

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
September 1, 2010

Council President Donna Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 Matt Levinson; Councilman Alex Marino; Councilman Ralph Paolone; Councilman Tim Tighe; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Randy Lafferty, Esq.; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2010 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor reported that he has two Proclamations for tonight. One for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and one for Constitution Week.

4. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilman Beinfest reported that the Historical Society would like to hold its annual yard sale as a city wide yard sale at people's homes rather than on the bike path as in prior years. The Historical Society intends to prepare of map with all the participants. Councilman Beinfest discussed the permit fees and the possibility of waiving the fee for the Historical Society.

5. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed the Appliance Early Retirement Program that the City will be participating in as part of the Sustainable Jersey activities. Residents getting rid of appliances in working condition will get \$50 from the New Jersey's Clean Energy Office. This program will qualify Linwood for up to \$4,000 in incentives for the Sustainable Linwood team.
2. Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that the Public Works Department does have an e-waste program. All electronics collected during trash pickup are deposited in a separate dumpster at the yard for recycling. This type of program becomes mandatory by the State beginning January 1, 2011.

6. Councilman Levinson

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Levinson discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the reimbursement to Sara Krumm for property damage during the Central Avenue Roadway Improvement project.

7. Councilman Marino

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Marino discussed a Resolution on the agenda to award a Contract for an energy audit of City buildings. The New Jersey Clean Energy Office will reimburse the City 100% of the cost of the audit. The contractor has agreed to defer the cost till the City receives payment from the State.

2. The City currently has 140 points in the Sustainable Jersey program. 150 points are needed to become certified. The energy audit will provide the City with enough points to become certified.
 3. Councilman Marino announced the results of the Bond Sale in the amount of \$4,330,000. The rates received were from Robert Baird at 2.226395%, Roosevelt & Cross at 2.244415%, and Janney Montgomery at 2.495742%. Councilman Marino advised that Mrs. Tiemann indicated the low rate provided by Robert Baird is an excellent rate and one of the lowest around.
 4. Councilman Marino advised of a Resolution on the agenda to cancel grant balances.
 5. There is a Resolution on the agenda authorizing refunds for tax overpayments.
 6. Councilman Marino reported that Mrs. Tiemann and Mrs. Napoli completed the Best Practices Checklist required by the Governor for state aid. As completed now, the City qualifies for 100% of state aid. Councilman Marino distributed copies to the governing body for their review and input. The checklist is due to the state by October 1.
 7. The August tax collection rate is at 56.04% as compared to last year at this time the rate was 72.86%. This is due to the late mailing of the tax bills.
 8. Councilman Marino asked Mrs. Tiemann and Mr. Strazzeri to get some budget figures together for 2011. He announced that the numbers are not good because of the 2% cap. The City is several thousand dollars over. The City has very limited options; personnel, more fund balance, or find a new revenue stream. It is difficult to project the numbers because we don't know costs for items such as social security, pension, waste water, etc. They were very conservative in their estimates. Councilman Marino believes that as they move forward in January, services will be affected. Councilman Paolone would like to begin discussions on sharing services such as police and fire. He has had preliminary talks with Northfield. Councilman Paolone did attempt to negotiate with the PBA, but was turned down. Councilman Marino indicated that due to certain contract language, any layoff decisions should be done in October. He would like to have a Department Head meeting this Friday at 9:00 a.m. regarding the budget.
8. Councilman Paolone
- A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Paolone distributed pictures of the dedicated street sign he liked in Millville. He would agree to a similar sign for Father Leonard along the driveway to the church's property off of Royal Avenue, but not on a City street. All members of Council agreed.
 - B. Arboretum
 1. Allen Lacy reported that the volunteers meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 pm for maintenance of the arboretum. They are planning a bus trip to gardens in New York on October 5. They are also looking into having a pig roast with the PTO as a fundraiser in October. They also want to continue the efforts to form a 501(c) organization called Friends of the Arboretum. The arboretum is beginning to be known as the smallest arboretum in the world. Members of Rutgers Garden Club have been offering to help.
9. Councilman Tighe
- A. Planning & Development
 1. Councilman Tighe distributed new concept plans for the phase 2 project at Cornerstone.
10. Council President Taylor
- A. Administration
 1. Council President Taylor advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License to the Mainland PTO.

At 6:42 P.M., Council President Taylor called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk