

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
April 24, 2019

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Gary Auer, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Doug Carman, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Matik, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2019 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone advised that City Council received a recommendation from the Board of Recreation for a skate park at the South Jersey Industries property. Three properties were explored by a Recreation Board sub-committee and the South Jersey Industries property was recommended. Council President Paolone is not in favor of a skate park at that location. He suggested having the Neighborhood Services committee, along with the City Engineer, look into other locations in the City. He believes the Poplar Avenue Park would be a good location as it is across the street from the Police Department. He asked if everyone was agreeable to explore other locations and all members of Council were in favor. Councilman Gordon indicated that this is just the exploratory stage and the onus is on City Council if and where a skate park would be located.
2. Council President Paolone discussed an Ordinance on the agenda to amend Chapter 83 for Alcoholic Beverages to include the issuance of Club Licenses. The Linwood Country Club's current State permit will expire at the end of June and this would allow them to apply for a Club License with the City. Mr. Youngblood discussed the potential conflicts of interest with Council members being members of the Country Club. Several are members or their spouses are, and two are not members. No one has any financial interest in the Club. The Club is a significant business and tax ratable in the City. Allowing the Club License would be in the City's best interest. Council President Paolone explained that the vote on the Ordinance is not issuing anything at this time, it is only amending the City's Code.
3. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Raffle License to Jewish Family Services.

4. Mayor's Report

- A. The Mayor reported that he is in agreement with Council President Paolone regarding the skate park. The South Jersey Industries property is not an option.

5. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes supports Council President Paolone's decision and agrees to move forward with other locations.
2. Councilwoman Byrnes reported on the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the success of the event.
3. Councilwoman Byrnes reported that the Library is hosting Books and Blue meetings and the kids are loving it. It is a great way to connect the children of the community to the police.

6. Councilwoman DeDomenicis
 - A. Public Works
 1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Contract to SealMaster for the rental of a crack sealing machine for the maintenance of City streets.
7. Councilman Ford
 - A. Planning & Development
 1. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a temporary banner at All Wars Memorial Park and the Bike Path for the Shirley Mae Run & Michael J. Walk Race.
8. Councilman Gordon
 - A. Engineering
 1. Councilman Gordon discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the City to share costs with the NJDOT for pedestrian warning beacons at Monroe Avenue & Route 9. This continues a story of the City's request for pedestrian improvements at that intersection. Representatives from the DOT met with City Officials at the intersection and have developed a plan for improvement.
9. Councilman Heun
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Heun agrees with the skate park decision and would like to explore other areas. The group at the South Jersey Industries Park are doing good things at the park.
 2. Councilman Heun will present an Ordinance at the next meeting to provide for special tow rates for larger vehicles. The current rates do not cover the costs of the towing.
 3. Councilman Heun is the Planning Board representative and discussed proposed zoning changes that were recommended as a result of the Master Plan review. He asked Council to review them to determine what if anything will be adopted.
10. Councilman Matik
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Matik advised that the Bond Ordinance is on the agenda for final reading.
 2. Councilman Matik discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing an insertion of item revenue for the NJDOT Grant for roadwork.
 3. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a refund of an overpayment of taxes for 940 Oak Grove Avenue.
 4. Councilman Matik discussed a proposal to install solar on all City buildings and distributed worksheets on the anticipated cost savings. He would like to have the Engineer look into it further and see if the buildings can handle it.
11. Mr. Youngblood
 - A. Mr. Youngblood advised of a Resolution authorizing additional funds for Judge Richard J. Williams (Ret.) who served as a Hearing Officer for an Internal Affairs matter.

At 6:20 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk