

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
September 28, 2016

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:12 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 Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Doug Carman, Police Department; Captain John Hamilton, Police Department; Lieutenant Jason Weber, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

- A. The Mayor advised of a Resolution on the agenda opposing casinos outside of Atlantic City.
- B. The Mayor discussed a Proclamation for Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day on October 6, 2016.

4. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

- 1. Councilman Beinfest reported that the Historical Society received a bequest in the amount of \$50,000. They will soon discuss what to do with the money.

5. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

- 1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that Mr. Kolakowski is doing well.
- 2. The Recreation Board asked if Public Works could install additional holiday lights on decorative lights on the bike path and in the park. The City received approval from Atlantic City Electric to do the work.

6. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

- 1. Councilman Gordon discussed two change orders on the agenda which resulted in an overall net reduction in the contact amount of \$5,600. This project was the CDBG ADA improvements to Memorial Park.

7. Councilman Matik

A. Revenue & Finance

- 1. Councilman Matik read and discussed the Best Practices Inventory required to be filed by the State.
- 2. Councilman Matik asked Mr. Strazzeri to explain the process of borrowing money with regard to the tax appeals. Mr. Strazzeri reported on the tax appeal outcome. The State offers a program to allow municipalities to borrow money to cover a percentage of the loss in revenue. It can only be done once. There is a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the City to make application to the Local Finance Board to borrow \$510,000. Council President Paolone advised that due to the appeals, there is a \$20,000,000. drop in ratables, which results in a \$650,000 revenue shortfall. He believes it is an easy call to do, but the question is whether to do it this year or next year. Mr. Strazzeri and Mrs. Hesley believe the tax

appeal situation next year will be at least the same if not greater. Councilman Matik believes City Council should do it this year. The deadline is October 13. Councilwoman DeDomenicis discussed holding off on projects in the City and to look for other ways to lessen the tax burden by possibly raising sewer rates. Councilman Matik believes that borrowing now, selling the liquor license, and raising sewer rates now will help the City in the future. Councilman Gordon discussed the need for capital funds for upcoming infrastructure improvements and the costs related to same. He too believes increasing the sewer rates will help. Councilman Matik also discussed the negative impact in the loss of ratables for the school budgets.

8. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading to amend the Personnel & Policy Procedure Manual for compliance with the JIF requirements.
2. Council President Paolone also reviewed a Resolution on the agenda affirming the City's Civil Rights Policy as required by the JIF.
3. Council President Paolone explained that in compliance with COAH, the City used to charge development fees to builders. A few years ago, the State attempted to take that money. The City transferred it to the Atlantic County Improvement Authority to be used by low income residents for house rehabilitation. The City's agreement is expiring. He asked if everyone would like to renew the agreement. Mrs. Napoli advised that the City gets COAH credits by having this program. All members of Council agreed to renew the agreement.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk