

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilwoman Blair Albright 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; CJ Kaenzig, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, City Administrator/Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025 Regular without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. 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.

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| 98-2025 | A Resolution authorizing disposal of surplus property on GovDeals |
| 99-2025 | A Resolution authorizing the participation with Atlantic County in applying for a Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Implementation Grant for the purchase and installation of kiosks in municipalities that participate in the Central Municipal Court |
| 100-2025 | A Resolution confirming the appointment of Jack Doherty to the Linwood Environmental Commission |
| 101-2025 | A Resolution confirming the appointment of Jim Cooper to the Linwood Board of Recreation |
| 102-2025 | A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 with South State, Inc. with regard to the improvements to Oakcrest Avenue |
| 103-2025 | A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 – Final with Arawak Paving Co., Inc. with regard to the Resurfacing of Wabash Avenue, Phase III |
| 104-2025 | A Resolution requesting the Planning Board to prepare a new Housing Element and Fair Shore Plan and Spending Plan to address the City of Linwood's 4 th Round Affordable Housing Obligations |
| 105-2025 | A Resolution awarding a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Jessica Mead for Property Appraisal Services in the City of Linwood |

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Walcoff, to approve Resolutions No. 98-105 of 2025. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$3,457,598.33

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative, and one abstention by Councilwoman Albright. 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.

Jack Verseput 306 W. Poplar Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Verseput asked if a new gazebo will be installed at the park. He also asked for a crossing guard at the intersection of Poplar, Maple & Oakgrove Avenues. He believes the new housing project in Egg Harbor Township will cause increased traffic on Poplar Avenue in Linwood.

Tracy Meister 18 E. Devonshire Avenue, Linwood – Mrs. Meister would like to see a new gazebo at the park. Mrs. Meister is a teacher at Seaview Avenue School. She discussed an ongoing issue with electric bikes and scooters speeding on the bike path. She believes it is unsafe. She asked if a Police Officer could be available on the section of the bike path between Patcong and Seaview Avenues during school drop off and pick up times. She discussed this topic as a class lesson with her students and they provided letters asking for additional police presence as well.

Jack Doherty 903 Maple Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Doherty introduced himself to the Governing Body and thanked them for his appointment to the Environmental Commission. He has lived in Linwood for several years and is looking forward to volunteering for the community.

Seeing and hearing no other 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 the gazebo had reached its useful life and needed to come down. He likes the idea of adding another covered structure and will look into it. The Police purchased electronic bikes for a reason. They are out riding them now and know they will be in the area requested. Electronic bikes are an ongoing issue in the City and they are looking at ways to solve the problem.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked the public for attending and for their comments. The turf field is completed and is usable. The additional improvements are still a work in progress. This is not the first time the governing body has received complaints about electronic bikes. She appreciates the comments and especially from the students. The City is always looking for grants to widen or make other alterations for improvements. The Chief of Police is also looking for ways to improve.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly thanked everyone for their comments. It is a pleasure to meet Mr. Doherty. He announced the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26 at 10am. He stated the new multi-purpose field is a great addition to Linwood.

Councilman Salerno – Councilman Salerno thanked everyone for attending.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked Mrs. Meister for speaking on the electronic bike situation. Councilman Michael Chairs the Public Safety Committee and this topic has been an issue for a while. The speed and not wearing helmets is a problem. The Police are working on educating both the kids and parents on the issue. It is difficult to hear that even kids are scared. This is an ongoing topic of conversation and the City is looking to address the problem. Councilman Michael thanked the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, as well as the Park Director and Recreation Board on a very successful Easter Egg Hunt. He also welcomed Mr. Doherty to the City.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson also welcomed Mr. Doherty. He too believes it is an issue with the kids not wearing helmets and speeding on electronic bikes. He thanked Mrs. Meister for speaking about it and involving her students.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff spent a lot of time at the new park this past weekend. He is proud of the recent accomplishments of the new turf field and new fieldhouse. It was a pleasure to watch them both being used. He thanked Mrs. Kaufelds, the Park Director, for her efforts in scheduling all the activities.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford also welcomed Mr. Doherty. Council President Ford is the liaison to the Environmental Commission. He will see Mr. Doherty at the meetings. He thanked Mrs. Meister for her comments and noted that electronic bikes are a constant discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to adjourn at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
City Administrator
Municipal Clerk