

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 7, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. 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 April 18, 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); Anthony Strazzeri, CFO (via live stream); John Hamilton, Police Chief (via live stream); and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2020 Caucus and Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. 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.

101-2020 A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to participate in the Atlantic County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

102-2020 A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Anthony Disciascio as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III, for the City of Linwood

103-2020 A Resolution authorizing the appointment of Donald Auge as a Part Time Clerk Typist for the City of Linwood Police Department

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolutions No. 101-103 of 2020. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$313,948.61

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, 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 yesterday, New Jersey had 3,663 new positives and 86 new deaths. Atlantic County has 140 cases countywide. The CDC issued guidance regarding use of cloth face coverings to prevent asymptomatic people from spreading the virus to others; but social distancing is

still the best defense. 362,000 unemployment applications were submitted as of April 3. The Department of Labor is increasing capacity of phones and computers with the purchase of newer models and more staff. Unemployment benefits generally received within 2-3 weeks if there are no difficulties. The Federal government will be paying \$600 per week (UI) in addition to regular unemployment checks. There is also a 13-week extension of regular benefits. The Governor believes flexibility in federal funding such as CDBG will provide better use of funds. The CARES Act provides unemployment insurance, resources to small businesses, direct cash payments to residents (80% of New Jerseyans are eligible), should start week of April 13. There are funding opportunities for private and non-profits. There are discussions at the Federal level for the next stimulus package including expansion of enrollment period for residents. The good news is that while the number of cases continue to increase, as was expected with more testing, the growth rate has slowed from 24% on March 30 to 12.18% on April 6. Everyone must continue to adhere to social distancing for our best change to flatten the curve. There has been no guidance on property taxes that are due May 1 with regard to the grace period. The next City Planning Board meeting will be conducted via Zoom on April 20. On Thursday, a testing site at the Hamilton Mall will open. A prescription and appointment are required.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon asked the Mayor for a playground closure update. The Mayor reported that they tried to keep it open. The first guidance from the JIF was it could remain open with signs posted containing certain restrictions. However, the JIF now recommends that they close unless the City can have an employee there regulating the rules and have it constantly sanitized. The City does not have the manpower for that so they closed it.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked the City government and employees for doing their best during these times. She reminded everyone that there is a container in the vestibule at City Hall for food donations through the JFS.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson advised everyone to be safe, maintain social distance, and wash your hands.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised everyone to stay safe and thanked the Public Works Department for doing such a good job.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun also thanked the City employees. Although the State has not made a determination to extend the tax deadline, they did extend the deadline for tax appeals to May 1.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone announced that State and Federal income taxes have been extended till July 15. If anyone really needs help, he suggested the SBA web site for assistance. He advised everyone to be safe.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to adjourn at 6:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk