

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
March 30, 2010**

Councilman Marino called the meeting to order at 5:12 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

1. Flag Salute: Councilman Elliot Beinfest led the flag salute.

2. 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: Bonnie Tiemann, CFO; Anthony Strazzeri, Accountant; Robert Swartz, Auditor; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

3. New Business: Proposed 2010 Municipal Budget Review

Councilman Marino conducted a Power Point presentation on the proposed 2010 Municipal Budget. (Attached as Exhibit A) Councilman Tighe discussed the use of Fund Balance over the years to keep the tax rate down. It is approximately \$270,000. He feels that is a disturbing trend. Council also thoroughly reviewed the City's debt service and Capital figures from 2006 through 2010. The reductions that were made in 2010 came from Department Heads themselves. At this point, nothing was removed by Council.

In reviewing the Police Department's budget, Councilman Marino explained that Ordinance No. 9 authorizes the purchase of two Ford Escapes and a video unit for the Department. The Ordinance has not yet been introduced, but the authorization is from the General Capital Improvement Fund. It is not new money. The Chief is proposing to put the Durango that the Detectives use in the Patrol fleet and the Detectives will then use one of the new Ford's and the Chief will use the other new Ford. Council discussed the number of vehicles and replacement policy of the fleet.

Councilman Paolone requested from Mr. Swartz to advise the City where they need to be in order to begin to reduce its debt service. Mr. Swartz indicated that his firm is just completing the audit report on the City and will provide that information in the management letter.

In reviewing the Public Works budget, Councilman Tighe asked if the vehicle purchases through Capital had to be new. Mr. Swartz advised that the City can purchase used vehicles as long as they have a useful life greater than five years.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the Library budget figures. Council President Taylor asked if the City could ask the Library for money. Mr. Swartz indicated that the City can do so for things such as maintenance. Councilmen Levinson and Tighe will discuss this matter with the Library.

Councilman Tighe discussed the thirty million dollar renovation project ongoing at Mainland Regional High School. He explained that the plans and fees for the project go to the State for review and permitting and not to the City. However, the City is required to do the building inspections. It could cost the City up to \$100,000 in compensation to the Inspectors. The State will not cover the City's costs. Councilman Tighe and the Mayor are meeting with the school again to discuss the issue. Councilman Marino suggested that the Mayor ask Somers Point and Northfield to help pay for the costs or to use their inspectors. Councilman Tighe also discussed a possibility of billing the High School for the overtime.

Councilman Marino discussed possible funding sources to help offset the budget. The Library could be one. However, the City could not count on it every year. He asked the Mayor and Council to think of ideas.

The Mayor and members of Council discussed the idea of furloughs and the fact that a City can furlough an entire department. Only, they cannot furlough an entire department that operates twenty four hours a day.

Councilman Marino explained that the proposed budget is under the two State Caps. The current increase is 4.9 cents. He asked the Mayor and Council to let him know in the next week where they want to be with the tax rate and their ideas for reducing the budget. As of now, the City could introduce the budget on April 28 with adoption on May 26. Councilman Levinson asked Councilman Marino to explain how careful the City should be in reducing their appropriations because it will make it more difficult next year with the Caps. Councilman Marino discussed how the City should remain as close as possible to the Cap because it will prevent the City from increasing appropriations next year. He also discussed Governor Christie's proposed 2.5% Cap for next year.

The Finance Committee will meet to discuss the proposed budget and Councilman Marino again asked the Mayor and members of Council to advise him of their plans for the budget.

4. Meeting Open To The Public

Council President Taylor 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 Taylor closed the floor.

5. Final Remarks By Mayor and Council - None

6. Adjournment

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk