

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
CAUCUS MINUTES  
September 10, 2014**

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Hank Kolakowski, Public Works Superintendent; 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 13, 2014 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

- A. The Mayor advised that he will be swearing in the two new Patrolmen that were hired to replace the two Sergeants that retired in August.
- B. The Mayor has appointed Kelly Day to the Board of Recreation due a vacancy created by the resignation of Jeff Ogborn. Mrs. Day is a very active member in our community and was recommended by the Board President Mandanna Salartash.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

- 1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading that amends the City Code on Solid Waste for designated recyclables. This amendment is to be consistent with the County.

5. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

- 1. Councilman Gordon advised that New Jersey American Water Company began their utility upgrades in Linwood. They will be replacing water mains on the east side of Shore Road. This work is just after the gas company replaced gas mains in that area. A lot of paving will be required after the work is complete. Both utility companies are working with the City to finalize that work. Mr. Polistina advised that the City is taking this opportunity to do upgrades there as well. They will soon advertise for bids for concrete improvements as well as sanitary sewer and stormwater repairs. These contracts could be awarded at the September 23 Council meeting.
- 2. Councilman Gordon asked for an update on the Poplar Avenue School demolition project. Mr. Polistina advised that the electric will soon be disconnected and relocated for irrigation. The City could receive bids for demolition in October. Councilman Gordon advised that the City has already bonded for the money for this project.

6. Councilman Paolone

A. Revenue & Finance

- 1. Councilman Paolone discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the participation in the continuing disclosure cooperation initiative of the Division of Enforcement of the US Securities & Exchange Commission. He explained that this is a self-reporting initiative to minimize penalties.

2. Councilman Paolone advised of Resolutions on the agenda reappointing Ed Beck as Fund Commissioner and Leigh Ann Napoli as Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. Councilman Paolone indicated that Mr. Beck does a great job as Commissioner.
  3. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing the refund of various tax overpayments.
7. Council President Tighe
- A. Administration
1. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the renewal of the liquor license for Berlin Road Investments, LLC. This license continues to be inactive. The Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control granted them another Special Ruling allowing them to renew for two more licensing terms. Council President Tighe indicated that it is in the best interest of the City to renew the license to prevent it from disappearing.
  2. Council President Tighe reminded everyone that the next Council meeting is on Tuesday, September 23 rather than Wednesday due to the Rosh Hashanah holiday.
  3. Council President Tighe reminded everyone that the elected officials JIF training is coming up and asked everyone to attend.
  4. Council President Tighe reminded everyone that the procedure to have projects completed are to first make sure they are included in the budget, the appropriate council committee has reviewed the project and committee Chair has presented the project to all council, and written approval is provided from the Chair before the project begins.
  5. Council President Tighe discussed the prequalification process for auctioning off a new liquor license. He recognized former Councilmen Bob Boileau and John Brick who are in attendance and invited them to speak on the process they experienced when the City auctioned off its first license in 2003. Former Councilman Boileau explained that there was a high concern for the neighbors surrounding Cornerstone when the referendum to issue liquor licenses was on the ballot. Council adopted specific requirements for the license to prevent having a sports bar. They limited the number of televisions, limited the hours, and regulated the square footage to meet the size of the location considered in the Cornerstone. The referendum excludes the sale of packaged goods. There was also a concern with the High School being located directly across the street from the proposed location. Former Councilman Brick indicated that Robin Karman spent a lot of money getting the referendum on the ballot and discussed how Council was looking out for the neighborhood at the time. Councilman Beinfest discussed the size of the televisions indicating that Council can reconsider to allow for a larger size. Councilman Paolone discussed lifting some of the restrictions as well. When the first license was sold, it was sold with the idea of an upscale restaurant in mind. Maybe Council potentially over legislated, but they got what they wanted. This was necessary in the beginning, but now Council doesn't have much control over who they sell the license to. Councilman Matik indicated that the rules in place made Savaradio uncompetitive in the market. Council President Tighe explained that this would just be the pre-qualification process to get what Council wants. Councilman Heun believes that times have changed and the residents in the City could be ready for something different. He would agree to time limits. He agrees that some of the restrictions in place could be relaxed a bit. He also wants to be mindful of the residents and indicated there are other locations in the City in more of a commercial area away from private residences. Council President Tighe reviewed the draft pre-qualification to bid. He would like to erase item number eight prohibiting outside service. He would like to add to item number seven that pool tables are also prohibited. Council President Tighe deleted item number six and added in its place that the design and plans have to be approved by City Council first. He asked Mrs. Napoli to make those changes and distribute it to Council for review. The Administration Committee will meet to review the City Code on alcoholic beverages.

6. Former Councilman Bob Boileau questioned what is being done with the Poplar Avenue School. Councilman Matik explained that the City bonded \$638,000 for the demolition of the school based on the school's architect's estimate. Council believes the bid will come in a lot less than that amount. Mr. Boileau questioned why the City would spend so much money with the casinos closing, tax increase, school enrollment down, a large number of foreclosures in the City, and an election in two months. Council President Tighe indicated that the building contains large amounts of mold and asbestos. It will continue to deteriorate. The intention is to demolish the building, level the area and put grass down. It could be used as an auxiliary practice field. He indicated that if the City were to install a turf field, the ideal location would be at the High School. However, the City would lose control of it. At this time, the City has no plans or funding for a turf field, but he believes the alternate location would be Memorial Park. Councilman Gordon and the Mayor explained that a Blue Ribbon Committee will be formed to review all of the recreation fields in the City and the future thereof. Mr. Boileau volunteered to serve on the committee. Former Councilman Brick asked why the City has to allow all the soccer leagues to play at Linwood's park. Council President Tighe explained that Linwood has always had the MUSA soccer league. In the past few years, MUSA spent over \$100,000 on the fields at the park. Councilman Gordon is glad there is interest to play here in Linwood. The words on the City seal are education, family, and recreation. What goes on at the park lends itself to that. He would like to integrate all of this into the City's recreation program and do it all with input from the community.

B. Planning & Development

1. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing temporary signage for Hasson's Florist and Channel 40.
2. An Ordinance is on the agenda for final reading vacating a portion of Belhaven Avenue.
3. An Ordinance is on the agenda for final reading authorizing a Right of Way Dedication to Atlantic County for the reconstruction of Cedar Bridge.

C. Redevelopment

1. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda designating New Linwood Office Park, LLC as the Redeveloper of the Bloom Site located at 1825-1901 New Road. Council President Tighe, the Mayor, Councilman Heun, and Mr. Weinstein, the City's redevelopment attorney, met with the developer and their attorney. They are very cooperative and planning to build a class A office building.

At 6:50 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk