

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
April 14, 2021

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. And read the following statement: In light of the Governor's issuance of Executive Order 107, tonight's City Council meeting is being live streamed through Zoom. Instructions on how to attend the meeting via Zoom are posted on the City's website.

FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Eric Ford led the flag salute.

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon (via live stream); Councilman Matt Levinson; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Councilman Todd Michael.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer (via live stream); Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO (via live stream); Deputy Chief Jason Weber, Police Department; Lieutenant Steve Cunningham, Police Department; Lieutenant Chet Brown, Police Department; Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk (via live stream); and Mary Cole, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilman Ford

A. Planning, Engineering & Development

1. Councilman Ford discussed an Ordinance on the agenda amending Chapter 155 Flood Damage Prevention in accordance with FEMA regulations. This Ordinance was introduced at the last meeting but is being reintroduced due to recent changes from FEMA.
2. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Contract to Atlantic Coast Alarm to replace the fire alarm at the Library.
3. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing temporary signage for the Farmers Market.
4. Councilman Ford discussed an Ordinance on the agenda amending Chapter 41 Land Use Procedures, Specific Design Standards for fences. The amendment cleans up the language to make it less vague.

4. Councilman Gordon

A. Planning, Engineering & Development

1. Councilman Gordon discussed Resolutions on the agenda awarding a Contracts to Landberg Construction for the FY 2020 Resurfacing of Wabash Avenue, Contract No. 27 and the FY 2020 Resurfacing of Wabash Avenue, Phase II, Contract No. 28. Both contracts include grants from the NJ Department of Transportation.
2. Councilman Gordon discussed a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Contract to Arawak Paving Co. for the Frances Avenue Resurfacing, Contract No. 30. This is part of the sewer improvement project that was completed last year.

5. Councilman Levinson
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Levinson advised that the CAP Ordinance is on the agenda for final reading.
 2. Councilman Levinson pulled the Bond Ordinance on the agenda to make some minor revisions and will look to introduce at the next meeting.
 3. Councilman Levinson discussed Resolutions authorizing refunds of overpayments of taxes due to 100% disable veteran status for 4 Falling Water Drive, 404 W. Joseph Avenue, and 311 Van Sant Avenue.
 4. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing an electronic tax sale.
 5. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the sale of surplus property on GovDeals. The auction will consist of one retired police vehicle and one fire truck.
 6. Councilman Levinson discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a subscription agreement with GovPilot for a cloud-based government management platform. Councilman Levinson advised that this program will automate the forms from the Clerk's Office, Construction Office, Code Enforcement, and others in a system that will allow one location for all employees to view. This will make it easier for the public to access and pay for things without having to come into City Hall and this will allow the departments a centralized location for viewing records. The Mayor advised that he has participated in the on-line demonstrations for the program and is very excited for the City to begin using the program as it will be beneficial to both the public and employees.
6. Council President Paolone
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the reappointment of Special Class II Officer Pierce Shaud.
 2. Council President Paolone discussed a Resolution authorizing the hiring of John B. Morris, 3rd to the position of Patrolman in the Linwood Police Department.
7. Council President Paolone
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Paolone advised of Resolutions on the agenda authorizing a Separation Agreement and a Settlement Agreement with John Hamilton. He indicated that if Council had any questions regarding the agreements that Council would have to go into closed session. No members had any questions.
 2. Council President Paolone discussed the proposal of a County wide Court System. There have been numerous discussions and the projections proposed include savings for most of the municipalities. If it happens, it may not happen until 2022. There have also been discussions with Hamilton Township, which would be a cost savings as well. If the City considers moving to Hamilton Township, they would ask for a ninety day opt out to later move to the County. He will keep everyone updated on the matter. The Mayor also noted that Linwood's current staff will be allowed to apply for positions with both courts.

At 6:15 P.M., Council President Paolone adjourned the Caucus meeting and began the Regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk