

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 24, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:29 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis led the flag salute.

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; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

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

ORDINANCES

9 OF 2019 A BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$180,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$171,000) IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD FOR GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY OF LINWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 9 of 2019 by title only. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford to approve Ordinance No. 9 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 9. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

10 OF 2019 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 83 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ARTICLE I LICENSING OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 10 of 2019 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon to approve Ordinance No. 10 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. 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.

- 87-2019** A Resolution requesting approval of items of Revenue & Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87
- 88-2019** A Resolution authorizing the refund of a tax overpayment of the 2019 2nd quarter tax payment made for Block 103 Lot 2 located at 940 Oak Grove Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 89-2019** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to share costs with the New Jersey Department of Transportation associated with a traffic control device at the intersection of Route US 9 and Monroe Avenue in the City of Linwood

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (Continued)

- 90-2019** A Resolution authorizing an Agreement with SealMaster for the rental of a crack sealing machine for the Public Works Department
- 91-2019** A Resolution authorizing additional funds for a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Judge Richard J. Williams (Ret.) as a Hearing Officer for the City of Linwood
- 92-2019** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2019-19, to Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties
- 93-2019** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Shirley Mae Run & Michael J. Walk Race

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Resolution No. 92 of 2019 was removed. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve Resolutions No. 87-91, 93 of 2019. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

The Clerk read Resolution No. 92 of 2019 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve Resolution No. 92. All members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilman Matik. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,589,824.00

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, 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.

John Miller, 311 Melody Lane, Linwood

Mr. Miller asked City Council to preserve the South Jersey Industries property and not to allow a skate park to be installed on the property. He discussed Linwood's school enrollment going down and read articles about the problems with skate parks. He does not think a skate park is a good idea for Linwood.

George Butrus, 210 Central Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Butrus is the Curator of the Arboretum. He thanked City Council for their continued support as well as the Public Works Department and Recreation Board for their help with events. He announced an upcoming Public Gardens event at the Arboretum on June 9. They are currently upgrading signage at the Arboretum and things are progressing. The Environmental Commission is meeting tonight to discuss the annual Patcong Creek Cleanup and will also be writing a letter in support of the Friends of Seaview Sanctuary Park, also known as the South Jersey Industries property, for no skate board park. Mr. Butrus also recommended that the City purchase property for sale across from the Seaview park to preserve as open space. The Friends are a grass roots group for passive recreation and Linwood is an ideal spot to promote ecotourism.

Barbara Potter, 2109 Wabash Avenue, Linwood

Mrs. Potter lives next to the South Jersey Industries property and was elected by several residents to read letters in opposition of a skate park at the property. Council President Paolone restated that City Council is also not in favor of a skate park at the property and provided Mrs. Potter with an option to present the letters rather than read them all. Mrs. Potter elected to read each one and also presented them to City Council.

Maureen Duffy, 104 Garfield Avenue, Linwood

Mrs. Duffy is one of the founding members of the Friends of Seaview Sanctuary Park. She is working on increasing the size of the group who are for the preservation and conservation of open space. They intend to plan nature and environmentally organized events at the South Jersey Industries property. She also plans to reach out to local businesses for their support. She is not in favor of a skate park in Linwood or using tax dollars for same, but thanked the skate board subcommittee for their efforts. She also thanked the Environmental Commission for their support.

Kevin Lajiness, 104 Garfield Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Lajiness thanked the Governing Body for giving thought to this issue. He also thanked them for allowing him to work at the South Jersey Industries park, which made it what it is today.

Kathy Miller, 311 Melody Lane, Linwood

Mrs. Miller thanked Council President Paolone, Councilmen Gordon and Heun for their continued support and listening.

Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor DePamphilis – The Mayor advised that the South Jersey Industries property was purchased for open space and the City intends to keep it that way. This is not the first time there has been discussion on a skate park and Council is listening to your concerns.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked the residents for speaking. City Council is doing research and looking at fact finding. City Council already said a skate park would not be installed at the South Jersey Industries property, but will explore other areas. She wished the Friends of the Seaview Sanctuary Park good luck. She discussed the blue bird nest boxes that are being installed at the Krumm Vineyard and how Council is aware of natural habitats.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes is Chair of Neighborhood Services. Her committee will be exploring other locations for a skate park. They will speak to all parties involved (for and against) as well as the Police for their input. She also commented on how beautiful the Arboretum looks with a plethora of flowers in bloom.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He is anxious to see the ideas that were brought forth and exploring other options.

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik thanked everyone for their ideas. City Council is responsive and will look into everything. He was shocked to hear some comments from a letter that Council is not sensitive to the environment. He just announced in Caucus that Council wants to look into installing solar on every building and discussed the numerous properties that have been purchased to preserve open space and to protect the natural environments and habitats.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford explained that Council has to do their job. Listen to what the residents want, research, and do what is in the best interest for Linwood. It is analysis process to be fully informed to make the correct decision.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon met a lot of people and heard many opinions new to him. Council intends to listen to everyone and make an informed decision. Tonight's decision was not to install a skate park at the South Jersey Industries property. He looks forward to working with the residents.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone kept an open mind regarding skate parks and visited the park in Ocean City and look into its history. He believes it can work in a suitable location. He disagrees with the negative skate park attitudes and vandals. It could be family oriented as he witnessed in Ocean City. Rather than having pre-conceived ideas, he recommended that people visit the park in Ocean City. He advised that Councilman Matik, Councilwoman Byrnes and himself met with representatives from the Linwood School Board on their budget. He has great concerns with their proposed tax increase of 6.6 cents. He is hoping that they revisit the budget. City Council has no power over the school budget anymore now that the board is elected. He encourages all residents to attend the budget hearing on May 1.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to adjourn at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk