

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
October 22, 2014

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Hank Kolakowski, Public Works Superintendent; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2014 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

1. A Resolution is on the agenda to authorize the annual Alliance Agreement with Atlantic County.
2. Councilman Beinfest reported that members of the Recreation Board have asked if possibly the cafeteria/gym of the Poplar Avenue School could be salvaged prior to demolition to use for an indoor athletic facility or youth center. Councilman Gordon indicated that this is a new member on the Board who is doing his due diligence. Councilman Matik advised that there is no working HVAC in the building and it would cost more money to have that installed. The Mayor suggested that the ceiling may be too low. Councilman Beinfest advised that it was just a thought and if it isn't feasible, than it will not be considered. Mr. Polistina indicated that he did not think it was a feasible plan because of the work that would be necessary to make it suitable for the public. The specifications for demolition are ready to go. The electric will be turned off any day. They can hold off if Council wants to allow them time to do their due diligence. Council President Tighe suggested giving them thirty days. Councilman Matik suggested having the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee on Recreation consider this site as well all the parks. Discussion ensued upon the members of that committee.
3. Councilman Beinfest advised that the Recreation Board members also discussed having a master plan for Memorial Park. They continue to do band aids at the park and are looking for City Council to make a major investment there. Council President Tighe discussed how the park is a problem because it used to be a swamp. Councilman Matik indicated that this too would be a discussion for the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Recreation. Councilman Gordon would like to see a plan developed.

4. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon reported on the east side of Shore Road utility upgrades. The curbing and sanitary sewer work is ongoing. They will not be replacing all curbing because of budget constraints. South Jersey Gas has completed their work and should begin paving by the end of the week on the south side of the project, Arbor Court, and progress north. The gas company paving should be done by the end of the year. New Jersey American Water Company is just about complete their project and most likely will not have paving completed by the end of the year.

5. Councilman Heun
 - A. Councilman Heun announced that the demolition of the American Legion Hall is just about completed. He thanked everyone for their efforts in having that project done.

6. Councilman Matik
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Matik advised that an Ordinance is on the agenda to address bamboo in the City. There are some areas in the City where bamboo has become a problem. The Ordinance has will allow the Code Enforcement Officer to ask the resident to confine the bamboo to the property and or remove it. Fines can be issued and it also restricts certain types of bamboo from being planted.
 2. A Resolution is on the agenda to hire substitute Crossing Guards.
 3. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a settlement of issues with the PBA. Mr. Youngblood explained that there were questions raised about allowing certain employees to tack on time worked as Dispatchers toward their total years to qualify for health benefits. This will benefit the City as it will allow those employees to retire sooner and the City can hire a new employee at a lower rate. The PBA agreed not to go back further on this as it wouldn't apply to any other employees nor will they seek anything retroactively. He also explained that this agreement also resolves another issue of longevity with one other employee. Councilman Paolone questioned the longevity decision as it only effects one person. Mr. Youngblood explained that the employee is almost there now and it has been done in the past for another employee. It cannot happen in the future as no other members of the Department served as dispatchers.
 4. Councilman Matik reported that he should have Resolutions at the next Council meeting authorizing new Contracts with the Teamsters and Firefighters.

7. Council President Tighe
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Tighe discussed an Ordinance amending Chapter 52 Personnel & Personnel Procedures, Employee Manual to update and adopt JIF required policies. It is on the agenda for final reading.
 2. Council President Tighe advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading to amend Chapter 83, Alcoholic Beverages, on the Restrictions on Location and Operation.
 3. Council President Tighe discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading granting renewal of Municipal Consent to Comcast for a Cable Franchise.
 - B. Planning & Development
 1. Council President Tighe advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading to amend Chapter 119 for the Uniform Construction Code Fees.
 2. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing the execution of a Redevelopment Agreement with New Linwood Office Park, LLC for the Bloom Tract (Block 1, Lots 26.01 & 26.02) (1825-1901 New Road). Representatives from New Linwood Office Park, LLC passed around artist renderings of the project.

At 6:26 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk