

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
December 13, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford 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.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Albright led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Michael; Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; and Mary Cole, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

A Resolution Honoring Councilwoman June Byrnes

Council President Ford presented a resolution to Councilwoman Byrnes honoring her for her efforts as Chair of the Neighborhood Services Committee and invaluable service she has given to the Public Works Committee, the Revenue & Finance Committee, and to the Library Board, Environmental Commission, and School Boards.

186-2023 A Resolution authorizing 2023 Budget Appropriation Transfers

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to discuss Resolution No. 186 of 2023. No one was heard. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Resolution No. 186 of 2023. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under item, **Consent Agenda**, are considered to be routine by City Council, and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds and any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately. All Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

172-2023 A Resolution authorizing and scheduling paid Holidays for Calendar Year 2024

173-2023 A Resolution authorizing submission of an American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

174-2023 A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood Police Department to participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office 1033 Program to enable the Linwood Police Department to request and acquire excess Department of Defense Equipment

175-2023 A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Tonya Chrysler Fortino as an Administrative Assistant to the Tax Collector/Sewer Administrator for the City of Linwood

176-2023 A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2024-01, to Egg Harbor Township High School Crew Booster Club

177-2023 A Resolution authorizing the payment of the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars to the ARC of Atlantic County

- 178-2023** A Resolution scheduling the 2024 Reorganization Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Linwood
- 179-2023** A Resolution awarding the Contract to Miller's Lawn Care Inc. for Lawn Maintenance Services in the City of Linwood
- 180-2023** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Bingo License, #2024-01, to Egg Harbor Township High School Crew Booster Club
- 181-2023** A Resolution awarding the Contract to Miller's Lawn Care Inc. for Snow Removal Services in the City of Linwood
- 182-2023** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of a balance due to a sewer penalty fee for Block 48, Lot 24, located at 1301 Oak Avenue in the City of Linwood
- 183-2023** A Resolution authorizing the cancellation of prior year taxes on properties no longer qualified as tax exempt veterans status in the City of Linwood
- 184-2023** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to advertise for bids for Janitorial Services for the City of Linwood
- 185-2023** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with Premier Computer Services
- 187-2023** A Resolution appointing Raymond W. Conover, IV as a Uniform Fire Safety Inspector for the City of Linwood

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from the consent agenda. No items were removed. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions No. 172-185 and 187 of 2023. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,607,182.08

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from the bill list. Items 24001711, 24001721, 24001797 and 24001810 were removed from the bill list totaling \$518.56. The new total for the bills to be paid was \$1,606,663.52. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Council President Ford opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

1. Kathleen Spaeth 108 Country Club Drive told council that she was unable to find the Christmas Tree Lighting and the Menorah Lighting on the City's website. Mrs. Spaeth also commented that she was happy to see all the efforts the City has put into these events but would like to make sure she knows about them in advance.
2. Jessica Weidman of 406 W. Monroe Ave. congratulated her mother, June Byrnes, on her years of service to the community and she stated that she was extremely proud of her!

Seeing and hearing no members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff congratulated and thanked Councilwoman Byrnes and stated he was so proud of everything she has done.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright stated that the tree lighting at the Arboretum was a wonderful event. Councilwoman Albright thanked Public Works and the Recreation department for all their hard work putting things together. Councilwoman Albright thanked Councilwoman Byrnes and stated that she had learned a lot from June and she wishes her the best of luck.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked the Police department for all their efforts solving the recent burglaries in town. Councilman Levinson thanks Councilwoman Byrnes for her many years of service to the community and stated that it had been an honor to sit next to her at the meetings.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked everyone that helped with the senior citizen luncheon this year. Councilwoman Byrnes thanked all the city employees for everything they do. Councilwoman Byrnes stated that she feels gratitude to have been able to serve in the town that she grew up in and raised her children in and feels so fortunate that she was able to give back.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford stated that he feels at times we take our Police and Fire for granted and that he just wanted to say what a great job they do. They are great guys. Council President Ford told Councilwoman Byrnes that he wishes her the best of luck and that it has been awesome serving with her on council and that he enjoyed the senior luncheon. Council President Ford stated that he feels that this years Mainland Mustangs could just be the best teams ever and he is proud of what they have accomplished.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 6:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary F. Cole
Deputy Municipal Clerk