

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
June 9, 2021

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. And read the following statement: Tonight's City Council meeting is being live streamed through Zoom. Instructions on how to attend the meeting via Zoom are posted on the City's website.

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Jason Weber, Police Department; Lieutenant Steve Cunningham, Police Department; Lieutenant Chester Brown; Lieutenant Austin Martin; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2021 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor with one abstention from Councilman Levinson. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the hiring of Timothy S. Donovan as the Park Director.
2. Councilwoman Byrnes invited the Mayor, members of Council, and Mr. Youngblood to the Young at Heart Luncheon for senior citizens on June 14. She advised them that the cost is \$32 each and asked them to let her know.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised that the new date for the free community shred event is June 25. The last one was canceled due to machine malfunction.

5. Councilman Gordon

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilman Gordon discussed Resolutions authorizing grant applications to the NJ DOT for the 2022 Linwood Bike Path extension and the 2022 Road Program. Council President Paolone asked about the possibility of widening Linwood's bike path similar to Somers Point. Councilmen Gordon and Ford advised that after inspection of the current bike path, it would require the relocation of numerous street lights and trees. Could be very costly. Councilman Gordon advised that his committee is looking into other upgrades for the bike path.

6. Councilman Levinson

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda to amend the 2021 Budget due to the American Rescue Grant funds received from the Federal government for COVID relief.
2. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda to adopt the 2021 Budget.
3. Councilman Levinson discussed a Bond Ordinance on the agenda for first reading for public works equipment and recreation improvements.

- A. Revenue & Finance (continued)
 4. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the Tax Collector to process third quarter estimated tax bills.
 5. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda establishing salaries for non-contractual employees.

7. Councilman Michael
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing payment to the Linwood Volunteer Fire Company for the sale of a fire truck.
 2. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing fireworks display on private property pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3.
 3. Councilman Michael discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for first reading amending Chapter 183 Nuisances. The Mayor recused himself and left the room. Councilman Michael thanked everyone for their hard work on this topic. There has been lots of discussion. The committee looked at the City's existing Nuisance Ordinance and is proposing time deadlines for outside music. Rather than adopting decibel levels, enforcement will be the judgement of the police officers. Council President Paolone discussed the proposed changes and the new violation schedule. It includes a graduated penalty phase. He indicated that someone complained that Governing Body members were taking pictures of their home. However, they had downloaded the decibel app on their phone and were taking readings of the live music. They did nothing wrong. They were only doing their due diligence. He would like to have second reading on the Ordinance at the June 23 meeting, which is an "if needed meeting." Councilman Gordon indicated that this is not perfect and things need to be reviewed. It may still need some work as he believes significantly audible may be a problem. However, he noted that it is the best alternative to a decibel level. Councilwoman Byrnes indicated that all they are asking for is that the Country Club turns down the music. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised that a lot of work went into the proposal, but understands it could need changes. Councilman Levinson indicated that Council cannot have residents hear music in their homes with the windows closed. The Ordinance can always be changed. Council President Paolone recognized Frank Dougherty, a proprietor of the Country Club, to address Council. Mr. Dougherty indicated they have made strides to address the concerns and discussed the changes made to wedding contracts, purchasing sound meters, and moving speakers. They have complied with the State's Code by never going over 65 decibels. They hired an acoustic engineer, Norm Doddi, to help them. Todd Timbrook noted that the new Ordinance is very subjective, but believes they are making strides. He asked Council for a little more time so that they can work with their expert, Mr. Doddi. Mr. Doddi explained his credentials and certifications in noise control. He discussed the State's Code and basis for same. So far, the Country Club has been within the State's limits. He discussed the process for Linwood adopting lower limits. He also advised that he is working with the Country Club to help design and adjust the music system and discussed controls that could be manageable. Discussion ensued on the tests they have conducted this past weekend and the how weather affects the measurements and other environmental factors.

8. Council President Paolone
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Paolone advised that the Ordinance authorizing a Shared Municipal Court with Hamilton Township is scheduled for final reading tonight. However, the legislation authorizing the County-wide Court System was approved in the Assembly Judiciary Committee and now goes to the full Assembly. They are expected to vote on it in the next few weeks. The anticipated start date would be January 1, 2022. Court would be held in Mays Landing with kiosks in every municipality.

A. Administration (continued)

- They have many good programs that will go along with it. The proposed agreement with Hamilton Township had a start date of July 1. Council President Paolone discussed disruptions with possibly moving from one court to another in a short amount of time. He recommended tabling the Ordinance until the next Council meeting. All members of Council were in favor.
2. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the application of Linwood CC License LLC for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0114-33-002-003 for 2021-2022.

At 6:58 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk