

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
March 27, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:24 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Matt Levinson led the flag salute.

**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; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

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

**ORDINANCES**

**1 OF 2024** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 263 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE I GENERAL REGULATIONS, SECTION 263-4 PROHIBITED PARKING; STOPPING OR STANDING OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 1 of 2024 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 1. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**3 OF 2024** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING CERTAIN UNEXPENDED PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF PREVIOUSLY ISSUED BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST OF ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AND TAKING RELATED ACTIONS.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 3 of 2024 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Walcoff, to approve Ordinance No. 3 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 3. Kathleen Spaeth 108 Country Club Drive, Linwood - Mrs. Spaeth asked what improvements are included in this Ordinance. Council President Ford explained that these funds are previously issued bonds at a very low rate. They were intended for sewer improvements. The bids for the new fieldhouse project came in over the budgeted amount. This project includes a new building, sewer line improvements and other items needed for the project. This Ordinance allows the additional funds needed to be used for the fieldhouse project. Mrs. Spaeth asked if more money would be bonded for this project. Council President Ford advised that no additional money will be bonded for the fieldhouse project. Seeing and hearing no other members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**4 OF 2024** AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 4 of 2024 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Ordinance No. 4 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

## RESOLUTIONS

**68-2024** A Resolution introducing the 2024 Municipal Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 68 of 2024 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 68. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved. Councilman Levinson presented a Power Point Presentation on the budget. (Attached as Exhibit B)

## 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.

**66-2024** A Resolution authorizing the renewal of a Joint Purchasing System Identifier 178LJPS

**67-2024** A Resolution authorizing the city of Linwood to advertise for proposals for Emergency Medical Services for the City of Linwood and the City of Northfield

**69-2024** A Resolution to award a Contract to Capela Construction for the Mainland Pond Improvements -Contract No. 49

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. Resolution No. 67 of 2024 was removed. No other items were removed. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolutions No. 66 & 69 of 2024. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 67 of 2024 by title only. Councilman Michael motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 67. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilman Levinson. Motion was approved.

## APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$50,536.17

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative and two abstentions by Councilwoman Albright and Councilman Levinson. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

## MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council President Ford opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

Lisa Bonanno 921 Oak Grove Avenue, Linwood – Mrs. Bonanno asked what work was being done at the Mainland pond.

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

## FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. He discussed the cuts made at the State level to the Linwood School District and the Mainland School District. Eighty percent of Linwood's taxes are paid to the school districts. Those increases will impact the City's budget so the City minimizes their costs to cover for the school increases.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked the rest of the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. He wished everyone a happy holiday weekend.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael is on the Finance Committee and commended everyone on the committee for doing a fantastic job on the budget. The committee was able to keep rates low with the growing inflation and health insurance rates. He believes that is a reflection of what a good job everyone does in managing the budget. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday. This was his first time on the Finance Committee and he was very impressed at how hard everyone works and how they are able to keep rates low with inflation going up. He is proud to be a part of the process.

**FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)**

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis commended the Finance Committee on their work with the budget. She announced a Free Community Shed Day on April 28 at the Linwood Public Works Garage.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff echoed everyone’s comments on the budget and for being able to limit taxes with the school’s aid being cut.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright also echoed everyone’s comments on the budget committee and their hard work. She explained the City was mandated to install a sediment basin in the Mainland Pond in 1983. In 2020, the City constructed an infiltration basin and two stormwater sediment trap structures on Wabash Avenue adjacent to the pond; as a result of which, improvements have functioned as designed by removing the sediment and any debris by collecting it before stormwater is discharged into the pond. Therefore, the sediment basin installed in 1983 is no longer needed and is being removed.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford also agrees that the Finance Committee did a great job on the budget. He reminded everyone that spring sports have started and he asked that drivers watch for kids and slow down. He also noted that numerous meetings were held with residents adjacent to the Mainland Pond who have been requesting that the job be completed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 6:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk