

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES**  
**July 8, 2015**

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilman Darren Matik.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; Chief Doug Carman, Police Department; Captain John Hamilton, Police Department; Lieutenant Jason Weber, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor advised of a Resolution on the agenda confirming the promotion of Patrolman Cunningham to the position of Sergeant. There will be a swearing in at the next meeting. The Mayor advised that a question has been raised regarding the hiring procedures in the Police Department. Chief Carman explained that they have always followed procedures as outlined in Title 40. He is currently drafting a written policy containing the procedures they use and have used for many years. The last two times they advertised for patrolman, he required that the candidates have at least one full year of patrol experience. This was done to eliminate the costs of sending the candidate to the academy. The last five individuals have been hired following that procedure. Councilman Paolone indicated that there is no savings if Linwood takes from another town where they have only been employed for less than 2 years. It is stated in Title 40 that the one town is responsible for paying the other town for that individual's training costs. Chief Carman agreed but indicated that those costs are still less than paying for the academy. Captain Carman discussed the billing process. Councilman Paolone asked how much the City has been billed from Camden. The Chief indicated that there are different amounts. Councilman Paolone asked how the City will pay for it, if it is not included in the budget. Councilman Gordon asked that if the City was to hire someone, wouldn't those costs be anticipated in the budget. Mr. Youngblood advised not to continue discussion on this matter in open session citing potential litigation.

3. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the renewal of the Inter-local Sewer Maintenance agreement with Northfield. The Cities both agreed to continue the service. They will also continue to look at new ways to improve service and save money.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing the City to continue to participate in the Cooperative Agreement with Atlantic County for CDBG funds.

4. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Heun advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading prohibiting left hand turns onto Shore Road from Patcong Avenue during the hours of drop off and pick up.

5. Councilman Paolone

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Paolone discussed a Resolution on the agenda accepting the resignation of Albert Stanley as Tax Collector. Mr. Stanley has accepted a position as the CFO of Medford

which is an area he grew up in. Councilman Paolone wished him luck. The City has to again hire a new Tax Collector. Council decided to advertise the position in house and to advertise the assistant's position publically. Council will possibly look to hiring someone who can fill in other offices as well. They will also discuss if the position should be part time.

6. Council President Tighe

A. Administration

1. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the City to advertise for proposals for Emergency Medical Services.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda approving the application of Berlin Road Investments, LLC for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License. Councilman Beinfest questioned how many times they can renew it as a pocket license. Mrs. Napoli advised that after this term, they will have to petition the State to renew again.
3. Council President Tighe advised that there has been some interest expressed for the second liquor license. The City recently went out to bid two times. Once with a minimum of \$300,000, then another time for \$250,000. There were no bidders either time. He asked Council to think about a new minimum bid amount. The Mayor indicated that the economy is not getting better soon. The City will need the income to help with future budgets.

B. Planning & Development

1. Council President Tighe advised that the Zoning Board has had trouble maintaining a quorum at meetings due to a vacancy. He has been requested by the Board Chair to appoint a new member. Eric Ford, who is also on the Recreation Board, has expressed an interest to become a member. Councilman Tighe indicated that Mr. Ford volunteers often in the community and works in the development business. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to add a Resolution to the agenda appointing Eric Ford to the Alternate #2 position on the Zoning Board. All present members were in favor. Motion approved to add Resolution No. 125, 2015.
2. Council President Tighe advised that the Planning Board has drafted a zombie house ordinance that Council President Tighe will have distributed to Council for their review. State legislation currently allows the City to adopt such an ordinance to provide for further enforcement for the maintenance of properties that are vacant, in foreclosure, etc.

At 6:31 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk