

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
August 14, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis 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 Todd Michael led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Ken Kelly; Councilman Todd Michael; and Councilman Adam Walcoff
Absent: Councilman Matt Levinson; and Council President Eric Ford.
Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; 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 July 10, 2024 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.

- 124-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of a Disabled Veteran tax payments for Block 60 Lot 6 located at 1418 Shore Road in the City of Linwood
- 125-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of sewer payment made by the Estate of Joan C. Hinman Block 134 Lot 7 also known as 217 W. Davis Avenue
- 126-2024** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of taxes on properties qualified and approved as tax exempt veterans' status in the City of Linwood
- 127-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of sewer payment made by Eva Smith Block 25 Lot 12 also known as 211 W. Forest Drive
- 128-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of tax payment made by Brian McRory Block 123 Lot 1 and Block 123 Lot 2 also known 402 & 404 Cedarbrook Lane
- 129-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of the 2023-2024 tax payments for tax exempt disabled veteran Block 31 Lot 10 located at 103 E. Dawn Drive in the City of Linwood
- 130-2024** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 with West Bay Construction, Inc. with regard to the Seaview Dock and Poplar Dock Improvements
- 131-2024** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 2 with West Bay Construction, Inc. with regard to the Seaview Dock and Poplar Dock Improvements
- 132-2024** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 2 with R. Maxwell Construction Co., with regard to the All Wars Memorial Park Field House
- 133-2024** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 3 with R. Maxwell Construction Co., with regard to the All Wars Memorial Park Field House
- 134-2024** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Deborah A. Daily as a Substitute School Crossing Guard for the City of Linwood
- 135-2024** A Resolution to award a Contract to Arawak Paving Co., Inc for the Resurfacing of Wabash Avenue, Phase III
- 136-2024** A Resolution requesting approval of items of Revenue and Appropriation NJSA 40A:4087 from the NJDOT Safe Routes to Schools Grant
- 137-2024** A Resolution authorizing the placement of a lien on Block 29.01, Lot 17 (1601 Shore Road) in accordance with Chapter 99, Section 3 of the Code of the City of Linwood

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 138-2024** A Resolution authorizing the placement of a lien on Block 102, Lot 5 (302 W. Van Sant Avenue) in accordance with Chapter 99, Section 3 of the Code of the City of Linwood
- 139-2024** A Resolution authorizing the refund of funds discovered by the Linwood Library
- 140-2024** A Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Linwood and the Linwood Board of Education for the provision of two Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers

Councilwoman DeDomenicis asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Michael motioned, seconded by Councilman Walcoff, to approve Resolutions No. 124-140 of 2024. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,137,421.34

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

Jack Verseput, 306 W. Poplar Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Verseput indicated that vehicles are speeding on Poplar and Maple Avenues. He also indicated that his neighbors house is a mess and asked the City for help to make the neighbor clean up the property.

Dr. Dao, 21 Crossing Drive, Linwood – Dr. Dao thanked the Mayor and Council for providing the residents an opportunity to be heard. She has some ideas for Central Avenue improvements that she will share after the meeting.

Frank Trifiletti, 1217 Oak Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Trifiletti indicated that the bike path extension project that is being completed in front of his house has an adverse effect on his property. He is disappointed that he was not notified about the project prior to construction. He also discussed the speeding on Oak Avenue and the dangers of electric bikes on the bike path.

Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Councilwoman DeDomenicis closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor indicated that under NJ State law, unfortunately, electric bikes have the same rights as bicycles. He understands his concerns. Hopefully, the State amends its laws. The Police have been enforcing the use of helmets. He realizes distracted driving is a problem and he hopes people put down their phones.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He echoes the Mayor's comments on electric bikes. Linwood's Police Department has its members out on patrol on their electric bikes as a presence for others to hopefully slow down. He understands it is a safety issue. Nobody wants to push the riders in the street either. Councilman Michael thanked the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments for a very successful National Night Out.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff echoed Councilman Michael's comments on the electric bikes and reiterated that nobody wants to push the bike riders into the street. He wants to work with the Mayor for a solution. Addressing Mr. Trifiletti, Councilman Walcoff advised that the bike path on Oak Avenue provides a safe route for pedestrians and bicycles to travel. One of the goals of Atlantic County is to have a connected bicycle route. Councilman Walcoff also agreed that National Night Out was a huge success.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly agreed that National Night Out was very impressive. He commended everyone involved with the event. He also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their comments.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright commended the Police and Public Works Departments for National Night Out. It was a huge success. She appreciates everyone's comments at the meeting and advised that the Police will look into the complaint of speeding on Maple Avenue. She Chairs the Planning, Engineering & Development Committee. The design of the bike path extension is in accordance with the NJ DOT safety

FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

(Councilwoman Albright continued) specifications. This will provide a safe route to travel on Oak Avenue & Monroe Avenue for everyone including the residents that live in the Monroe Avenue area across Route 9. This can help get everyone out of the street.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She believes everyone on Council already addressed the residents’ concerns. National Night Out was a huge success.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 6:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
City Administrator
Municipal Clerk