

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
October 28, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Ralph Paolone 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 and reiterated his statement from Caucus Meeting that in light of the Governor's issuance of Executive Order 107, tonight's City Council meeting is being live streamed through Zoom. Instructions on how to attend the meeting via Zoom are posted on the City's website.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Darren Matik (via live stream); Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon (via live stream); Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Matt Levinson (via live stream); and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor (via live stream); Vince Polistina, City Engineer (via live stream); and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. 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.

- 165-2020** A Resolution authorizing an application to the Local Government Emergency Fund (CRF) Grant
- 166-2020** A Resolution authorizing the refund of a tax overpayment of the 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax payment made for Block 31, Lot 10 located at 103 E. Dawn Drive, in the City of Linwood
- 167-2020** A Resolution approving an amendment to Raffle License No. 2020-20-A for Gilda's Club South Jersey
- 168-2020** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of property taxes for Block 12 Lots 2 & 20
- 169-2020** A Resolution approving temporary signage for Jersey Shore Aesthetics & Wellness
- 170-2020** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1-Final with Arawak Paving Company with regard to the FY 2019 Resurfacing of Brighton Drive Development in the City of Linwood

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve Resolutions No. 165-170 of 2020. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,406,701.78**

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, 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. Chris Maher, 102 Carol Road, Linwood – Mr. Maher discussed the high noise level coming from the Linwood Country Club all summer, even after 11:00pm. He has spoken to the Chief of Police regarding the issue and noted there is a problem with the way the City ordinance is written. It allows the Linwood Country Club specifically to unlimited noise from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm. It was not drafted with all the residents in mind. He was told by staff at the country club that they will be expanding their outside bar, which will mean more noise. He has video of the noise from his home and offered Council to listen. He asked Council to help rectify the issue.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (continued)**

Matt Brynick, 208 W. Vernon Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Brynick presented an idea he has already pitched to lacrosse, soccer, football, cheerleaders, as well as the Linwood Board of Recreation regarding an artificial turf field/or fields at All Wars Memorial Park. He explained that it would be done as a fundraiser with a web page created for donations. The field would be lined for soccer, lacrosse, and football. He discussed the overuse of the fields at the park now and the limitations on use during bad weather. He is asking for City Council's support. 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**

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford reminded everyone to vote. He advised Mr. Brynick that before he was a member of City Council, Councilman Ford was involved with coaching and the Recreation Board. He completely understands the benefits of a synthetic turf field. He explained there are challenges to putting a turf field at Memorial Park due to Green Acres and the regulations they maintain for modifications to impervious surfaces. He agrees that synthetic turf fields help preserve the grass fields.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson advised Mr. Maher that Council will look into getting his issue resolved. He thanked Mr. Brynick for attending the meeting. He believes everyone would like to see a turf field. The Revenue & Finance Committee will have to review the proposal. Councilman Levinson also attended the Neighborhood Services Committee meeting for discussions on a holiday event. Due to the pandemic they are not in favor of holding any large social gatherings but are discussing other ideas for the safety of the residents.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes also thanked Mr. Brynick for attending the meeting. Several years ago, the question of an artificial turf field at Mainland High School was presented to the voters during an election and the voters voted it down. Council will review the proposal and see what is right for the City. Councilwoman Byrnes told the story of how Phebe Schwartz ended up living in Linwood temporarily due to the Pandemic. Mrs. Schwartz noticed the deteriorating sign at Hartshorne Park and asked to donate a new one. Mrs. Schwartz made and donated a new sign for the park and Public Works installed it this past week. It was a nice gesture that came out of the Pandemic. Mrs. Schwartz is traveling again and was not able to attend tonight's meeting to be formally thanked. However, Councilwoman Byrnes and Councilman Levinson met with her at the installation and thanked her on behalf of the City.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon echoed the comments of Councilman Levinson. He thanked Mrs. Schwartz for the new sign noting how great it looks.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked and commended Mrs. Schwartz on the new sign. She advised that Public Works is getting ready to decorate the bike path.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun advised that Council will look into the situation with the country club. They are a good corporate citizen and they hope to do what works best for everyone.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone agrees with the Neighborhood Services Committee's decision on not holding any large social gathering events for the holidays. There is a global pandemic and the numbers are going up. He hopes things get back to normal soon. However, it is not safe at this time. Council President Paolone discussed how much he would really like an artificial turf field. He reminded everyone that the question of a turf field at Mainland High School was put to the voters along with questions for renovations to the school itself. The voters overwhelmingly supported the renovations to the school by 75% to 25% and voted down the turf field by the exact opposite count. That is why the City has not bonded for a turf field because the tax payers do not want it. The idea of a private fundraiser is great. The City could not back the fundraiser unless the City controls the money. That would have to be a hurdle to overcome first.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to adjourn at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk