

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES**  
**November 12, 2014**

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:07 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; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chick Kisby, Fire Chief; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2014 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor advised that there would be a Resolution to hire a new Patrolman on the regular agenda. The individual's name is Brandon Settle. He was a former police officer in Camden and he is a resident of Linwood.

B. The Mayor announced the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee for a Recreation Master Plan. The members are: Councilman Darren Matik, Vince Polistina, Leigh Ann Napoli, Eric Ford, Greg Pettit, Dean Harrison, Stacy Ordille, Sam Watt, Diana Gurwicz, Jim Rutala, Don Robertson, Bob Boileau, Matt Levinson, and Mike Gatley.

4. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon advised of a Resolution on the agenda approving Change Order No. 1 & 2-Final with Arawak Paving for the Country Club & Delmar Avenue resurfacing project. The work was for the additional paving that was done on a portion of Woodlynne Boulevard.

5. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik recognized Dr. Allen Lacy to discuss the proposed bamboo Ordinance. Dr. Lacy is the Curator and founder of the Linwood Arboretum. Dr. Lacy indicated that he reviewed the City's proposed Ordinance as well as the State's proposed bill, and numerous other laws throughout the Country. The proposed Ordinance prohibits the planting of both running & clumping bamboo. Dr. Lacy discussed the difference between the two and said there is no need to prohibit the clumping bamboo as it is controllable as shown in the Linwood Arboretum. He also believes the enforcement section of the proposed Ordinance is unenforceable as bamboo is extremely difficult to get rid of and property owners could incur large fines if they cannot remove the bamboo. He asked that Council look at more research on the issue. Maybe even consider passing a policy on all invasive plants. Councilman Paolone agrees that the City needs to pass legislation that makes sense and is enforceable. Council President Tighe discussed a grandfather clause for the Ordinance. Discussion ensued upon the Ordinance. Councilman Matik will take Dr. Lacy's comments into consideration. It is an inherent right of a homeowner that other homeowners don't impede in other people's space. He does not want to be regulated by the State. There is a provision in the Ordinance, as proposed, that allows for a plan for removal of the bamboo to be submitted to the Code Enforcement Officer. If the plan is ignored, there is a \$100 per day violation. Council needs

to protect the residents. Councilman Matik does agree to take the restrictions on clumping out. The Ordinance will be brought back to City Council at a future date.

2. A Resolution is on the agenda to hire one Substitute Crossing Guard.
3. Councilman Matik discussed a Resolution on the agenda to approve the Contract with the Teamsters Local #331. He discussed the changes from the old contract to the new contract. This contract changes the hours per week for the Police Secretary from 35 to 40 hours per week, which was a request by the Police Department. This contract gives back five vacation and five sick days. There is no lifetime medical benefits for new hires. Instead of four steps, there is now twelve steps. The salary increases are 2% for 2014, 2% for 2015, and zero for 2016. Councilman Paolone would have liked to have had time to review the proposed changes prior to the time he was given it at 1:30 p.m. today. Councilwoman DeDomenicis indicated that the committee has been meeting to discuss this contract for months. They would not be presenting anything to Council if they did not think it was a good contract. The changes are a benefit for the future. It doesn't affect the remaining seven employees in the department much. Councilwoman DeDomenicis and Mr. Youngblood reviewed the changes and thanked Councilman Matik for doing research and obtaining contracts from other towns to compare. Council President Tighe advised that in this form of government, it is the committee's job to do the work and make recommendations to all Council. He commended the committee for their efforts. Councilman Paolone asked if the Resolution could be pulled until he has time to review the proposed contract. All Council agreed to pull the Resolution until the next Council meeting. Councilwoman DeDomenicis apologized for not sending the revisions sooner.

6. Councilman Paolone

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the reappointment of Anthony Strazzeri as CFO for the City.
2. Councilman Paolone discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing budget appropriation transfers. Councilman Matik would like the Chair to be notified ahead of time before money is being transferred from that department.
3. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing the refund of various tax overpayments.

7. President Tighe

A. Administration

1. Council President Tighe discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading granting renewal of Municipal Consent to Comcast for a Cable Franchise. This Ordinance was tabled at the last meeting, but is back on the agenda for tonight. Council President Tighe discussed the amounts that are paid to Comcast from each public building, including the schools. The City will be receiving a \$15,000 technology grant from Comcast as part of this agreement. Council President Tighe advised that the City will come up with a plan for the grant. He would like to allow for some of the funds to be used to relocate the telecommunication equipment from the basement to the first floor.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing additional funds for the Professional Services Contract with Amy Rudley, Esq. for employment training.
3. Resolutions are on the agenda authorizing a Bingo & Raffle Licenses to Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

B. Planning & Development

1. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing Zoning Board reappointments.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing the refund of a zoning board escrow fee for 6 Wabash Avenue.

3. Council President Tighe discussed going out to bid for the liquor license. He reviewed a proposed timeline and minimum bid amount of \$300,000, but asked all Council to take time to review and provide input.

At 6:58 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk