

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 June Byrnes; Councilwoman DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon (via live stream); Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING

Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2021 Regular meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor with one abstention by Councilman Levinson. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

10 OF 2021 A BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$71,250) IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD FOR PURCHASE OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND SIGNAGE FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY OF LINWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 10 of 2021 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve Ordinance No. 10. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

13 OF 2021 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FOR SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES THROUGH THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP REGIONAL COURT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 2B:12-1B AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

(TABLED)

14 OF 2021 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 183 NUISANCES, ARTICLE I PROHIBITIONS, SECTION 183-1, PROHIBITED USES, AND ARTICLE IV. PENALTIES, SECTION 183-5 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 14 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Ordinance No. 14. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

Leon Costello, City Auditor, discussed the amendment to the 2021 Municipal Budget as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act. There was a zero tax increase before the amendment and there is a zero tax increase now. The money was used to offset the lost revenue due to COVID.

RESOLUTIONS (continued)

120-2021 A Resolution amending the 2021 Municipal Budget
The Clerk read Resolution No. 120 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 120. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

123-2021 A Resolution adopting the 2021 Municipal Budget
The Clerk read Resolution No. 123 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve Resolution No. 123. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. Motion was approved.

121-2021 A Resolution authorizing local review of the Budget
The Clerk read Resolution No. 121 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 121. 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.

- 112-2021** A Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to process third quarter “estimated” tax bills due August 1, 2021
- 113-2021** A Resolution authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2022 Linwood Bike Path Extension
- 114-2021** A Resolution authorizing submission of a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2022 Road Program
- 115-2021** A Resolution authorizing payment to the Linwood Volunteer Fire Company for the sale of a fire truck
- 116-2021** A Resolution approving the application of Linwood CC License LLC for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0114-33-002-003 for 2021-2022
- 117-2021** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Timothy S. Donovan, Jr. as the Memorial Park Director for the City of Linwood
- 118-2021** A Resolution authorizing fireworks display on private property pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3
- 119-2021** A Resolution honoring Dorrie Papademetriou
- 122-2021** A Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2021

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve Resolutions No. 112-119, 122 of 2021. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,341,734.39

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with seven in the affirmative. 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.

Sandy Hickerson 210 Upland Avenue, Absecon – Ms. Hickerson addressed City Council on behalf of the Atlantic County 2A Sanctuary asking Council to adopt their Resolution to support the Second Amendment rights. She referenced the other municipalities that have done so and she hopes they consider it.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (continued)

Kathleen Spaeth, 108 Country Club Drive, Linwood- Mrs. Spaeth expressed her disappointment that Linwood did not have a Memorial Day event. She thanked Council for their work on the noise issue. Her biggest concern with the Nuisance Ordinance is the term “significantly audible” and leaving it to the discretion of the Officers. She could hear the DJ in her house the other night with the doors and windows closed. She indicated that the sound is different in the street in front of her house than in the back yard. She will invite the Officers into her backyard so they can hear the music.

Chris Maher, 102 Carol Road, Linwood – Mr. Maher thanked the Governing Body for listening to the residents. He feels the Country Club has had a year to do something about the sound. He doesn’t believe the proposed Ordinance is perfect, but it’s something on the books to enforce.

Rose Hickerson 210 Upland Avenue, Absecon

Mrs. Hickerson also asked City Council to accept and adopt the Resolution of the Atlantic County 2A Sanctuary.

Tim Carew, 100 Carol Road, Linwood – Mr. Carew commended the Governing Body on their efforts with the nuisance Ordinance. He discussed the language for “significantly audible” and believes it may need something a bit stronger.

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

Mayor Matik – The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He noted that Council spent a lot of time working on the noise issue. He congratulated Lieutenant Martin on his recent promotion. The Mayor advised that a lot of things are happening in Linwood, including the possible transition into a shared court system with the County which will finally run the court program in a positive balance. The City is involved with the second update to the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He noted that there was lots of discussion on holding a Memorial Day event. During the time they needed to plan a parade, the COVID restrictions were still in place. There was not enough time once they were lifted. There will be an event in the park this fall.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael also congratulated Lieutenant Martin. He thanked everyone for attending and thanked the Linwood Country Club for bringing their noise expert. He thanked Council and specifically the Public Safety committee for their efforts on the noise subject. He is hoping the result is something that works for everyone.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson congratulated Lieutenant Martin and Lieutenant Brown on their promotions. He looks forward to seeing what the sound expert can do for the Country Club. He understands the proposed ordinance may not be perfect but Council worked hard on it. Councilman Levinson was also disappointed there was no Memorial Day Parade, but the rules did not come out in time enough to plan something. He welcomed the new Park Director, Tim Donovan.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford congratulated Lieutenants Martin and Brown.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked the public for attending. She also congratulated Lieutenants Brown and Martin. She congratulated Mr. Donovan and is looking forward to working with him. She is the proud daughter of a WWII Marine and will be working with the Recreation Board on next year’s Memorial Day event. She did have the opportunity to attend the ceremony at Mainland Regional High School.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She advised that Council members listen and do their best. She reminded everyone about the free community shred event on June 25.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone was also disappointed there was no Memorial Day Parade, but is sure that next year’s event will be great. He discussed the proposed nuisance ordinance on the agenda and has 100% confidence in the City’s Police Department for enforcement. He is encouraged by the Country Club’s expert and hopes he will help them.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk