

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
March 27, 2024

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Ken Kelly; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: None

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Chief Steve Cunningham, Police Department; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Carol Russ, City Auditor's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Walcoff, motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman Albright

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilwoman Albright discussed an Ordinance for final reading amending Chapter 263 of the City Code to prohibit parking on a portion of Maple Avenue and sections of Wabash Avenue, and designate a stop intersection at Franklin and Glenside Avenues.
2. Councilwoman Albright advised of a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Contract to Capela Construction for the Mainland Pond Improvements Project. The pond contains an existing silt trap that is no longer needed due to the new drainage improvements the City completed in 2020.

4. Councilman Kelly

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilman Kelly reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for this coming Saturday.

5. Councilman Levinson

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Levinson discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading appropriating unexpended proceeds of the sale of previously issued bonds and notes in 2020 that was designated for sewer improvements. The interest on this bond is very low. The recent bids for the fieldhouse building at Memorial Park came in at a cost greater than the amount bonded for recreation improvements. This Ordinance provides for the additional funds to complete the project.
2. Councilman Levinson advised of an Ordinance on the agenda to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and establish a CAP bank. This is done every year.
3. Councilman Levinson advised that the 2024 Budget is on the agenda for introduction and he will provide a presentation on the budget at the regular meeting in Council Chambers. The local purpose tax has a tax increase of 1.2 cents. He thanked Mr. Strazzeri, the Finance Committee and Carol Russ for their help in putting the budget together. It includes new projects such as road paving, lighting improvements, and sewer improvements. The Mayor discussed the increases in health benefits and its affect on the budget. Council President Ford also noted that with the increase in trash costs, sewer, and now EMS, the Finance Committee did a great job managing the increases.

6. Councilman Michael

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Michael discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the City of Linwood to advertise for proposals for Emergency Medical Services for the City of Linwood and the City of Northfield. The City received notification that Inspira that they will not renew it's agreement for services with the City after it expires on June 12, 2024. The City now has to advertise for proposals. Linwood Officials did meet with representatives from Egg Harbor Township regarding a Shared Service with the Township. However, the City must now wait to see what proposals are submitted.

At 6:16 P.M., Council President Ford called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk