

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 25, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:28 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Mayor Darren Matik.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the minutes of the May 11, Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilwoman DeDomenicis. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

9 OF 2022 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 140 FEES, ARTICLE I, PLANNING AND ZONING FEES, SECTION 140-1, FEE SCHEDULE 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. 9 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 9 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

10 OF 2022 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 BRUSH, GRASS AND WEEDS, ARTICLE II, HIGH GRASS AND WEEDS, SECTION 99-5, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE 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. 10 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Ordinance No. 10 for first reading. 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.

- 105-2022** A Resolution authorizing the refund of the 2022 tax payment for Block 118 Lot 6 located at 509 Wilson Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 106-2022** A Resolution authorizing the refund of the 2022 tax payment for Block 163 Lot 2 located at 210 W. Haines Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 107-2022** A Resolution approving the application of Linwood CC License LLC for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0114-33-002-003 for 2022-2023

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 108-2022** A Resolution authorizing an Alcoholic Beverage Permit for the Linwood Board of Recreation Memorial Day Celebration
- 109-2022** A Resolution awarding a Contract to UniFirst Corporation for Public Works Department uniforms
- 110-2022** A Resolution authorizing the refund of the 2021 tax payments for Block 163 Lot 2 located at 210 W. Haines Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 111-2022** A Resolution approving the application of Atlantic City Country Club 1 LLC for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0114-33-001-005 for 2022-2023

Council President Paolone advised that Resolution No. 111 of 2022 was pulled in the Caucus Meeting. Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolutions No. 105-110 of 2022. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 111 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 111. Councilman Ford understands that by law the license can be renewed. However, he wanted to voice his displeasure with the ACCC using the license as a pocket when it could be used to help development in the City. There are two vacant pad sites at Cornerstone and the vacant Bloom site. The license could help spark development in those areas. They are taking revenue from the City rather than helping to generate revenue. Councilman Levinson agreed with Councilman Ford. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,438,567.91

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, 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.

Sandy Hickerson 210 Upland Avenue, Absecon – Ms. Hickerson addressed City Council on behalf of the Atlantic County 2A Sanctuary asking Council to adopt their Resolution to support the Second Amendment rights. She expressed her sympathies for the victims and their families from the recent shooting in Texas.

Anthony Strazzeri, 13 Wexford Lane, Egg Harbor Township – Mr. Strazzeri commended Council for not passing the Resolution in support of the County 2A Sanctuary. New Jersey is one of the safest states regarding gun violence due to the laws that are in place.

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

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked Ms. Hickerson for her comments and agreed that the shooting in Texas is a terrible tragedy. She thanked Councilman Levinson, Councilwoman Byrnes and the Recreation Board for the upcoming events.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked Ms. Hickerson and Mr. Strazzeri for their comments. She reported how successful the Patcong Creek Cleanup was on Sunday. She thanked the Public Works Department for their help with the event.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright attended the Senior Citizen Band Concert and advised how well attended it was. It was a great event. She is looking forward to the Memorial Day Parade and extended her sympathies to those in Texas.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford echoed the comments of his Council members and wished everyone a safe weekend.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson commended the efforts of the Recreation Board members, Tim Donovan, Councilwoman Byrnes and all the members of Council for putting together the Memorial Day Celebration. It is a lot of hard work. He is looking forward to it.

Councilman Michael- Councilman Michael extended his thoughts and prayers to the families in Texas. He is also looking forward to the parade and thanked everyone involved for planning the event. Having grown up in Linwood, he is excited to participate in the event.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone acknowledged that the parade is always fun. He commended Councilwoman Byrnes and the Senior Advisory Committee on their efforts with the Senior Citizen Band Concert/breakfast. It was very well attended. Members of the Police Department were there helping to serve breakfast and meet the seniors. The shooting in Texas is very troubling. As are the other shootings. To do nothing at this point is unacceptable. It is beyond anything Council can do. He urges everyone to voice their opinion to their federal representative that something has to be done to stop these tragedies. He wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and reminded everyone that people gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to adjourn at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk