

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 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; 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 May 8, 2024 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. 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.

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| 88-2024 | A Resolution authorizing the refund of a Disabled Veteran Tax Payments for Block 82 Lot 3 located at 907 Bartlett Avenue in the City of Linwood |
| 89-2024 | A Resolution authorizing the refund of a Disabled Veteran Tax Payments for Block 58 Lot 8 located at 10 Somers Avenue in the City of Linwood |
| 90-2024 | A Resolution appointing Firefighter Frank Gabriel to the position of Acting Captain in the Linwood Fire Department |
| 91-2024 | A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 – Final with South State, Inc. with regard to the FY 2023 Resurfacing of Franklin Boulevard Phase II |
| 92-2024 | A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 with R. Maxwell Construction Co., Inc. with regard to the All Wars Memorial Park Field House |
| 94-2024 | A Resolution authorizing the application to the NJ Clean Energy Program Community Energy Planning Grant Program |

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolutions No. 88-92, 94 of 2024. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$644,733.29

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative, and one abstention by Councilman Levinson. 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.

Maureen Duffy 104 Garfield Avenue, Linwood – Mrs. Duffy is a member of the Friends of Seaview Sanctuary. They strive for the protection of open space and passive recreation. She would like to see improved recreation activities for senior citizens and individual activities rather than team sports. She asked that the City incorporate the planting of more native plants to help with stormwater runoff.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (continued)

Luke Osbeck, 303 Poplar Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Osbeck is seventeen years old and grew up in Linwood. He believes surfing and skateboarding is the coolest thing. He is in favor of the proposed skate park and volunteered to work there if it is built.

Arthur Chew, 130 Seaview Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Chew likes the plans. He suggested that the location of pickle ball and basketball be swapped. He would like to see a five year capital expenditure plan for the funding. He would like to see turf and he is in favor of the skatepark and it's proposed location.

John Miller, 3 Melody Lane, Linwood – Mr. Miller is against the skate park. He believes there are a lot of negative issues with having a skate park and believes that is why other municipalities have closed them. He credits the design of the proposed park and believes that is the best location for one. However, he is still against it.

George Bassett, 328 Poplar Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Bassett has been a resident of Linwood since 1975. He is not in favor of the proposed skate park and feels there are better uses for the funds that would be used for it. He believes it is a liability issue and will bring visitors from other areas that are not the best people. If they do build one, he thinks Memorial Park is a better location for it.

Theresa Pimpinelli, 1914 Wabash Avenue, Linwood – Mrs. Pimpinelli read a statement against the new owners of the properties behind her because they clear cut the lot, which she believes caused her property to flood. She would like them to be issued violation notices.

Teresa Zeitmeyer, 510 VanSant Avenue, Linwood – Ms. Zeitmeyer works at Mainland Regional High School. She sees a lot of students ride skateboards to and from school. She promotes outdoor activities and supports the proposed skate park that would provide a safe environment for the kids to ride.

Clay Pierce, 201 Davis Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Pierce could not stay for the entire meeting but left a letter for the City Clerk to read into the record. "Mr. Pierce is a resident and business owner in the City for twenty-three years. He is in full support of the recreation plan and the skate park in particular. He has been a skateboarder for forty years and goes to local parks regularly. They are a great place for kids and adults to enjoy alternative sports in a structured environment."

Seeing and hearing no other 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 thanked everyone for their comments. City Council is working on ways to better utilize all the parks in Linwood. He thanked Mrs. Pimpinelli for her speaking and advised that summonses were issued to the property owner behind her property.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked everyone for attending the meeting and providing feedback. Council will consider all their comments. She acknowledged and congratulated the Belhaven Band who just won several awards in their competition.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending and for their comments. Council will consider all of them. She reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Parade scheduled for Monday at 10:00am.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff thanked everyone for speaking as it is always good to hear different opinions. He acknowledged what a pleasure it is working with Councilwoman Albright and Council President on the recreation plan and noted there are still other parks in the City that have to be considered in an overall plan.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael also thanked everyone for attending and for their comments. He asked that everyone discuss these plans with their neighbors and bring more feedback to City Council.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked everyone for attending. He knows the plan took a lot of time and effort. He understands the residents concerns. He congratulated the Belhaven Band.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly wants to hear from the public on the proposed plan. He hopes to see everyone at the Memorial Day Parade. The Park Director, Colleen, and the Recreation Board have worked very hard putting it all together.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford advised Mrs. Pimpinelli that the City's engineer will look into her issues. The plan is in Council's court now. His committee was tasked with coming up with a plan and did. Now it is up to Council to execute on the plan. He congratulated the Mainland baseball team on their win against St. Augustine's.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 7:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk