

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
January 28, 2015

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: Councilman Ralph Paolone.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Gary Auer, Engineer's Office; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; 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 December 10, 2014 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor, with one abstention from Councilman Gordon. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

- A. The Mayor reported that a Resolution is on the agenda to confirm his reappointment of Marilyn Tracey to the Library Board.
- B. The Mayor attended a meeting with the Mayors of Atlantic County and County Officials regarding the proposed PILOT program for Atlantic City taxes. If the program is approved by the legislature, the impact to Linwood would be an increase of 4.4 cents since Linwood's collection rate is high. If the program is not approved, there will be a much higher increase.

4. Councilman Beinfest

- A. Neighborhood Services
 - 1. Councilman Beinfest advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the submission for a Grant Extension for the Alliance Grant.

5. Councilwoman DeDomenicis

- A. Public Works
 - 1. Councilwoman DeDomenicis advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a contract for Public Works uniforms to Unifirst Corp.

6. Councilman Gordon

- A. Engineering
 - 1. Councilman Gordon reported that the curbing, sidewalk, and sewer repairs on the east side of Shore Road with regard to the utility infrastructure upgrades are nearing completion.
 - 2. The design phase is still ongoing for the Woodlynne Boulevard project.
 - 3. The School House paving project is also in the design phase. The project should begin in the second quarter of 2015.

7. Councilman Matik

- A. Public Safety
 - 1. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda promoting Acting Captain Jay Loder to the position of Captain.
 - 2. A Resolution is on the agenda hiring part time Firefighter Greg Coderre to the full time position of Firefighter.
 - 3. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing a Union Contract with the International Association of Firefighters.
 - 4. A Resolution is on the agenda hiring three substitute Crossing Guards.

8. Councilman Paolone
 - A. Revenue & Finance
 1. Councilman Heun discussed the Salary Ordinance that is on the agenda for first reading. This ordinance is updated every year and sets the salary ranges for City employees.
 2. Councilman Heun advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a refund for a tax overpayment for 3 Crestwood Avenue.
 3. Councilman Heun discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the change in custody of the petty cash fund from Bonnie Tiemann to Anthony Strazzeri.
9. Council President Tighe
 - A. Administration
 - B. Planning & Development
 1. Council President Tighe discussed an Ordinance on the agenda for first reading amending the Redevelopment Plan. The City has been in negotiations since 2011 to purchase the northern woods at the Cornerstone Commerce Center to protect the neighborhood to the north of the property. The City signed an agreement to purchase that land last month. The next step is to go before the Planning Board for a subdivision of the property, which also contains the portion along the back alongside Patcong Creek. Councilwoman DeDomenicis indicated that no City funds were used towards the purchase of the property. Council President Tighe further clarified that \$250,000 was a grant from the Steward Trust and the remaining purchase price was a Blue Acres Grant from the State of New Jersey. Council President Tighe advised that a PILOT agreement is going along with this project, which means all taxes paid for the new development will go directly to the City, no school or county taxes are paid. The final value of the developed property will determine what the PILOT payment will be after a certificate of completion is issued. The amendment to the plan will now be referred to the Planning Board for their review as required by law.
 2. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing an amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement with regard to the next phase of development at the Cornerstone Commerce Center.
 3. Council President Tighe reiterated that due to the purchase of the woods at the Cornerstone Commerce Center, an application for a subdivision of the property will now go to the Planning Board.
 4. There will be an Ordinance at a future meeting authorizing a Financial Agreement to allow the PILOT for the next phase of development at Cornerstone. Councilman Matik explained that if they now improve the land, the amount in taxes that are paid will go directly toward tax relief. Councilman Gordon explained that the PILOT agreement is only on the new development, not the older property. It is being granted as an incentive to develop and help stabilize taxes.
 5. Council President Tighe reported that an agreement for the development of the Bloom property will be forthcoming.

At 6:16 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk