

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
November 28, 2012

Council President Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:13 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; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; Councilman Tim Tighe; and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; Robert James, Police Chief; 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 November 14, 2012 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilman Paolone. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilman Tighe commended Public Works on their efforts cleaning up from the storm.

4. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon discussed an Ordinance on for final reading accepting a Deed of Dedication for Block 106, Lot 3 (104 W. Van Sant Avenue) where a section of the bike path is located.

5. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik commended the quick response by Public Works installing the no parking signs and painting lines for the right of way requested by the school district.

6. Councilman Paolone

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Paolone reviewed a Resolution cancelling a capital balance for a pond project that was not done.

7. Councilman Tighe

A. Planning & Development

1. Councilman Tighe discussed a Resolution awarding a contract to Line Systems for local & long distance telephone service.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda waiving UCC permit fees issued for work done as a result of damages caused by Hurricane Sandy.
3. Councilman Tighe discussed a request by Tranquility Spa for a temporary sign. He advised that the City is still waiting for the developer of Cornerstone to sign the amended Redevelopment Agreement that includes a new sign package that should help to eliminate the requests for temporary signs. Councilman Beinfest discussed the last temporary sign that was just approved for the business and agreed with Councilman Tighe's comment that if approved they would be back with another request. Councilman Paolone is in favor of the request and believes that the City should do what they can to help the businesses. Council President Taylor advised that the business received a letter in March from the City advising that temporary signs would no longer be approved. The request was denied with four members of

Council in the negative, Councilman Paolone in the affirmative, and one abstention by Council President Taylor.

8. Council President Taylor

A. Administration

1. Council President Taylor advised of a Resolution on the agenda scheduling the paid holidays for 2013.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing the advertisement for proposals for 2013 Professional Contracts.

9. Mr. Youngblood

A. Mr. Youngblood discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement and Contract on behalf of the City with the Mainland PBA No. 77. A summary of the agreement was distributed to Council several weeks ago. Council President advised that the negotiating committee, consisting of her and Councilman Beinfest, are recommending the agreement. She believes it is a good compromise for both sides. Councilman Tighe understands the committee did a lot of work. His problem is that because the agreement affects things in the future, there is no real benefit to the City now. Councilman Tighe reviewed the percentages of salary increases that were awarded over the last fifteen years, noting that the police did very well. He does not believe that the proposed three year increases of 2% are fair in this economy. Councilman Beinfest explained that most benefits in contracts are usually felt in the long run. The larger increases that were given in prior years were during different times for the City. The economy was not the same as it is now. Councilman Tighe noted that an 8% increase was given the year the City moved to the State Health Benefit Plan. Councilman Paolone explained that the increase was negotiated as it was believed at the time, the City would save approximately \$300,000 per year moving to the State's plan. Although the savings did not work out that way. Discussing the proposed contract, he indicated that concessions were needed in order to get things the City wanted, like reduced holidays, extra steps, phasing out of longevity, uniform allowance changes, etc. The committee worked very hard. Councilman Tighe noted that over the last two years he has received nothing but compliments on the performance from members of the Police Department. He agrees they are doing a good job. Mayor DePamphilis believes the contract consists of a fair compromise, noting that it is time to move forward. Councilman Matik discussed the difficulties of balancing the public and private sectors in consideration of the economy. He is confident that the 2% increases will not put a burden on the taxpayers and that certain terms in the contract will save the City money in the future.

At 6:41 P.M., Council President Taylor called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk