

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 24, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Todd Michael led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; 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; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Leon Costello, City Auditor; Carol Russ, Auditor's Office; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Walcoff, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2024 Regular meeting without formal reading. Four members of Council were in favor with abstentions from Councilwoman DeDomenicis, Councilman Levinson, and Councilman Michael. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

79-2024 A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II, Justin Michael Barretta to the position of Patrolman in the Linwood Police Department

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 79 of 2024 by title only. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 79. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. The Mayor administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Barretta. The Mayor and each member of Council congratulated Patrolman Barretta.

80-2024 A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II, Alex James Gallagher to the position of Patrolman in the Linwood Police Department

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 80 of 2024 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 80. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. The Mayor administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Gallagher. The Mayor and each member of Council congratulated Patrolman Gallagher.

74-2024 A Resolution authorizing Local Review of the Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 74 of 2024 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Resolution No. 74. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

75-2024 A Resolution to read the 2024 Budget by title only

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 75 of 2024 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 75. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

BUDGET HEARING

Council President Ford opened the floor to the public for discussion on the 2024 Budget. Seeing and hearing no members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

76-2024 A Resolution adopting the 2024 Municipal Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 76 of 2024 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 76. 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.

- 72-2024** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 – Final with Arawak Paving Co., Inc. with regard to the 2023 Road Program
- 73-2024** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Triad Associates for Accessory Apartment Implementation Services for the City of Linwood
- 77-2024** A Resolution awarding the Contract to EZ Docks South, Inc. for the purchase of two EZ Dock sections and related material for the City of Linwood under the Sourcewell Cooperative #010521-LTS-2
- 78-2024** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to participate in the Atlantic County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
- 81-2024** A Resolution designating Contact Persons for the Employment Practices Liability Attorney Consultation Service with the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolutions No. 72-73, 77-78, 81 of 2024. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,761,709.32

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Walcoff, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative, and one abstention by Councilwoman Albright. 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. Seeing and hearing no 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 commended the efforts of the Finance Committee on the budget. The Mayor and Councilman Kelly will be attending the Linwood School Board meeting tonight to learn the tax impact of their budget. The County and City budgets are in good shape. Hope the school board's are as well. He congratulated the new Patrolmen.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael also commended the efforts on the budget and congratulated the new Patrolmen.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked the Auditors and Mr. Strazzeri for their work on the budget. A lot of municipalities are increasing taxes. Linwood is only increasing by 1.2 cents. We are still able to accomplish a lot of projects while being fiscally responsible. He congratulated the new Patrolmen.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly congratulated the new Patrolmen. He thanked Councilman Levinson for his leadership on the budget. He announced several upcoming events including the Memorial Day Parade, Library Book & Bake Sale, and the Historical Society event. He attended a recent Recreation Board meeting and invited the Board President, Marc Carpenter, to attend the Council meeting. Councilman Kelly thanked him for attending.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright commended the efforts of the budget committee and congratulated the new Patrolmen. She advised of additional signage around Linwood for stop signs, and parking. With the weather getting nicer, she reminded everyone to be cautious and mindful of kids and residents out and about.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff congratulated the budget committee on a job well done. He also advised drivers to watch for pedestrians and bicyclists now that the parks and bike path are very busy.

FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis commended the efforts of the Budget Committee and reminded everyone of the free shred event this Sunday at Public Works from 10am to 1pm.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford congratulated the new Patrolmen. He commended the efforts of the Budget Committee. 1.2 cents is not a big increase. Councilman Levinson and his team did a great job looking at everything, while allowing Councilwoman Albright to continue more projects. The City is doing a lot more with less. He encouraged everyone to go out on the weekend and witness the fields filled with kids and adults and reminded everyone to slow down on the roads.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 6:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk