. However, many of them are self employed. The time they spend on City business is time away from their own business. Councilwoman DeDomenicis reminded everyone about the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday. She also advised that the Public Works Department is working on the grounds throughout town and asked everyone to pay attention to the locations with newly planted grass seed and flowers.

Councilman Marino – Councilman Marino was happy to honor the teams and is proud of their accomplishments. Council recognized the kids on their achievements and the coaches as volunteers, without any letters or compensation. The true definition of a volunteer is one who serves without recognition or compensation. Councilman Marino advised that the City has a line item in the budget of \$18,500 for the Volunteer Fire Company, which the Company uses to provide stipends to its members. Council has been reducing all operating expenses and all line items are on the table. Councilman Marino advised Mr. Ginsberg that volunteers serve without recognition or compensation and if he does not like that, he can leave. Councilman Marino addressed the subject of City cell phones advising that the Police voluntarily gave them up. It was also the decision of the Chief of Police not to hire a Special Class II Officer. Council's responsibility is to provide financial balance. They have been very active in sharing services to reduce costs and will look to do more.

Councilman Paolone – Councilman Paolone advised that he read the letter of recognition of the volunteer firefighters into the record at the last Council meeting, which was recorded by Channel 2. In the past, Council has honored the volunteers at Council meetings. Mr. Ginsberg has not lived in town long enough. Councilman Paolone addressed the discontinuance of City cell phones advising that Council is trying to save jobs. People worked for years without them in the past. This past month, the City's cell phone bill was \$1,265. The City will now go down to two cell phones only, one in the fire truck and one for the Superintendent of Public Works.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson advised that the Linwood Roadway Project is underway and the paving will begin soon.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Marino motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk