

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
November 13, 2019

Council President Ralph Paolone 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 June Byrnes; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Captain John Hamilton, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2019 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with two abstentions from Councilman Heun and Council President Paolone. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes reported that she met with Councilman Matik and Mr. Strazzeri to review the City's purchasing policies and outlined them for the Recreation Board. Council President Paolone reminded everyone that all purchases have to be approved by the Department Chairs first.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda adopting a Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy for employees with Commercial Driver's Licenses.

5. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Ford discussed a Resolution approving a request for a Hardship Exception from Road Opening Moratorium for 220 Tabor Avenue. The street was paved just over a year ago during a City roadway paving project. Councilman Ford explained that the new infrared paving technology that will be used to repair the opening blends very well.

6. Councilman Heun

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Heun advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the hiring of Melvin H. Goldberg and George C. Price as Substitute School Crossing Guards for the City of Linwood
2. Councilman Heun advised of a Resolution authorizing the hiring of Barbara Harrington as Police Chief Secretary. The current secretary is retiring.

B. Planning Board

1. Councilman Heun discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the release of Surety with regard to The Exchange. All the conditions for release have been met.

7. Councilman Matik

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution authorizing budget appropriation transfers.
2. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution amending the Salary Resolution for non-contractual employees.

8. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone reviewed a JIF Bulletin for Best Risk Control Practices for Volunteer Youth Coaches. They are recommending background checks on all volunteers. Councilmen Matik and Ford indicated that several sports organizations already require background checks. Councilman Matik advised of a company that will do them all for the City and Mrs. Napoli will be contacting them.
2. Council discussed tentative dates for the 2020 Reorganization Meeting. January 4, 2020 is a possibility.
3. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Raffle License to the Margate Education Foundation.
4. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a Bingo License and two Raffle Licenses to Bright Stars Academy
5. Council President Paolone explained that Councilman Matik has been spearheading the shared court discussions and asked for an update. Councilman Matik reported that this past summer the City was advised that Northfield Court would be sharing with Egg Harbor Township and would no longer be sharing with Linwood. The City of Linwood then began negotiation with Egg Harbor Township as well. The City of Northfield then decided their court would remain in Northfield so Linwood agreed to stay with Northfield. The Northfield Court Administrator is retiring and the Deputy Court Administrator resigned. Northfield will now be moving forward with sharing courts with Egg Harbor Township. Council President Paolone advised that the City is now reviewing the proposal with Egg Harbor Township as well as reviewing costs to have its own court in Linwood. He will report back to Council at the next meeting.

9. Mr. Youngblood

- A. Mr. Youngblood discussed an Ordinance to purchase vacant lots on Cleveland Avenue contingent upon the City receiving funds from the Atlantic County Open Space Financial Assistance Program. Councilman Ford indicated that this purchase meets the goals of the City's Master and Open Space Plans. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to add the Ordinance to the agenda. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

At 6:22 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk