

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
May 11, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Todd Michael led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilman Ken Kelly; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; Councilman Michael Salerno; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: None

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; Leon Costello, City Auditor; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; and Leigh Ann Napoli, City Administrator/Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2026 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion approved.

**PRESENTATION**

Eagle Scout Jacob Silvern

The Mayor presented a Proclamation to Jacob Silvern for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Senator Vince Polistina also recognized Mr. Silvern and presented him with a Certificate from the State of New Jersey. The Mayor and each member of Council congratulated and commended Mr. Silvern.

**ORDINANCES**

**6 OF 2026** AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 6 of 2026 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Ordinance No. 6 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 6. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**7 OF 2026** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES, COMPENSATION AND SALARY RANGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 7 of 2026 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Ordinance No. 7 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**96-2026** A Resolution authorizing Local Review of the Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 96 of 2026 by title only. Councilman Michael motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 96. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**97-2026** A Resolution to read the 2026 Budget by title only

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 97 of 2026 by title only. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Resolution No. 97. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

**RESOLUTIONS (continued)**  
**BUDGET HEARING**

Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on the 2026 Budget. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

**98-2026** A Resolution adopting the 2026 Municipal Budget

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 98 of 2026 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 98. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. 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.

- 99-2026** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2026-12, to Court Appointed Special Advocates CASA for Children of Atlantic Cape May and Camden Counties
- 100-2026** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2026-13, to Court Appointed Special Advocates CASA for Children of Atlantic Cape May and Camden Counties
- 101-2026** A Resolution authorizing an unpaid leave of absence pursuant to the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act
- 102-2026** A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Barker, Gelfand James & Sarvas, P.C. for legal services regarding a personnel matter
- 103-2026** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Catherine Cruse as a Substitute School Crossing Guard for the City of Linwood
- 104-2026** A Resolution authorizing the refund of tax overpayment made by the Estate of Albert Chambers for Block 81 Lot 4 also known as 1026 Bartlett Drive

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Resolutions No. 99-104 of 2026. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,460,208.30**

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative, and two abstentions from Councilwoman Albright and Councilman Levinson. 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.

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

**FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Matik – The Mayor advised that out of the \$2.4 million that was paid tonight on the bill list, \$2.3 million of it was paid to the schools. The school funding formula needs to be fixed at the state level. Every year, it is getting more and more difficult to keep taxes low. Increasing health insurance costs are also making it difficult.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael is a member of the Finance Committee and he is proud of the work the committee did on the budget. It wasn't an easy process, especially with the rising health insurance costs. The committee worked hard to keep other costs down.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson agreed that the committee worked very hard to get down to a 4.8 cent increase from starting with over an 8 cent increase. He thanked his committee members, Mr. Strazzeri, and Mr. Costello for their efforts.

**FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)**

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly echoed the comments of the Mayor and agreed more shared services are needed to help keep costs down.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked the Finance Committee for all their hard work. She congratulated Mr. Silvern again for earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Councilman Salerno – Councilman Salerno has often heard that the City is fortunate to have an exceptional group of professionals serving on its Land Use Board, and he believes the same can be said of the members of City Council. He feels very fortunate to be part of such a dedicated team.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff advised of an upcoming Book & Bake Sale at the Linwood Library and also announced that the library established a Teen Book Club.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford echoed the comments made on the budget. He reminded everyone about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 6:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
City Administrator  
Municipal Clerk