

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 25, 2016**

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Darren Matik led the flag salute.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:26 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Leon Costello, City Auditor; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2016 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTION

98-2016 A Resolution to fill the vacancy on Linwood City Council created by the resignation of Timothy W. Tighe

Council President Paolone explained that as a result of the resignation of Tim Tighe and in accordance with the Municipal Vacancy Law, three names were submitted by the Republican County Committee to fill the vacancy. The names were Eric Ford, Harrison Furman, and Dan Miller. Interviews were held and Eric Ford has been nominated for same. The Clerk read resolution No. 98, 2016 by title only. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilman Paolone to approve Resolution No. 98. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. Judge James Savio administered the Oath of Office to Eric Ford.

RESOLUTIONS

95-2016 A Resolution to read the 2016 Budget by title only

The Clerk read Resolution No. 95 of 2016 by title only. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve Resolution No. 95. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilman Ford. Motion was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2016 BUDGET

Council President Paolone presented a Power Point presentation on the budget. (Attached as Exhibit B) Council President Paolone opened the floor to the public for discussion on the 2016 Budget. Seeing and hearing no members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor.

96-2016 A Resolution adopting the 2016 Municipal Budget

The Clerk read Resolution No. 96 of 2016 by title only. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve Resolution No. 95. 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.

89-2016 A Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2016

- 90-2016** A Resolution authorizing settlement with the County of Camden of claims filed against the City of Linwood for police officer training related expenses
- 91-2016** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Professional Property Appraisers, Inc. for appraisal services in the City of Linwood
- 92-2016** A Resolution authorizing a refund of unused escrow funds posted as part of a Zoning Board of Adjustment Application
- 93-2016** A Resolution authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement and Contract on behalf of the City of Linwood with the Mainland PBA No. 77
- 94-2016** A Resolution authorizing the refund of an Engineering Escrow Fund posted as part of a Street Opening Application

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolutions No. 89-94 of 2016. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,080,293.35

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

Junetta Dix 213 E. Seaview Avenue, Linwood

Mrs. Dix does not feel the Blue Ribbon Panel on Recreation represented a cross section of residents of the City assuming that women with children were not on the panel. She does not think that Maria Moss was consulted and believes Mrs. Moss wants a community garden at the Library. Mrs. Dix suggested putting a skateboard park at the South Jersey Industries property. She would also like to see more passive recreation components in Linwood. She also asked if the Master Plan could be posted on the City's web site for comments. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised that Council was approached by a group of residents regarding the creation of a community garden at the Krumm Vineyard. Councilman Matik advised that Maria Moss and the Library Board were invited to the Recreation Board meetings to discuss these items, however, they did not attend.

Richard Gerhardt 3 Park Road, Linwood

Mr. Gerhardt indicated that he recently moved to Linwood and has two children. With the current economic times, he is concerned about Linwood and asked Council what their long term goals are to maintain and improve Linwood.

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 DePamphilis – The Mayor welcomed Mr. Ford to City Council and is looking forward to working with him. He thanked Council President Paolone and the finance committee for their efforts on the budget. A zero budget was supposed to be a starting point and worked out nicely. The Mayor announced the upcoming Memorial Day Parade on Monday.

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik welcomed Mr. Ford to Council. Regarding Mr. Gerhardt's comments, Councilman Matik advised that the Mayor and Council will do the best they can. They are looking at all opportunities to help save money and improve the quality of life. The closing of the casinos is affecting all Atlantic County communities. Councilman Matik advised that the recreation element of the Master Plan does include a passive recreation component. They are hoping to enhance the opportunities for all residents in the City. The community garden concept is resident driven. Councilman Matik hopes the State would change the school funding laws.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun welcomed Mr. Ford and he is looking forward to working with him. Councilman Heun advised that the Mayor and Council are working to make Linwood better. They continue to look for shared services to save money. There may soon be a liquor license available. He also announced the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon is looking forward to working with Mr. Ford on Council. The County is working very hard on economic development issues and the regionalization of same. Linwood is participating in all their efforts for the betterment of community. Councilman Gordon advised of a new construction project on Route 9 for the development of a retail/office building. That site will soon become a ratable and hopefully provide tax relief to the residents. Linwood has very successful developments in the City, recognizing Central Square and their continued success. He is hoping to attract more businesses.

Councilman Beinfest – Councilman Beinfest welcomed Mr. Ford. Councilman Beinfest has been the liaison to the Recreation Board for many years and worked with Mr. Ford on the board. Mr. Ford has always done a great job.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis welcomed Mr. Ford. She also announced the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford thanked everyone for their comments and support appointing him to City Council. He is hoping to live up to their expectations. The Memorial Day Parade starts at 10:00 am on Monday. Laurie Montgomery, the Park Director, does a great job with the event.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone welcomed Mr. Ford. He also talked about upgrading the City's web site to make it more user friendly. Addressing Mrs. Dix, he agrees that discussion is positive. The City was going to transform the old electric sub-station into fields at one point, then as a grand stand for concerts. However, after more discussion it became the Linwood Arboretum, which he believes is the gem of Atlantic County. There is no doubt that Linwood needs more fields as you can see the wear and tear on the fields at Memorial Park. A community garden is a great idea and he encourages discussion on those types of ideas and more. He wished everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend and keep in mind those that served our Country and lost their lives doing so.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to adjourn at 7:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk