

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES**  
**May 12, 2010**

Council President Donna 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 Ralph Paolone; Councilman Tim Tighe; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: Councilman Matt Levinson; and Councilman Alex Marino.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; Chief Jim Baker, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Tighe motioned, seconded by Councilman Paolone, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2010 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All present Council members were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilman Beinfest discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Grant Agreement with the NJ Historic Trust with regard to the Historical Society Building. The City was awarded \$18,000 from the NJ Historic Trust for the development of a Preservation Plan, which was already completed. This plan will help the City to qualify for capital improvement grants in the future.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that in addition to their ongoing responsibilities maintaining the City, the Public Works Department assisted with the Linwood Country Fair and the City Auction, which were both very successful. They will also be assisting with the Patcong Creek Clean Up on May 23.

5. Councilman Levinson

A. Engineering

1. Reporting for Councilman Levinson, Mr. Mazur discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Pedestrian Warning Flashing Beacon Agreement with the State for Route 9 and West Avenue.
2. The Hemlock Avenue Drainage project is currently out to bid.
3. Construction on Maple Avenue is due to begin on Monday.
4. Mr. Mazur advised that the Department of Transportation installed new speed limit signs on Route 9 changing the speed limit to 40 mph throughout Linwood with a 25 mph school speed limit by the high school while children are present. Mr. Mazur and the Police Department are asking the DOT for clarification on the "while children are present" language for enforcement. These changes were approved by the DOT after the Mayor's requested the speed limit reductions several years ago.

6. Councilman Marino

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Reporting for Councilman Marino, Council President Taylor discussed the Resolution on the agenda certifying review of the Audit Report.
2. A Resolution canceling non cashed checks to the Fund Balance is on the agenda.

3. Councilman Paolone motioned, seconded by Councilman Tighe, to remove the Bond Ordinance scheduled for introduction. All present members were in favor. Councilman Paolone advised that the final amounts for capital are not yet completed.
  4. The Mayor discussed the Resolution on the agenda authorizing a tax levy reduction for the Mainland Regional High School Board of Education. A majority of Linwood's governing body was present at the Board meeting Monday night. As soon as the meeting began, the Superintendent reported that approximately \$275,000 scheduled to be used for interest on bonds was now available to use for the budget. After discussions, \$85,000 was used to fund freshman sports and \$190,000 was used to lower the tax rate.
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7. Councilman Paolone
    - A. Public Safety
    - B. Linwood Arboretum at Belhaven
      1. Councilman Paolone discussed a problem with dogs at the Arboretum. Committee members are currently discussing how to handle the situation.
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8. Councilman Tighe
    - A. Planning & Development
      1. Councilman Tighe discussed a Resolution authorizing escrow refunds with regard to two street opening permits.

At 6:24 P.M., Council President Taylor called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk