

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
July 12, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:08 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; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; and Councilman Todd Michael.

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 Walcoff, to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2023 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. 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.

- 112-2023** A Resolution authorizing an Alliance Agreement with the County of Atlantic for a Drug Abuse and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program
- 113-2023** A Resolution approving temporary signage for National Night Out and the 150th Anniversary of Leedsville School
- 114-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-23, to Our Lady of Sorrows Church
- 115-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-24, to Our Lady of Sorrows Church
- 116-2023** A Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture for the Spotted Lanternfly Program – 2023 Chemical Control Treatment Grant
- 117-2023** A Resolution authorizing a Lateral Connection Agreement between Coastal Investments of Somers Point, LLC, the City of Somers Point, and the City of Linwood
- 118-2023** A Resolution confirming the appointment of Elizabeth Sarraiocco to the Linwood Recreation Board

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions No. 112-118 of 2023. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$4,942,191.12

Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with four in the affirmative, one abstention by Councilwoman Albright, and Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent and Councilman Michael absent. 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.

George Butrus, Linwood Arboretum Curator – Mr. Butrus requested to have several items repaired at the Arboretum building.

Mary Rydzewski, Friends of the Linwood Arboretum Secretary – Ms. Rydzewski also asked Council to complete the improvements in the Arboretum building.

Jack Verseput, 306 Poplar Avenue, Linwood - Mr. Verseput discussed the additional traffic due to the detour on Shore Road from the water company project. He indicated that cars are speeding and asked Council to do something about it.

Kathleen Spaeth, 108 Country Club Drive, Linwood – Mrs. Spaeth asked for an update on the elevator at the Library.

Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor reported that a new contractor will be working on the elevator tomorrow morning. The repair of the elevator is very important and finding a successful company has been an obstacle. The City is trying to do the best for the taxpayers and evaluate all options. The Mayor addressed Mr. Verseput's comments indicating that the detour is dictated by the County. They are using Poplar Avenue because of the traffic light. The City is doing its best to combat the extra traffic and speeding. The Police are patrolling, ghost police cars are posted, and the radar sign is being checked. The Mayor advised that the items at the Arboretum will be addressed.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes attended the July 4 bike parade and thanked the Historical Society and Fire Department for a great event. The Historical Society will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Leedsville School on August 19 and are looking for volunteers to help. She announced that the new playground at the Library is finally complete and will be ready to open this Friday and a dedication will be planned for the future. She thanked the members from the Arboretum for attending the meeting and bringing those items to their attention. She also advised that the City is working hard on the repair of the elevator. The ADA doors at the Library are complete now on all entrances.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson congratulated Elizabeth Sarraiocco on her appointment to the Recreation Board. Councilman Levinson loves the Arboretum and Council will look into the items discussed.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She advised that the City did look at many options for the elevator. Due to the age of the building, some solutions are more difficult. A new company is looking at it tomorrow and hopefully they can help. She looked at the Arboretum. There are some missing shingles that will be replaced when the roof is repaired at the Library. She is also gathering quotes for the insulation and interior. She thanked everyone for sharing and indicated those items will be addressed. She also announced that the base of the monument at All Wars Memorial has been repaired.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford indicated that the other members of Council make his job very easy because they work so hard. The items at the Arboretum will be addressed. Due to the road work in the City by the utility companies, the traffic is very bad throughout the entire City. The Police Department is doing its best. Council President Ford also hopes the elevator can be fixed soon.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Walcoff, to adjourn at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk