

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 13, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Ralph Paolone 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 and reiterated his statement from Caucus Meeting that in light of the Governor's issuance of Executive Order 107, tonight's City Council meeting is being live streamed through Zoom. A notice appeared in the Press of Atlantic City on May 2, 2020 advising the public that tonight's meeting would be live streamed and referred the public to the City's web site that includes information on how to attend the meeting on Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes (via live stream); Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis (via live stream); Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon (via live stream); Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Matt Levinson (via live stream); and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor (via live stream); Vince Polistina, City Engineer (via live stream); and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2020 Regular meeting and the May 5, 2020 Special meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

5 OF 2020 AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 5 of 2020 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve Ordinance No. 5 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 5. 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.

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.

- 106-2020** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of property taxes for Block 82 Lots 7 & 8
- 108-2020** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Agreement with Elder Pest Control
- 109-2020** A Resolution awarding the Contract to EZ Docks South, Inc. for the purchase of five (5) 60" X 120" EZ Dock sections, one (1) 6' poly gangway, and related material for the City of Linwood under the Sourcewell Cooperative #030117-LTS
- 110-2020** A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Belford Rivera as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III, for the City of Linwood
- 111-2020** A Resolution permitting temporary congratulatory lawn signs during a Public Health Emergency

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve Resolution No. 106, 108-111 of 2020. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,582,968.61

Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, 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.

Matthew Bowen, Staff Attorney for SQF, LLC 16 Middle Street, Portland, ME 04101

Mr. Bowen is representing SQF, LLC, a telecommunications provider licensed by the state of New Jersey as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (“CLEC”). SQF improves infrastructure located in the right-of-way to facilitate wireless carriers’ deployment of next generation wireless communications and smart city solutions. Mr. Bowen has been negotiating an agreement with Mr. Youngblood requesting conditional authority to occupy the public right-of-way for the purpose of installing new infrastructure to support Small Wireless Facilities, to be approved by the municipality on a site-by-site basis. SQF is not asking for permission to construct any facilities without site-specific review and approval. Establishing this right to occupy the right-of-way is the first step towards working with carriers and with the City to collaboratively site the latest, state-of-the-art wireless infrastructure. Mr. Bowen explained the technology, installation, and how it all works. Council President Paolone advised Mr. Bowen that this matter should be discussed in an Engineering Committee meeting. Mr. Bowen will contact the committee. 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 Matik – The Mayor provided an update on positive COVID-19 cases noting that the State confirmed 57 cases in Linwood with 52 of those cases in a long term care facility. The Governor issued a new Executive Order and is now allowing non-essential construction to begin; non-essential retail stores to open with curbside pick up only; and vehicle parades are permitted as long as there are no social gatherings. He emphasized that gatherings are still to be less than 10 people. The Governor granted the municipalities the ability to govern their parks. The Mayor also discussed an incident today where the Police encountered a homeless person in Linwood. They were able to bring him to the Police Department. The JFS was called and they along with the Police Department were able to locate the individual’s family.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked the Mayor for his report and she is glad the Police were able to assist the individual.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that Public Works has been working hard on many projects in the City. She did give them a token of appreciation to thank them for their efforts.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon echoed the comments made by Councilwoman Byrnes and he thanked Public Works for all their hard work.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun did not hear about the individual today but he does work as a court appointed guardian for people with capacity issues. He thanked the Police Department for their efforts. Councilman Heun was able to see the 177th fighter group fly by and noted how great they looked. He also discussed the social gathering rule of no more than 10 people, noting that is a direct violation of the First Amendment.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford also commended the efforts of the Public Works Department. As the parent of a graduating eighth grader and high school senior there are lots of discussions regarding virtual graduations, etc. Teachers and administrators are meeting to find a way to showcase the graduates and celebrate their achievements. Nice weather is coming this weekend and the Governor is taking steps to open the state. Our economy is struggling, but Council and the County are trying to help.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone reads about the numbers of COVID-19 cases that the Mayor provides in the daily reports he shares. The numbers are dropping which is good. He is hoping to get back to some normalcy soon. Council is allowing the congratulatory signs for the graduates. He also participated in a recent car parade.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to adjourn at 6:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk