

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 27, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:12 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Adam Walcoff led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilman Ken Kelly; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; Councilman Michael Salerno; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2026 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION

Due to inclement weather, the City's annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony had been canceled. Mayor Matik delivered the following remarks in observance of Memorial Day. We pause as a community to honor the brave men and women of our armed forces who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their sacrifice is the foundation of the freedoms we enjoy each day, and their memory calls us to live with gratitude, purpose, and respect. Memorial Day is more than a date on the calendar or the beginning of summer. It is a solemn reminder that liberty has never been free. It has been defended, generation after generation, by people willing to place the good of others above their own safety and comfort. In remembering them, we also renew our own commitment to the values they defended: duty, compassion, courage, and unity. Here in Linwood, we know the strength of a close-knit community. We see it in the neighbors who lend a hand, in the families who support one another, in the volunteers who give their time, and in the veterans and military families whose service continues long after the uniform is folded away. On a day like today, we are reminded that our community is strongest when we come together—not only in remembrance, but in shared purpose. Let us honor our fallen not only with words, but with actions. Let us look after one another. Let us support our veterans, military families, first responders, and all those who continue to serve the public good. Let us teach our children the meaning of sacrifice and the importance of citizenship. And let us choose unity over division, understanding over resentment, and service over indifference. As we remember those who never came home, may we also recommit ourselves to building a city worthy of their sacrifice. A Linwood that is compassionate, resilient, and united. May we carry forward their legacy by strengthening our bonds as neighbors and by ensuring that freedom is matched by responsibility, and remembrance by action. To the families of the fallen, we offer our deepest gratitude and our enduring respect. To all who have served, we thank you. And to the people of Linwood, thank you for continuing to show what community truly means. May we never forget those we honor today, and may we move forward together in unity, remembrance, and hope. God bless the City of Linwood, and God bless the United States of America.

Several students from Belhaven Middle School read poems in observance of Memorial Day and Junetta Dix read her nomination of Mitchell Gurwicz for Citizen of the Year.

ORDINANCES

7 OF 2026 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES, COMPENSATION AND SALARY RANGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

ORDINANCES (continued)

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 7 of 2026 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Ordinance No. 7 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 7. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

8 OF 2026 A BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$700,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$665,000) IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD FOR VARIOUS GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY OF LINWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 8 of 2026 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 8 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.

- 105-2026** A Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector of the City of Linwood to prepare and mail estimated tax bills in accordance with P.L. 1994, C.72
- 106-2026** A Resolution requesting approval of items of Revenue and Appropriation NJSA 40A:4-87 for a Clean Communities Grant
- 107-2026** A Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2026
- 108-2026** A Resolution approving the application of Linwood CC License LLC for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0114-33-002-003 for 2026-2027
- 109-2026** A Resolution utilizing Garage Technologies, Inc. for the sale of a 2005 American LaFrance Pumper truck of the Linwood Fire Department
- 110-2026** A Resolution approving an Amendment to Raffle License No. 2025-01-A for Our Lady of Sorrows Church
- 111-2026** A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Linwood endorsing an amended Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Resolutions No. 105-111 of 2026. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,157,048.60

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative, and two abstentions from Councilwoman Albright and 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.

Hannah Bishop, 124 Cheltenham Avenue, Linwood – Ms. Bishop is the Library Director for Linwood. She updated everyone on the ongoing programs at the Library. She thanked the Public Works Department for making their trucks available for display to a group of children and elevating the program by involving the fire and police vehicles. That made the program even more fun for the children. She also thanked the Mayor, Council, and Mrs. Napoli that the library finally has a working elevator once again.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (continued)

Mary & Jim Mason 31 W. Devonshire Avenue, Linwood – Mrs. Mason read and presented the Mayor and Council with a letter describing an accident with her vehicle and a child on an electric bike. (Attached as Exhibit B) Mrs. Mason is concerned about the safety of kids on electric bikes and hopes something can be done about the problem. Mr. Mason suggested some ideas for the bike path to help slow down the bikes as they approach intersections.

Andrew Lee, 122 E. Essex Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Lee is having major renovations done to his home, which include water mitigation. During today's rainstorm, his property flooded. He is asking the Mayor and Council to investigate the flooding situation.

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 advised that the State made some changes to the laws on electric bikes that go into effect July 15. He is hoping that the new laws will help address some of the issues. He believes education is a big part of the problem with electric bikes. The Mayor advised Mr. Lee that the City will look into the flooding situation at his property.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff advised that the City did look at the flooding in the area of Mr. Lee's property a while ago and ensured him they will look further into the situation. He is very happy to have a working elevator at the library and complimented the students from Belhaven on their poems.

Councilman Salerno – Councilman Salerno thanked the members of the public for their comments. He also commended the Mayor on his speech. Councilman Salerno will continue to mourn Mitchell Gurwicz. It will be a privilege to carry on Mitchell's legacy on the Planning Board to be warm, welcoming, and helpful to the applicants. He was grateful to have served on the Board with him.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright echoed the comments of the Mayor and Councilmembers. She was also proud to serve on the Planning Board with Mitchell. He served as Chairman of the Board very honorably and served the residents well. She congratulated the students on their poems. She agrees that electric bikes are a problem and hopes the new laws help address the issue. The Linwood Police continue to enforce the helmet laws. She advised Mr. Lee that they will continue to look at the issue on his property. The infrastructure in the City is old and Council is looking for solutions.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly is very happy to see such a big turnout for the meeting tonight. He thanked June Dix for speaking as well as the students for reading their poems. He thanked Ms. Bishop for her shout out to the Public Works Department and commended her hard work at the library. Councilman Kelly thanked the Masons for speaking and is sympathetic to the issue. He advised Mr. Lee that the City will look into the issue on his property.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked June Dix for nominating Mitchell and believes it is a great honor and recognition. He advised the Masons that the Police Department will continue to be diligent in enforcing the laws and hopes the new legislation helps. He agrees that replacing the elevator at the library was great for the community. He announced that the Mainland Regional High School boys lacrosse team won the CAL tournament against Ocean City. It was a great win.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael indicated that the highs and lows of tonight's meeting are what make Linwood great. We can overcome the issues. He is hoping the new laws on electric bikes will provide some teeth for our Police Department. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford thanked Mr. Mason for his suggestions. He also thanked June Dix for introducing the Citizen of the Year. Mitchell is a huge loss. He thanked Ms. Bishop for speaking and relaying her story of hometown charm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 7:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
City Administrator
Municipal Clerk