

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 25, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:12 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and reiterated his statement from Caucus Meeting that in light of the Governor's issuance of Executive Order 107, tonight's City Council meeting is being live streamed through Zoom. A notice appeared in the Press of Atlantic City on March 23, 2020 advising the public that tonight's meeting would be live streamed and referred the public to the City's web site that includes information on how to attend the meeting on Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes (via live stream); Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis (via live stream); Councilman Eric Ford (via live stream); Councilman Todd Gordon (via live stream); Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Matt Levinson (via live stream); and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor (via live stream); Vince Polistina, City Engineer (via live stream); and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

95-2020 A Resolution honoring Douglas F. Carman

The Clerk read Resolution No. 95 of 2020 by title only. Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve Resolution No. 95. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved. Councilman Heun announced that this Resolution will be presented to Chief Carman at a later date.

90-2020 A Resolution approving the Temporary Budget for 2020

The Clerk read Resolution No. 90 of 2020 by title only. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve Resolution No. 90. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion approved.

ORDINANCES

4 OF 2020 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF LINWOOD TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, INC. AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 4 of 2020 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson to approve Ordinance No. 4 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 4. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone 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.

91-2020 A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Shantal Swaby as an Administrative Assistant in the Municipal Court Office for the City of Linwood

92-2020 A Resolution changing the Caucus and Council Meeting Date of April 8, 2020 to April 7, 2020

93-2020 A Resolution confirming the promotion of John Hamilton to the position of Chief in the Linwood Police Department

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 94-2020** A Resolution confirming the promotion of Jason Weber to the position of Captain in the Linwood Police Department
- 96-2020** A Resolution extending the March 31 deadline for Parking Permit fees for Seaview and Hamilton Avenues in the City of Linwood
- 97-2020** A Resolution approving flood insurance promotion activity with the Atlantic-Cape Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information
- 98-2020** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Triad Associates for Accessory Apartment Implementation Services for the City of Linwood
- 99-2020** A Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act

Council President Paolone advised that Resolution No. 100 of 2020 was added in the Caucus Meeting awarding a Contract to Arawak Paving for the Brighton Drive Resurfacing Project. Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolutions No. 91-94, 96-100 of 2020. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,825,917.40

Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, 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 Paolone opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

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

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor provided an update on COVID-19. As of today, there are nine cases in Atlantic County. There is one resident of Linwood that tested positive but was out of the City when tested and was treated out of the City. More tests are available now, which is resulting in more people testing positive. The State has suspended gas and water shut offs and is preventing evictions during this time. The Atlantic County Utilities Authority is operating as usual. The Linwood Public Works Department is also performing their jobs, but no contact with the public. City Hall is closed to the public but employees are working. The public is able to make an appointment if needed. The State extended the introduction and adoption periods for municipal budgets. The State has created a web site for questions and answers regarding the outbreak, COVID19.nj.gov. The Mayor thanked Chief Carman for his many years of service noting that it has been a pleasure to work with him. He wishes him the best. The Mayor looks forward to working with the new Chief and Captain.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis hopes everyone abides by the rules regarding COVID-19 and stays safe.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford echoed the comments of the Mayor regarding Chief Carman and he looks forward to working with John and Jason. He hopes everyone stays safe and follows the rules.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson also echoed the comments of the Mayor regarding Chief Carman and congratulated him on his retirement and congratulated John Hamilton and Jason Weber on their promotions. He looks forward to working with both of them. He hopes everyone stays safe.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked the City employees for keeping the City running every day. She also thanked all the County workers for their efforts. She noted there is a drop box in the vestibule at City Hall for food donations.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon echoed the comments regarding Chief Carman and his retirement. Councilman Gordon congratulated John and Jason and wished them luck. He thanked the Mayor as the Emergency Management Coordinator for his leadership during the COVID-19 outbreak and extended compliments to the City employees for keeping things running.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun thanked the employees for keeping things running. He thanked Mrs. Napoli and the Mayor for putting together the Zoom meeting. He thanked and congratulated Chief Carman on his retirement and wished John and Jason the best of luck in their new positions.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone congratulated the soon to be retired Chief. These are difficult and tumultuous times. Better to live in peace and tranquility. Amazing to see how the City, County, State and Nation are addressing this pandemic. He is hoping for a cure.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk