

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES**  
**August 26, 2015**

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:22 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; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: Councilman Elliot Beinfest.

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. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2015 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's report

A. The Mayor discussed the staffing in the Police Department and would like to hire at least one new officer as soon as possible. Councilman Matik reviewed the spreadsheet that had been previously distributed to everyone of an analysis of overtime and how hiring would reflect a savings in the next few years. Not as much in the first two, but significantly less in the following years when you calculate in a retirement. Discussion ensued upon staffing levels, shift coverage, overtime costs, and negative effects of too much overtime on employees. Councilman Matik believes hiring a new officer will help provide the opportunity for more community policing. Council President Tighe indicated that the City is soon getting a grant that will be used to pay for a license plate reader. That will help to increase revenue in the department. Council President Tighe indicated that the Mayor and Public Safety Committee have recommended to hire an additional officer. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun to add Resolution No. 140 to the agenda authorizing the hiring of an additional officer. All present members were in favor with Councilman Paolone voting no, and Councilman Beinfest absent. Motion was approved. Councilman Paolone indicated that the City just mailed out estimated tax bills that were high, there is a large number of foreclosures in the City, and he is not sure the City is ready to hire. He would like more time to review the spreadsheets and analyze the data to possibly consider a larger tax increase due to the PILOT legislation that is pending. He is not in favor of hiring if taxes are going up. The Mayor indicated that overtime costs have been out of control since the layoffs in 2011 and cost the City approximately one million dollars. Councilman Paolone discussed the layoffs and retirements and asked what the difference is between overtime and salary & wages. He would like more information and additional time to review the material. The Mayor advised that the officers that have been hired have only been hired to fill vacancies. Councilman Matik indicated that he would not recommend anything that would negatively impact the budget. The tax problem is more of a funding issue and will remain a problem until the state changes the funding formula for schools. Councilwoman DeDomenicis indicated that having employees work extended periods of times creates a risk of injuries.

4. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing an amendment to the Shared Service Agreement with EHT for dispatch services. The cost to Linwood has been reduced in light of Longport contracting with EHT for said services.
5. Council President Tighe
- A. Administration
    1. Council President Tighe discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending the salary Ordinance.
    2. Council President Tighe advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending the City Code Chapter 83 on Alcoholic Beverages with regard to license renewal fees.
    3. Council President Tighe discussed a Resolution on the agenda to accept a partial lien payment with regard to the Elm Avenue property. Councilman Matik asked if it's possible to get a few more dollars out of settlement. Mr. Youngblood advised that due to Council President Tighe, the City is getting additional money. The City can still ask for more. Approving the Resolution tonight allows for a possible closing as early as September 11, 2015. The City would get paid quickly.
    4. Council President Tighe discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a professional services contract to Archer & Greiner for legal services with regard to the redevelopment plan. Additional work is needed on the plan. The City is supposed to get reimbursed for fees according to the redevelopment agreement.

At 6:56 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk