

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
November 21, 2017

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Councilman Elliot Beinfest; and Councilman Darren Matik.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor reported that he appointed Michael Allen and Judy Simpson to the Board of Recreation.

4. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis announced that the tree lighting is scheduled for December 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

5. Councilman Heun

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Heun advised of a Resolution on the agenda to hire Lynne Breslin as a Crossing Guard.

2. Councilman Heun discussed the difficulty of getting patrolman to work construction details. They requested an amendment to their contract that would allow them to be paid regularly for the overtime, not just quarterly. Council discussed how the contractors can also hire traffic control and did not feel it was necessary to amend the contract.

6. Councilman Matik

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing budget appropriation transfers.

B. Emergency Management

1. Council President Paolone discussed how at the last Council meeting, several members had questions about the paper work for the City's Community Rating System renewal. Council President Paolone introduced Jim Rutala to discuss the program. Mr. Rutala advised that after Hurricane Sandy, the City was able to get into the Community Rating System and provide a 15% discount on flood insurance to homeowners. He is now working on getting a 25% discount. He understands that Council had some concerns with the language on one of the documents and amended it accordingly. All present members agreed to the revisions and authorized Vince Polistina to sign the necessary paperwork.

7. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone discussed dates for the 2018 Reorganization Meeting. The meeting was set for January 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the advertisement for proposals for Municipal Legal Counsel for 2018.
3. Council President Paolone discussed a Resolution on the agenda supporting S2872 and A4510 creating certain incentives to qualified businesses in Garden State Growth Zone in Atlantic City and creating a Garden State Growth Zone at the FAA William J. Hughes Center and surrounding area.
4. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License to the Mainland Baseball Booster Club.
5. Council President Paolone discussed the proposed renewal for the Shared Court Agreement with Northfield. All the present members of Council were in approval of the agreement. A Resolution for renewal will be placed on the December 13, 2017 agenda.
6. Council President Paolone discussed a proposal to dissolve the Zoning Board and grant the Planning Board the powers for both boards. There could be a cost savings in professional and board secretary fees. Council discussed the issue and agreed how lucky the City is to have the volunteers that they have now. Councilman Gordon suggested forming a committee to review this in more detail. Council President Paolone assigned the Planning & Development Committee consisting of Councilmen Ford, Heun and himself to gather more information and report at a future meeting.

8. Mr. Youngblood

- A. Mr. Youngblood reported that he was contacted with regard to money that was left by the Villari Trust to the Clara Glenn Pet Cemetery. The stipulation for the trust was that a charitable benefit was intact and meets all the IRS codes. Mr. Youngblood explained that the cemetery was closed and given to the Linwood Historical Society who later deeded it to the City of Linwood. So essentially the City didn't qualify for the money. However, Mr. Youngblood prepared a brief to oppose and argued that the City is a defacto charity. If someone donates money to the City, that becomes charitable by the IRS standards. Mr. Youngblood also argued that the City deed restricted the property for the public good. Mr. Youngblood won his argument and the City could receive approximately \$50,000 to be used for future purposes at the cemetery.

At 6:40 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk