

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
September 25, 2013

Council President Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:10 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 Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; Councilman Tim Tighe, and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; Robert James, Chief of Police; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Tighe, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2013 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor advised a Resolution on the agenda honoring US Army Sergeant Patrick Carney.

4. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilman Beinfest discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing an Alliance Agreement with Atlantic County.
2. Councilman Beinfest advised that the Historical Society has requested an opportunity to look at the items in the American Legion Building before they are auctioned. Councilman Tighe responded that they will be given the opportunity to view the items.

5. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon advised of a Resolution on the agenda approving Change Order #2 with Lafayette Utility Construction Company with regard to the Southwest Drainage Improvements project. The change order included work authorized to be performed in the area of the townhomes at Linwood Court.

6. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik advised of an honorary Resolution on the agenda for a long time volunteer firefighter who recently passed away.

B. Energy Aggregation

1. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Tighe, to pull Resolution No. 131 appointing Commercial Utility Consultants as the City's energy agent from the agenda. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved. Councilman Matik advised that he is meeting with Commercial Utility Consultants tomorrow and would like to wait until the next meeting to approve the Resolution.
2. Councilman Matik would like to move forward with the Resolution authorizing the Cooperative Pricing Agreement for the energy aggregation with Margate in order to begin the process.

C. Councilman Matik discussed the basement moisture problem and reviewed a proposal from Dixon Associates to divert the rainwater from the building. Discussion ensued upon the lack of waterproofing of the foundation in the basement and Council requested that Mr. Youngblood review the specifications for the building to determine liability and possible claim for damages.

7. Councilman Paolone
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Paolone reviewed the Best Practices Inventory as required by the State. Based on the results completed, this inventory determines how much of each municipality's final 5% allocation of CMPTRA and ETR aid will be disbursed. At this point, zero percent aid will be withheld.

8. Councilman Tighe
 - A. Planning & Development
 1. Councilman Tighe advised that the City and the Environmental Commission received a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions for a Green Design Standards Ordinance project. The Planning Board has recommended amendments to three Chapters in the City Code as part of the project. Councilman Tighe discussed the amendments for the following three chapters; Chapter 238, Stormwater Management, Chapter 273, Wind Energy Conversion Systems, and Chapter 277, Zoning, Height of Structures. All Ordinances are on the agenda for final reading.
 2. Councilman Tighe discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending Chapter 175, Littering to include a section on the maintenance of Construction Sites.

9. Council President Taylor
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Taylor discussed correspondence received from County Executive Dennis Levinson requesting the municipalities to contact State Legislators to consider sponsoring legislation for Atlantic County, and all counties, to assume the tax assessment functions from municipalities. Councilman Tighe motioned, seconded by Councilman Matik, to add a Resolution to the agenda in support of same. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

10. Mr. Youngblood
 - A. Mr. Youngblood discussed a Resolution on the agenda supporting an application to Atlantic County for the Diversion of Parkland. The City previously purchased property with County Open Space Trust funds. The lands are encumbered with restrictions against disposal or diversion from open space, recreation and conservation uses and the adjacent Seaview Elementary School has developed an improvement plan that requires the authority to permanently occupy approximately 0.55 (acres / square feet) of land at Block 6, Lots 25, 28 and 29. The City has submitted a preliminary application to the New Jersey Green Acres Program for a Diversion of the affected property and has proposed to deed-restrict approximately 5.5 acres of land adjacent to the subject parcel.

At 6:44 P.M., Council President Taylor called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk