

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
October 26, 2016**

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Gordon led the flag salute.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:20 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2016 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

6 OF 2016 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 56 POLICE DEPARTMENT, ARTICLE IV, PROMOTIONAL PROCEDURES, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 6 of 2016 by title only. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis to approve Ordinance No. 6 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 6. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

8 OF 2016 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 119 CONSTRUCTION CODES, UNIFORM, SECTION 119-3 FEES OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 8 of 2016 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun to approve Ordinance No. 8 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under item, **Consent** Agenda, are considered to be routine by City Council, and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds and any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately. All Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- 152-2016** A Resolution authorizing the refund of a tax overpayment for 507 Wilson Avenue
- 153-2016** A Resolution waiving a Construction Permit Fee
- 154-2016** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2017-01, to Our Lady of Sorrows
- 155-2016** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Bingo License, #2017-01, to Our Lady of Sorrows Church
- 156-2016** A Resolution authorizing approval of an Emergency Management Shared Service Shelter Agreement among Linwood, Northfield, and Somers Point

- 158-2016** A Resolution of the City of Linwood, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, authorizing the financing of amounts owing to taxpayers from tax appeals for taxes levied in the City through the issuance of tax appeal refunding bonds or notes, and acknowledging the approvals required by the Division of Local Government Services in connection therewith

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve Resolutions No. 152-156, 157 of 2016. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- 157-2016** A Resolution qualifying Gerald Bird of GLB Management, LLC to bid on a Liquor License in the City of Linwood

The Clerk read Resolution No. 157 of 2016 by title only. Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 157. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and one abstention by Councilman Matik. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,120,250.94

Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilman Beinfest, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council President Paolone opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

Dan Miller 505 Barr Avenue, Linwood - Mr. Miller spoke at the last Council meeting in favor of the recreation plan for Poplar Avenue. He was surprised to hear that some people were not in favor of the plan. Mr. Miller reiterated his support of the project and believes it will benefit the City. He also discussed the need for improvements to the sports buildings at All Wars Memorial Field.

Sue Rush 402 Joseph Avenue, Linwood - Mrs. Rush is the President of the youth lacrosse program with over two hundred kids playing. Lacrosse is ever growing and there a lot of issues with field space now. Another field would certainly help. She is in favor of the proposed field at Poplar Avenue.

Arthur Chew 130 W. Seaview Avenue, Linwood - Mr. Chew was told that residents had safety concerns with kids playing on Poplar Avenue due to it's proximity to Oak and Poplar Avenue. Mr. Chew indicated that the site used to be a school that kids played there all the time. Mr. Chew is in favor of the proposed field. He discussed the \$100 fee the Recreation Board charges to use fields in Linwood and suggested that they not waive the fee any longer so the funds can be used on the fields.

Anthony Caucci 6 E. Monroe Avenue, Linwood - Mr. Caucci discussed the need for improvements to the baseball building at All Wars Memorial Park and distributed a plan to Council for same.

Ben Albert 2046 Shore Road, Linwood - Mr. Albert moved to Linwood three years ago for the schools. The park was also an attraction. He believes recreation programs are attractions for families. He would like to see the new field at Poplar Avenue.

Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor DePamphilis – The Mayor doesn't think any member of the governing body is opposed to the new field at Poplar Avenue. They are here so that people can express their concerns. The Mayor will look into doing something to the buildings at the park. The timing is bad for money right now. However, they will work on things.

Councilman Beinfest – Councilman Beinfest discussed the proposed field at Poplar Avenue and indicated that Council will have to do what is best for the City. Everything will be considered. He also announced the trunk or treat event this Saturday at the park from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked Mr. Miller for his comments. The governing body needs to do what is best for the City. The field at Poplar Avenue will be something for everyone. It's important the quality of life and positive way of life continues. The fall leaf program begins on November 7.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts. It is a challenge to keep everything running with the current budget constraints. But, things do need to get done. Council will work with all groups for the improvements to All Wars Memorial Park. Poplar Avenue is a work in progress for many years.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford echoed a lot of other members have said. Council will have to take a comprehensive look at everything. He appreciates everyone who spoke. The volunteers are a huge asset to Linwood. He thanked them for all they do. He also thanked the Recreation Board for their efforts. He congratulated Mr. Bird on the ability to bid on the liquor license. He hopes his project is a success.

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik explained that the Blue Ribbon Committee on Recreation approved and recommended the plan for Poplar Avenue to City Council. They had the engineer evaluate the needs of the City. Lacrosse has no place to play. Lacrosse and soccer continue to grow. Currently, there is no way of resting the fields. There is money set aside from the bond to demolish the school that will be used to develop the field. If the money is not used it will be lost. The Poplar Avenue property is deed restricted. The restriction could be lifted on part of the property but the entire piece. He doesn't believe the residents would want commercial property there. Councilman Matik urged Council to move forward with the project so the kids have a place to play. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He would like to see the upgrades to the buildings at All Wars Memorial Park. He also noted that each athletic organization takes care of themselves and Council does not ask for money from any of them.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He reminded everyone to cross and drive safely, and watch the speed limit. He is looking for ways to keep taxes down. He does not want to see the Poplar Avenue site become commercial. He wants to see it as recreation.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone indicated that Poplar Avenue was never contemplated to be commercial. That was suggested by a resident that spoke at the meeting last week. Council is in favor of recreation and not lifting the deed restriction. He agrees with Mr. Albert that the project would add value to Linwood. Council President Paolone discussed the requested improvements to All Wars Memorial Park. He advised that Councilman Ford just completed a grant request to upgrade the lighting at the soccer field. The baseball program is great. He discussed the volunteers to all the programs and how they help make Linwood great. He is glad people came out to support the Poplar Avenue project. He reminded everyone to be safe trick or treating and to be careful crossing Shore Road.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Beinfest, to adjourn at 7:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk