

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 26, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Blair Albright led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; 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; Carol Russ, Auditor; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilman Levinson. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

7 OF 2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 221 SEWERS, ARTICLE II, SEWER USE AND RATES OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 7 of 2023 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Ordinance No. 7 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 7. Kathleen Spaeth 108 Country Club Drive, Linwood – Mrs. Spaeth asked why the sewer rates are increasing. Council President Ford advised the increase is due to an increase in the City's shared service agreement with the Egg Harbor Township Municipal Utilities Authority and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. Linwood still has one of the lowest rates in the County. Seeing and hearing no other members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

84-2023 A Resolution authorizing Local Review of the Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 84 of 2023 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Resolution No. 84. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

85-2023 A Resolution to read the 2023 Budget by title only

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 85 of 2023 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 85. 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 2023 Budget. Seeing and hearing no members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

88-2023 A Resolution adopting the 2023 Municipal Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 88 of 2023 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 88. 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.

- 82-2023** A Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2023
- 83-2023** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Shore Solutions Mechanical Contracting, LLC for HVAC repairs and service for the City of Linwood (*PULLED*)
- 86-2023** A Resolution authorizing a Use and Occupancy Agreement with Mainland Regional High School on behalf of MRHS Support our Troops Club
- 87-2023** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to participate in the Atlantic County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
- 89-2023** A Resolution certifying compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
- 90-2023** A Resolution of the City of Linwood approving the Second Joinder Agreement allowing the City of Egg Harbor to withdraw as a participant and including New Jersey American Water Company, Inc. as a new participant
- 91-2023** A Resolution authorizing the participation with Atlantic County in applying for a Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Grant for new above ground fuel storage tanks

Council President Ford advised that Resolution No. 83 of 2023 was pulled. He asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions No. 82, 86-87, 89-91 of 2023. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$3,559,929.48

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, 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.

Jack Verseput 306 Poplar Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Verseput thanked the Police Department for their efforts. He indicated that Poplar Avenue has become a truck route. He sees a lot of heavy trucks speeding down Poplar Avenue and hopes the issue can be addressed. He indicated that people are parking by his house to use the Poplar Avenue field and how unsafe it is with children crossing between cars. He would like the landscapers to stop blowing grass and leaves into the street. They are supposed to take it with them and Mr. Verseput hopes that law is enforced. He indicated that the Mainland students are speeding down his street. He also discussed the fire hydrant in front of his house. It is placed in the center of the sidewalk and is unsafe. He thanked Council for their efforts.

Terri Zentmeyer, 510 Van Sant Avenue, Linwood

Mrs. Zentmeyer submitted a petition to the Mayor and City Council for the creation of a skate park in Linwood. Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked everyone for attending and thanked Mr. Verseput for his comments.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes is glad Mr. Verseput is doing well. She thanked Mrs. Zentmeyer for the petition. May 24 is the Senior Citizen luncheon at the Linwood Fire House. The Historical Society will be joining the lunch in celebration of the Historical Society Building's anniversary.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked Mr. Verseput for his comments and Mrs. Zentmeyer for the petition. She thanked Councilman Levinson and his committee on their work on the budget.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked Chief Cunningham for their attention to the traffic issues. He also indicated how fantastic the Easter Egg Hunt was and thanked everyone involved in the event.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford thanked Mr. Verseput for his comments and advised that they would be discussed. He also commended Councilman Levinson and his committee for their work on the budget. They kept the same services and figured out how to do more with less. He also thanked Mrs. Zentmeyer for the petition.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to adjourn at 6:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk