

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2022**

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Steve Cunningham, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2022 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman Albright

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilwoman Albright advised that the Ordinance amending the City Code to provide for a time line on abandonments of nonconforming uses is on the agenda for final reading.
2. Councilwoman Albright discussed the State laws that require children under the age of 17 to wear helmets when riding bicycles and scooters. Council discussed instances where they have seen children riding without them. Chief Cunningham recently sent a letter to the schools asking for their help to educate the children of the laws and the importance of wearing helmets. The letter has also been posted on social media. The Police are handing out ice cream gift certificates to the children wearing helmets. Discussion ensued on an education awareness campaign for wearing helmets. There was also discussion on the excessive speed of some riders on the bike path.

4. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Use & Occupancy Agreement with MRHS Support Our Troops for use of a room at the EMS building for storage.
2. Councilwoman Byrnes advised of a Resolution on the agenda recognizing October 6 as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day.

5. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised of a Resolution authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with Atlantic County for the use of attenuators.

6. Councilman Ford

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilman Ford advised of Resolutions on the agenda authorizing temporary signage for the Famers Market and Salon Kink's Trunk or Treat. They both requested a specific number of signs and for a similar time frame for display. The number of signs approved was reduced to prevent too many signs.
2. Councilman Ford discussed a Resolution authorizing an Amendment to a Deed of Easement with GLB Management. This is for the bike path extension project through SJI Park to the Exchange.

Councilman Ford (continued)

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

3. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a refund of a Construction Permit due to a cancellation of a solar project
4. Councilman Ford discussed a Resolution canceling the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Grant for the Linwood/Seaview Bike Path Extension project. The City is canceling the grant for two reasons. The cost of the project has more than doubled after COVID and since the Exchange is changing uses, a bike path is not a necessity anymore. The City will still look to connect the bike path with other projects.
5. Councilman Ford discussed an Ordinance prohibiting parking on the North side of Poplar Avenue from Oak Avenue to Wabash Avenue and designating a stop intersection at Maple Avenue and Wabash Avenue. Ms. Heller explained that the City eliminated parking on Poplar Avenue from Oak to New Road so the NJ Department of Transportation could properly stripe and sign the turn lanes onto Route 9 to improve safety. Due to the crown in the street and narrowness of the street, the Engineering Committee has recommended to prohibit parking from Oak to Wabash Avenue to improve safety. Notice will be sent to property owners advising them of the Ordinance.
6. Councilman Ford advised of an Ordinance on the agenda amending Chapter 212 Rental Property for Lead Based Paints. This is a new state law that the municipalities must comply with.

7. Councilman Levinson

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the refund of a sewer payment due to the sale of a property.
2. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the cancelation of taxes for 210 Haines Avenue due to permanent disabled Veterans status.
3. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution authorizing various tax overpayments made by Corelogic.
4. Councilman Levinson discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing an Agreement with BRT Technologies for tax assessment software.

8. Councilman Michael

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Michael discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Linwood Board of Education for Class III Officers. The City will pay for both and the School Board will reimburse the City for one. The City is waiting to hear back for a grant that was applied for that will help cover the costs.
2. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution on the agenda hiring the two Special Class III Officers for the schools.
3. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution on the agenda appointing Firefighter Frank Gabriel to the position of Acting Captain due to a vacancy in the position for a medical leave.
4. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution hiring Lisa Isidro as a Substitute Crossing Guard.
5. Council discussed the issue of dirt bikes and ATV's riding on City streets. The Chief shared an Ordinance from Absecon that gives the Police the power to confiscate them if not legally registered. Council President Paolone advised that State law already governs them. Council decided to look at other municipalities laws.

9. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone discussed an Ordinance amending Chapter 52A Employee Manual for sick leave. The Administration Committee decided to not allow the use of future sick leave before it is accrued. It has been done in the past, but nothing was ever codified. Once the Ordinance is passed, it will be codified as not permitted.

At 6:17 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk