

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 26, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:53 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Eric Ford led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon (via live stream); Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Councilman Matt Levinson.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

108-2021 A Resolution confirming the promotion of Jason Weber to the position of Chief in the Linwood Police Department

The Clerk read Resolution No. 108 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 108. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative, and Councilman Levinson 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.

106-2021 A Resolution authorizing execution of an Addendum to the Radio Network License Agreement between the City of Linwood and Atlantic County

107-2021 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Linwood to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the American Red Cross and the City of Linwood

109-2021 A Resolution authorizing the execution of a Separation Agreement with Jason Weber

110-2021 A Resolution authorizing submission of a Grant Application for the Linwood Municipal Alliance Grant

111-2021 A Resolution confirming the promotion of Detective Sergeant Austin Martin to the position of Lieutenant in the Linwood Police Department

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Resolutions No. 106-107, 109-111 of 2021. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,241,310.21

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative, and Councilman Levinson absent. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Kathleen Spaeth, 108 Country Club Drive, Linwood- Mrs. Spaeth is happy that Council is discussing adopting a noise ordinance. Her backyard shares a fence with the Country Club and she indicated the music is audible noise they are hearing. She believes the drum or bass has been turned down but the music is still audible and measures at 65 decibels. She understands the police take measurements in the street but indicated the noise levels are different in her back yard. She appreciates Council is working on the issue.

Tim Tighe, 206 Landing Lane, Linwood – Mr. Tighe noted that he is a former Linwood City Council member and former Linwood Planning Board member. He does hear the music from the Country Club but it is not a nuisance to him. Linwood's taxes are high. 87% of the taxes come from residential properties and only 13% come from commercial properties. The Country Club is an important ratable. The City needs them to survive. The alternative to them failing is that property taxes will go up. The City needs to protect the business. City Council rules for the majority of people and for the good of the City, not just a few. The Country Club has been in business for over 100 years. He asked that Council be careful in writing an ordinance so it does not negatively impact the City or spot zone. He also noted that the Country Club runs numerous charitable events and has been very generous to local organizations such as the Mainland Golf Team.

Todd Timbrook, 225 Devonshire Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Timbrook is an investor in the Linwood Country Club. He suggested that City Council hire their own sound professional to understand how things work. Maybe do a bit more research. During the pandemic, the weddings had to be held outside or there were no weddings. He knows residents on Carol Road that have no issues with the music. He suggested looking at the community as a whole and to be consistent. Mr. Timbrook indicated that the Atlantic City Country Club is setting up a stand for outside entertainment and Linwood has to compete with them and other businesses. He hopes the City helps the Linwood businesses.

Matt Altman, 104 Carol Road, Linwood – Mr. Altman believes the music is a nuisance. Linwood is a residential City and the noise is too much. He feels it is too loud and plays for too long. He invited anyone into his backyard so they can hear it. He does not believe an ordinance should be rushed but would like to see some guidelines in place soon.

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

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that last week was National Public Works Week and an appreciation luncheon was held for them on Thursday. She thanked the Mayor, Councilwoman Byrnes, and Mrs. Napoli for attending as well as Maria Moss and MaryAnn Branciforti from the Library. She thanked Mrs. Moss for baking them a cake.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She asked everyone to let Memorial Day be a day to count their blessings and remember those who serve and have served to protect our Country and our freedom. Be forever grateful for the ultimate sacrifice of those who died for the United States of America. May their courage and dedication never be forgotten.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon advised of the passing of Linwood resident Berry Shearer. She was a dedicated member of the Friends of the Linwood Library and devoted countless hours to the community. She will be missed. He thanked the owners of the Linwood Country Club for attending the meeting tonight and all the residents for their comments. Open dialogue is helpful.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting and providing their comments. This is not an easy fix and wants something that is good for everyone. He wants the Country Club to prosper and the residents to be happy.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 7:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk