# LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL CAUCUS MINUTES September 25, 2019

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:01 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; and Council

President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Councilwoman June Byrnes; and Councilman Eric Ford.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer;

Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; 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 September 11, 2019 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

## 3. Councilwoman Byrnes

## A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis announced that Councilwoman Byrnes is out of the Country and unable to attend tonight's meeting. She read Councilwoman Byrnes's report from the September 11, 2019 Caucus meeting as follows: In March of 2018, the skateboard park Committee was formed consisting of great Linwood residents that are passionate about skateboarding. Since then, Council has heard from several residents for and opposed to the park. The Neighborhood Services Committee has completed their due diligence in researching if this is the right fit for Linwood. The committee of 3 does not recommend a skateboard park to City Council with a 2-No and 1-Yes (with conditions) vote. There are more pressing needs in the City. Beyond the construction of a skateboard park at approximately \$40-\$45 per sq ft., Council would have to consider costs for; fencing, maintenance, proper drainage and field preparations, possibility of a paid attendant, lighting, and the JIF requirements. Her committee reached out to other municipalities with parks or closed parks for input. The Ocean City Police Chief indicated that having an attendant is beneficial to rules and safety. The one in Galloway was located next to the police department and is now removed due to problems every day. It has been replaced with basketball courts and no problems have occurred since. There is one in Brigantine that is rarely used by skateboarders. Margate had the topic on their agenda a few years ago but did not proceed. Chief Carmen and Captain Hamilton have both expressed that if Council approves a skate park that they request the City has an attendant during operating hours to At a time in Linwood, with several other priority based projects in need of improvement; sewer maintenance, roadway projects, soccer building improvements, and municipal grounds maintenance; the Committee cannot recommend a skateboard park. Councilwoman DeDomenicis also reiterated a report provided by Michael Thomas, the City's Risk Management Consultant to the JIF, also at the September 11, 2019 Caucus meeting explaining that the JIF consists of 41 municipalities and has seven operating skateboard parks. Four of the seven are beach communities. Councilwoman DeDomenicis concluded that the Committee recommended not to move forward with a skate board park at this time. Council President Paolone advised that at the last meeting all of Council did not have the data collected by the committee. The material has since been provided. He asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were asked. Council President Paolone was in favor of a skate board park with conditions that it be supervised and have a ten foot fence. He has no idea how to fund the salary for the park to be supervised. Therefore, he is not in favor of it at this time. He would like to take a straw vote on the matter reminding everyone

that there is no Resolution or Ordinance to be voted on. He did speak with Councilman Ford and was advised that Councilman Ford agrees with Council President Paolone. He called a vote to accept the committee's recommendation not to move forward with a skate board park at this time. All members of Council accepted the committee's recommendation.

## 4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

#### A Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis announced that the leaf program will begin soon and asked everyone to follow the procedures.

## 5. Councilman Ford

# A. Planning & Development

1. Councilman Gordon discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the release of surety with regard to Block 6 Lot 24 (The Exchange). Councilman Heun reported that this request was discussed at the Planning Board meeting and release was granted contingent upon the proper height of the fence and a self-locking gate opening from the inside only. Mr. Polistina recommended that Council table the Resolution until the conditions are met. Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to table Resolution 153, 2019. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

## 6. Councilman Gordon

# A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon advised that property owners of 220 Tabor Avenue will be applying for a hardship street opening, which should be presented at the next Council meeting.

## 7. Councilman Heun

#### A. Public Safety

- 1. Councilman Heun discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading establishing standards and requirements for the sale of used vehicles.
- 2. Councilman Heun advised of a Resolution authorizing the hiring of Nick LaRotonda as the Uniform Fire Safety Inspector. The position is part time and will assist the Fire Official with inspections. The new fee schedule covers the salary and more.

### 8. Councilman Matik

## A. Revenue & Finance

- 1. Councilman Matik discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending the Salary Ordinance of 2019 for the position of Fire Inspector.
- 2. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution amending the Salary Resolution for the Uniform Fire Safety Inspector.

# 9. Council President Paolone

### A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone discussed a Resolution on the agenda adopting Technology Risk Management Standards in compliance with the JIF's Cyber Risk Management Plan's requirements.

#### 10. Mr. Youngblood

A. Mr. Youngblood discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for the purchase of Block 82, Lot 7 & 8, Poplar Avenue. The purchase was completely contingent upon receipt of grant funds through the Frank Stewart Trust. The appraisal came in at \$140,000. The Trust could only award the appraisal amount. The seller wanted \$175,000 and would not lower the asking price. Therefore, the Ordinance was pulled from the agenda. Perhaps the seller will lower the price and the City can apply for the grant again next year.

B. Mr. Youngblood reported that he received a call from the City Solicitor of Northfield regarding the renewal of the shared court agreement. The agreement will continue as is and a Resolution authorizing the agreement will be on the next Council agenda.

At 6:20 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC Municipal Clerk