

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:13 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Adam Walcoff led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; 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; CJ Kaenzig, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, City Administrator/Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025 Regular without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

85-2025 A Resolution appointing Michael Salerno to fill the Vacancy on Linwood City Council created by the resignation of Stacy DeDomenicis

Council President Ford advised that Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis resigned on March 28, 2025. Pursuant to the Municipal Vacancy Law, the municipal committee of the party of which Mrs. DeDomenicis was elected as, which was the Republican party, was to present names to City Council to fill the vacancy. One name was submitted; Michael Salerno. The City Clerk read Resolution No. 85 of 2025 by title only. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 85. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative. Motion was approved. The Mayor administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Michael Salerno.

ORDINANCES

02-2025 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES, COMPENSATION AND SALARY RANGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HERewith.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 2 of 2025 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Ordinance No. 2 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 2. 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 six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilman Salerno. 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.

82-2025 A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 – Final with Capela Construction, Inc. with regard to the Memorial Park Drainage Extension Project

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 83-2025** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of taxes and refund of a tax overpayment for Block 121 Lot 8 located at 510 W. Barr Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 84-2025** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 2 – Final with Command Company, Inc. with regard to the Linwood Bike Path Extension Phase II Project
- 86-2025** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Think Pavers Hardscaping LLC for the Poplar Avenue Field Improvements Contract No. 55 – Re-Bid
- 87-2025** A Resolution awarding a Contract to EB Fence, LLC, NJ Contract #A88679, T0640, for fencing at the Poplar Avenue Recreation Complex

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Councilman Levinson asked to remove Resolution No. 87 of 2025. No other items were removed. Councilman Michael motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions No. 82-84, 86 of 2025. All members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilman Salerno. Motion was approved.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 87 of 2025 by title only. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 87. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative, Councilman Levinson in the negative and one abstention by Councilman Salerno. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,604,914.97

Councilman Kelly motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilman Salerno. 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.

Ann Lindquist 717 Cedar Place, Linwood – Ms. Lindquist thanked and commended the Linwood Fire Department on a call to her home for a carbon monoxide alarm. She has been asking the City to help protect her fence that borders the Poplar Avenue field. She asked what type of fence the City will be installing.

Jen Sims 719 Cedar Place, Linwood – Ms. Sims asked for more details on the fence the City will be installing along the Poplar Avenue field.

Gary Green 304 Monroe Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Green is not in favor of the City installing a skate park. He would like to see pickleball and hopes the City is being fiscally responsible with all the ongoing improvements. 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 congratulated Michael Salerno on his appointment to City Council. The Mayor appointed Mr. Salerno to the Planning/Zoning Board several years ago and has been working with him since. He will bring a nice skill set to Council. The Mayor advised that he joined City Council in 2012 and worked on the budget committee since and still now as Mayor. They are always very fiscally responsible. Taxes are up but the City is still spending less. The current improvements to the park do not impact this budget. The Recreation Master Plan was inclusive of all ideas with the hopes to bring new amenities to the City that will raise property values. The public will have a chance to speak when Council moves on the second phases of improvements. The Mayor explained that the reason Council wants to install a fence along the Poplar Avenue field is to protect the residents' property.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff welcomed Michael Salerno to City Council. He knows Mr. Salerno did a great job on the Planning Board. Councilman Walcoff echoes the Mayor's comments regarding the fiscal responsibility of City Council. Councilman Levinson does a great job as Chair of the Revenue & Finance Committee. The City is engaged in capital undertakings that are changing the face of the City. The next phase of improvements of the Recreation Master Plan will provide something for everyone. That is hard to while remaining fiscally responsible. He is excited about all the new park improvements. The turf field will alleviate many of the playing obstacles that have existed. The new fence to be installed along the Poplar Avenue field will be installed on City property and the neighboring property owners will be noticed.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael congratulated Michael Salerno on his appointment to Council. He echoes the comments of the Mayor and Councilman Walcoff and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson welcomed Michael Salerno to City Council. Councilman Levinson advised that he is against having a skatepark in Linwood. He hopes the public will have more to say on that. He echoed the Mayor's comments on being fiscally responsible. They work hard to reduce taxes in the best interest of all residents. Councilman Levinson is against installing a fence along the Poplar Avenue Field. He hopes it can work out for everyone.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He congratulated Michael Salerno on his appointment to City Council. He was happy to hear the nice comments regarding the Fire Department. He wished Councilwoman Albright a Happy Birthday. It is very exciting to see the progress going on in the City with the new turf field and fieldhouse building. They both look great.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright welcomed Michael Salerno. She has worked with him over the years on the Planning Board. He is very knowledgeable and professional. She echoes the comments of the Mayor and Council. The improvements to Poplar Avenue field have been planned but have always come down to costs. The fence was approved and being done due to the increased use of the field over the years. The City's property will be surveyed and marked out. The fence and added shrubbery will help protect the residents' property. Councilwoman Albright also commended the Fire & Police Departments.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford welcomed Michael Salerno to City Council. Councilman Salerno has done a great job on the Planning Board. He advised the residents with questions about the fence at Poplar Avenue that the City's property will be surveyed and the property corners will be staked. The fence will be constructed on City property only. Part of the reason this is being done was due to Ms. Lindquist's complaints of damage being done to her fence and the safety of her yard. Council President Ford also thanked Mr. Green for his comments.

Councilman Salerno – Councilman Salerno is grateful for the opportunity to serve on City Council. He thanked the Mayor, City Council, and Mrs. Napoli. He appreciates all the encouragement and looks forward to contributing to Linwood. He also thanked his wife, children, and parents.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to adjourn at 6:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
City Administrator
Municipal Clerk