

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
December 10, 2014

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: Councilman Todd Gordon.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; Donna Clark, Court Administrator; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2014 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor announced that Chief of Police Colin Hickey will retire. His last day is February 28, 2015. The Mayor met with the Mayor of Northfield to discuss possibilities. They will meet again soon.

4. Councilman Beinfest

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilman Beinfest reported that the Recreation Board met last night. They would like to have their budget increased by \$4,000 and are requesting about \$8,000 in Capital Funds. One of the items they would like to purchase is an inflatable movie screen, rather than renting one each time. They would also like to purchase more decorations. Councilman Beinfest believes there is a good group of residents on the board and they are working towards making all the events more successful.

5. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

A. Public Works

1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis explained that the City received a letter from a resident on Rose Lane along with pictures of dead bushes on their property that borders the street. The resident is suggesting that salt put down by the City, last winter, killed the bushes. Mr. Kolakowski inspected and took additional photos of the property along with neighboring properties in the development. No other bushes or grass is damaged. Even the grass on the property claiming damage has green grass. Mr. Kolakowski indicated that he does not routinely salt in that area. He also indicated that some parts of the bushes are green. He suggested that the possibility of a fungus. Mr. Kolakowski believes that if the City really salted that area, other bushes on other properties would also be dead including the grass. Discussion ensued on this matter and it was determined that because the grass is still alive on the property in question, and no other bushes or greenery in the development was damaged, that the City is not at fault. Councilwoman DeDomenicis will respond to the resident.

6. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Mr. Polistina reported that paving projects in conjunction with the South Jersey Gas Company and New Jersey American Water Company utility replacement projects is just about complete. Punch list items remain as well as some outstanding resident issues. The City will soon be meeting with the utility companies to address any outstanding items.

- Councilman Heun asked that if the utility companies will make good on any grass they plant now if it does not take in the Spring. Mr. Polistina responded in the affirmative.
2. Mr. Polistina also reported that the balance of the streets east of Shore Road will be paved in 2015, along with Woodlynne Boulevard. He is also completing the plans for the bike path extension project and the Schoolhouse Drive paving project.
7. Councilman Heun
 - A. Councilman Heun discussed a Resolution on the agenda approving the Settlement of a Tax Appeal filed by Linwood Country Club. He reported that Mr. Youngblood and Mr. Amonette were involved and recommend the offer. One of the terms in the Agreement is that they cannot appeal again until 2017. The City does not have to refund them any money. The Country Club will receive a reduction in future taxes.
 8. Councilman Matik
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Matik discussed the revised Ordinance to address bamboo. The Ordinance is on the agenda for final reading.
 9. Councilman Paolone
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda cancelling small balances of tax refunds or delinquencies in the amount of \$25.10.
 2. Councilman Paolone discussed a Resolution authorizing budget appropriation transfers. Council President Tighe reported that \$30,000 has been transferred out of the budget for legal expenses and noted how the City Solicitor is saving the City money.
 3. A Resolution is on the agenda canceling certain appropriation balances in the amount of \$145,000. That amount will now go towards the City's Fund Balance.
 4. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing an Agreement with Glenn Insurance as the City's Risk Management Consultant. The rate is at 3%, which is less than last year.
 5. Councilman Paolone discussed a Resolution authorizing an amended Agreement for the Shared Municipal Court. This matter was discussed at the last Council meeting and Councilman Paolone provided Council with additional material to review. Councilman Paolone met with Northfield City Councilman Jim O'Neill and Donna Clark, the Court Administrator, to review the amended agreement and court budget. There is a 2.5% increase for the next three years, which represents the costs to run the court. Even with the increase, the City still saves money. The staff is doing a great job, including the Judge, Public Defender, and Prosecutor. Councilman Paolone discussed that it is Linwood's turn once again for the appointments of the Public Defender and Prosecutor. He would like to advertise for proposals. The current professionals have both expressed interest to continue.
 6. Councilman Paolone announced that Adrienne Carman, the Assistant Tax Collector, passed the State's Certified Tax Collector exam. He congratulated Ms. Carman. The terms of her employment included a salary increase upon successful completion of the exam, which will now be granted.
 10. Council President Tighe
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda scheduling the paid holidays for 2015.
 2. A Resolution is on the agenda scheduling the 2015 City Council Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

B. Planning & Development

1. Council President Tighe discussed a request that came in late today for a temporary banner at the Cornerstone Commerce Center. He distributed a sample of the banner advertising a new business, Pinky Nails, requested for thirty days. Council agreed to allow the sign towards the south end of the property away of the other two signs already posted. The time period approved was the requested thirty days.
2. Council President Tighe advised that within the next few weeks a lot of material will be distributed to City Council in reference to agreements for the two redevelopment properties; the Cornerstone Commerce Center and the Bloom site. He asked Council to review everything.

At 6:35 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk