

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
August 14, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

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

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2019 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor with one abstention from Councilman Gordon. Motion was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Paolone announced that on June 27, 2019 and July 4, 2019, the City advertised, in the Press of Atlantic City, the City's intent to issue one Club Liquor License using the Historical Method. Applications were due by August 7, 2019. One application was received by the Linwood Country Club, Inc. Council President Paolone opened the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to be heard on the issuance of a Club Liquor License to the Linwood Country Club, Inc. Seeing and hearing no members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor.

RESOLUTIONS

124-2019 A Resolution awarding a new Club Liquor License to the Linwood Country Club, Inc., using the Historical Method, in the City of Linwood

The Clerk read Resolution No. 124 of 2019 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon to approve Resolution No. 124. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilman Matik. Motion was approved.

125-2019 A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Club Liquor License in the City of Linwood to the Linwood Country Club, Inc.

The Clerk read Resolution No. 125 of 2019 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon to approve Resolution No. 125. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilman Matik. 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.

122-2019 A Resolution authorizing the refund of a property tax overpayment for Block 5 Lot 3 located at 308 W. Frances Avenue in the City of Linwood

123-2019 A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1-Final with Arawak Paving Company, Inc. with regard to the 2018 Road Program in the City of Linwood

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 126-2019** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Family Promise of Atlantic County
- 127-2019** A Resolution certifying the review of the annual Audit by the Governing Body
- 128-2019** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2019-23, to St. Josephs Church
- 129-2019** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2019-24, to St. Josephs Church
- 130-2019** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Colleen Erbele and Cynthia Feldman as Substitute School Crossing Guards for the City of Linwood
- 131-2019** A Resolution authorizing the refund of Traffic Control Funds to Communication Construction Group, LLC
- 132-2019** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Jeffrey Jackson as an Administrative Assistant to the Tax Collector/Sewer Administrator for the City of Linwood
- 133-2019** A Resolution authorizing the refund of a tax overpayment and the cancellation of 2019 taxes due to tax exempt status for Block 177 Lot 7.02 located at 10 W. Marvin Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 134-2019** A Resolution authorizing the refund of an overpayment of a Construction Permit 2019-0158
- 135-2019** A Resolution waiving a Construction Permit fee for an Eagle Scout Project
- 136-2019** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Linwood Farmers Market
- 137-2019** A Resolution amending Resolution No. 67 of 2019, a Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2019
- 138-2019** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Angela L. Marshall as an Administrative Assistant to the Construction Official and Zoning Officer for the City of Linwood
- 139-2019** A Resolution authorizing a Contract with Global Document Services, LLC for Document Management Services

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve Resolutions No. 122-123, 126-139 of 2019. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,922,710.90

Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved. 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.

Karen Peyton 219 Forest Drive, Linwood

Ms. Peyton sent a letter in support of the skate park to the Mayor and City Council on July 12. She only heard back from Councilman Heun. She read that letter and presented it to Council for the record. (Attached as Exhibit B)

Larry Lhulier 1300 Woodlynne Boulevard, Linwood

Mr. Lhulier questioned if Ms. Peyton was referring to him in her letter. He has no recollection of that and couldn't leave an inaccuracy to go unattended. He would like to know whether or not the Neighborhood Services Committee has made any recommendations with regard to the skate park, or if they had any meetings, and if there are any minutes from those meetings. Mr. Lhulier discussed the City's Master Plan and the re-examination reports for same. He indicated that on page 31 in Parks & Recreation of the 2002 Master Plan it is stated that the City should avoid developments of any single use parks. In review of the 2018 re-examination report of the Master Plan the only mention for Parks & Recreation is the encouragement of acquisitions of open space and indicated that the 2002 plan still remains with regard to single use parks. He asked the Neighborhood Services Committee to review the reports. He again questioned if Ms. Peyton was referring to him and would listen to the tapes to confirm.

Stephen Douglas 911 Bartlett Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Douglas distributed exhibits to the Mayor and Council of a property that borders his along the Patcong Creek, specifically Block 82, Lot 7. It is not being maintained and extremely overgrown. He would like to improve the appearance of it and asked if any zoning laws exist that will address the high grass and other issues. The way it looks now will decrease the value of his home and he was told that Realtors are not encouraged to show his home in the current state of things. He also heard the owners want to build a home on the lot and he would like to see it remain as open space. Council President Paolone explained that Council adopted Robert's Rules of Order and pursuant to the rules to not engage in back and forth discussion during the meeting. Council members may choose to address any issue in their closing remarks and members of the public are welcome to approach the Council members after the meeting.

Mike Costello 105 Carol Road, Linwood

Mr. Costello believes a skate park in Linwood would benefit the City. It will promote a safe environment for the skaters as they are required to wear safety equipment. It will reduce the damage to private property by having a site for the skaters. It is a significant physical health benefit and helps teach perseverance. He also believes it will have a positive effect on the businesses in the City and help to attract young families.

Adam Walcoff 109 Holly Lane, Linwood

Mr. Walcoff is unequivocally in favor of a skate park and hopes for a quick decision from Council. He got involved last year with the Recreation Board and formed a sub-committee to investigate having a skate park in the City. The committee did their due diligence and prepared a report to the Recreation Board. The Recreation Board accepted their report and recommended a skate park to City Council. He asked Council if they have the money for it or if they decided on a location. He understands the issue is in the Neighborhood Services Committee with Councilwoman Byrnes and it is their turn to do their due diligence. He does hope they make a decision soon.

Arthur Chew 130 Seaview Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Chew was an engineer for the City of Ocean City during the construction of its skate park. He has worked with the skate park sub-committee in Linwood and completed a conceptual design. He believes if it is put in a public place there will be no trouble makers. He offered his services to help in Council's decision. He indicated that the park in Ocean City has helped attract people. Events can be held at the park that would be good for the community. 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 – Mayor DePamphilis indicated that the skate park is getting to be a no win situation. It would be a large expense for the tax payers so they should all have a say. He suggested that Council put the question of having a skate park on the ballot. He is not in favor of using any open space areas that were purchased as open space.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their comments. She hopes a decision on the skate park will be made soon. She also recognized Noah Dix as an Eagle Scout and commended him for his project to include an informational sign at the SJI park. She wished him luck.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes also congratulated Noah. As Chair of the Neighborhood Services Committee, she advised that a recommendation on the skate park has not been made yet. They are doing their due diligence and want to make the best decision for Linwood. She also recognized Mr. Douglas and hopes everything works out for him.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun thanked Noah for his upcoming project that will be an improvement to the park. He thanked the Police & Fire Departments on an outstanding National Night Out. It was a good community outreach event.

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik believes a decision on the skate park will come to fruition shortly. He does want Council to move forward with the recommendations from the Master Plan Re-Examination Report. He discussed the negative affect of new single family homes on the rising school taxes.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford addressed Mr. Douglas and invited him to speak to Mr. Youngblood after the meeting. He would also like to see the issue of the skate park resolved soon and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also congratulated Noah Dix.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon recognized Noah Dix's parents for being good citizens and a great family. He congratulated Noah. He also congratulated the Police & Fire Departments for a successful National Night Out.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone congratulated Noah Dix. He informed Mr. Douglas that a grant application to purchase the lot he discussed was submitted on July 31. Hopefully, the City will be successful in that application so nothing can be developed there. He understands the skate board park is a hot debate around the City. He has been to Ocean City to observe their skate park on several occasions. Council has also asked the Police Department to gather police data regarding skate parks. Council President Paolone doesn't disagree with the Mayor and maybe the issue should go on the ballot. When Council has made a conclusion, they will let the public know so that they can attend a Council meeting to speak on the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to adjourn at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk