

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
October 14, 2015

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; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: Councilman Elliot Beinfest.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; Chick Kisby, Fire Official; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2015 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with one abstention from Councilman Heun. Motion was approved.

3. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon discussed Resolutions on the agenda authorizing grant applications to the NJDOT for the bike path extension project, phase 2, and for the resurfacing of Hamilton, Adams, and Grant Avenues.

4. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda to reject the proposals received for Emergency Medical Services. The lowest proposal was \$4,000 a month. The committee is looking into a possible shared service in order to save the tax payers money. Northfield will also be included. The current EMS contract expires in February.

5. Council President Tighe

A. Administration

1. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Raffle License for the Mainland Baseball Booster Club.
2. Council President Tighe reviewed the bamboo ordinance and how the issue has evolved into a neighbor versus neighbor problem. The City is being relied on as a lawyer and enforcer. He does not feel that should be the City's role. The ordinance should be rewritten to only prohibit new planting. If you already have bamboo you should be required to contain it to your property. Forcing someone to remediate someone else's property will take the City to court and cost time and resources. Councilman Matik advised that the intent of the ordinance was to have residents contain it to their own yards. Mr. Youngblood discussed how residents are debating where it originated and will then dispute who contains it. The City should take a stance not to get into the middle of a neighbor dispute. Councilman Paolone believes the ordinance was well written and very thought out. Dr. Lacy provided a lot of input on the ordinance. He does not think it should be rewritten. Councilman Heun agreed. Discussion continued upon remediation and containment of the bamboo. It was determined that Councilmen Paolone, Heun, and Mr. Youngblood will review the ordinance and make a recommendation.

B. Planning & Development

1. Council President Tighe advised that Mrs. Napoli, Captain Hamilton, and Chick Kisby did a lot of research for a new phone system. Councilman Matik was involved as well. The new system will be a hosted VOIP system with multiple new options for the City. The plan is also to get the communication and server equipment out of the basement.
2. Council President Tighe discussed the ongoing concern with parents parking on east side of Wabash Avenue alongside Hartshorne Park and allowing their children to run across the street into traffic without using the crosswalk or crossing guards. It is very unsafe. Mrs. Speirs requested a new fence to prevent them from climbing over the existing split rail fence. Council discussed different options such as closing off the east side of Wabash Avenue between Garfield and Greenwich to prevent parents from parking there. The school has repeatedly advised the parents not to park there. They discussed having the police issue warnings first then tickets to those that continue. Mr. Polistina advised that he inspected the traffic at pick up time and referred to it as disorganized chaos. It was determined to meet with school officials to discuss a solution.

6. Mr. Youngblood

- A. Mr. Youngblood advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing an escrow fee with regard to the Mount Laurel Litigation. Each municipality was directed by Judge Perskie to pay \$2,000.

At 6:32 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk