

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
March 27, 2019

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:08 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; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Doug Carman, Police Department; Captain John Hamilton, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2019 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes advised of a Resolution on the agenda in support of a Grant application to the New Jersey Historic Preservation for a roof restoration for the Leedsville Schoolhouse.
2. Councilwoman Byrnes announced that the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 20 from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm.
3. Councilwoman Byrnes discussed a property inspection that was completed by Jim Galantino, the Construction Official, around the outside of the Library. A list of items that needs to be addressed was recorded.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that the Public Works Department recently pruned the grape vines at the Krumm Vineyard and replaced posts and fencing that were damaged.
2. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed a request she received regarding the installation of a blue bird nest box at the Krumm Vineyard. There would be no cost to the City.

5. Councilman Ford

A. Planning & Development

1. Council President Paolone advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending the Redevelopment Plan for the Bloom Site.
2. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the refund of unused escrow funds for a POD/Dumpster.

6. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the City to participate in the Atlantic County Community Development Block Grant Program.

7. Councilman Heun

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Heun reported on Linwood's new Hummer parked outside for the Police Department. There was no cost to the tax payers for the vehicle.

8. Councilman Matik
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Matik advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading to exceed the CAP.
 2. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda certifying compliance with the US EEOC's Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A group affidavit has to be signed by the governing body regarding same.
 - B. Emergency Management
 1. Councilman Matik pulled an Ordinance on the agenda to amend Chapter 263 Vehicles and Traffic to prohibit parking on the east side of Wabash Avenue from Oak to Patcong Avenues. He discussed the parking issue during school pick up and how students cross from Belhaven to the cars through traffic. He believes there is a safety issue and something should be done. Council discussed the matter and decided to temporarily prohibit parking there and see what the impact would be before confirming a final solution.

9. Council President Paolone
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Paolone discussed an issue that arose concerning an illegal accessory apartment and the enforcement of same. He explained that Code Enforcement falls under the Police Department and they are doing rental inspections. Mr. Youngblood reported that as part of a COAH settlement, the City adopted an accessory apartment ordinance. The City is obligated to have six accessory apartments. They contracted with Triad Associates to market the program. Under the program, an illegal apartment would be legalized if it meets the criteria and the owner agrees to deed restrict the property. If there is an existing tenant and the property qualifies, that tenant can continue to reside there. If they vacate, the property then goes to a qualified low income renter. The property would be subject to Code Enforcement and inspected for safety. Mr. Youngblood explained that this is a benefit to the City because there is no cost to the City for the apartment. Councilman Paolone and Mr. Youngblood also explained how the accessory apartment ordinance amends all zoning ordinances and would make the apartment legal anywhere. If the owner agrees to the program, then it becomes legal. If they don't, it remains illegal. Meetings have been held with the Police Department regarding this issue and they are looking for these types of units. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed that only six units are required and no more than six would be approved.

At 6:38 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk