

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
April 24, 2013

Council President Taylor 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.

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; Councilman Tim Tighe; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent of Public Works; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Beinfest, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2013 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. Teri Weeks, School Business Administrator; Lynn Gibson, School Board President; and Diana Rutala, School Board Member; presented the 2013-2014 Linwood School Budget. The budget includes a 2.41% increase of last year's budget and amounts to a \$.036 tax rate increase. (Attached as Exhibit A)

B. The Mayor advised that a Resolution is on the agenda confirming his reappointments of Joann Scannell and Dr. Shelly Meyers to the Linwood Board of Education.

C. The Mayor reported that he will be presenting a Proclamation to Gilda's Club on May 17 for their 10 year anniversary celebration.

4. Councilman Tighe

A. Planning & Development

1. Jim Rutala, Planning Board Chairman, discussed the proposed revisions to the City Code Chapter 155, Flood Hazard Areas. He explained that in January, the Governor passed an Executive Order for municipalities to adopt the new FEMA maps. In February, the Mayor received a letter from FEMA notifying the City of same. The maps will be changed again, but the City is advised to adopt now for the following reasons: in order to qualify for State or Federal money for storm related projects; flood insurance for homeowners; the Community Rating System for discounts on flood insurance; and because it's good planning. It has been over twenty years since the maps have changed. Discussion ensued on the V zone and how the legislature is working to make changes to those zones.

2. Councilman Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the advertisement for bids for a Temperature Control System for City Hall. Just about two years ago, a lightning strike damaged the existing system. The City was successful in obtaining insurance money to fund the new system.

5. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik discussed adopting an Ordinance to provide a method for the City to remove hazardous trees on private property and recouping the costs through the placement of a lien on said property. Councilmen Gordon, Tighe, and Paolone are in favor of the idea and would like the language of the Ordinance to be very specific to only pertain to trees that endanger the public right of way and for proper enforcement of same. They do not want it to include private property to private property.

2. Councilman Matik discussed the need for a sidewalk maintenance ordinance, noting that the City's infrastructure is crumbling. Some sidewalks in town look very bad, including most of Shore Road. Councilmen Tighe and Beinfest discussed how historically the City has not had an ordinance providing for sidewalk maintenance. Councilman Matik proposed a plan that would only require maintenance for commercial or rental properties. It would also address private residences when a property is sold. Councilman Beinfest does not have a problem with commercial properties, but feels it would be a burden on homeowners. Discussion ensued on sidewalk maintenance and the condition of same throughout the City. Council will revisit this matter at a later date.

6. Councilman Paolone
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda certifying review of the 2012 Audit report.
 2. An Ordinance is on the agenda amending City Code Chapter 221, Sewers to address some minor language corrections.

7. Council President Taylor
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Taylor advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Raffle License to Linwood Nursery School.

At 7:25 P.M., Council President Taylor called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk