

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES**  
**July 14, 2021**

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Councilman Eric Ford.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Jen Heller, Engineer's Office; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; Chief Jason Weber, Police Department; Lieutenant Steve Cunningham, Police Department; Lieutenant Chester Brown; Lieutenant Austin Martin; Tom Flynn, Fire Official; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2021 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor reported on the 2021 Atlantic County Hazard Mitigation Plan update and the actions Linwood is taking to participate.

B. The Mayor advised of a Resolution honoring the Mainland Regional High School Volleyball Team.

4. Councilman Ford

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Council President Paolone discussed a Resolution on the agenda approving a request for a Hardship Exception from Road Opening Moratorium for Block 120, Lot 3 located at 724 Brighton Drive.

2. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the refund of unused escrow funds posted with regard to a dumpster permit.

3. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution approving temporary signage for the Linwood Panthers.

5. Councilman Gordon

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilman Gordon discussed a Resolution on the agenda awarding the Contract to Capela Construction Inc. for the Linwood Library Site Improvements, Contract No. 33. This project includes improvements and enhancements to the outside of the Library.

6. Councilman Levinson

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Levinson advised of the final reading of the Bond Ordinance.

2. Councilman Levinson advised of a Resolution on the agenda requesting approval of items of revenue and appropriation for an Alliance Grant.

3. Councilman Levinson discussed a Resolution certifying review of the annual Audit Report. The Audit contained no findings.

7. Councilman Michael

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing a fireworks display on private property at the Linwood Country Club pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3. Council President Paolone advised that he is not in favor of fireworks for weddings. He would be in favor of fireworks for July 4, but not for other events. He received complaints. The Mayor advised that he received a lot of positive feedback about the fireworks. Councilman Levinson indicated that he would be in favor of it once in a while, but not for every wedding. Councilman Michael believes that if approved it could set a precedent and they would occur more frequently. He would be in favor of it once or twice a year. Tom Flynn, Fire Official, advised that the fireworks are not rocket blasted. They are boxed and less powerful. The duration is only six minutes. He suggesting having the Country Club notice residents within 200 feet of the upcoming display.
2. Councilman Michael reported that the committee has been meeting to discuss cannabis sales in Linwood and held a public forum on cannabis sales on June 29. The State is giving the municipalities till August 21 to allow the sales or prohibit them. If the municipalities do nothing, then retailers can sell with no restrictions. The State has not released all the rules governing the cannabis law and with Linwood's current zoning regulations, the committee is recommending prohibiting the sale at this time. Linwood is limited with parks and school zones. Councilman Levinson also noted that there are many unknown restrictions on owning and leasing the property for the sale of cannabis. Federal rules are different than State rules. Linwood will have the ability to change their decision at any time. This gives elected officials more time to review the operations in other municipalities. The City will not receive any money from the State as first indicated. Councilwoman Byrnes discussed the possible revenue the City could receive, only the location of a business is limited. The committee will continue to monitor the situation.
3. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the hiring of Eileen T. Barton as a Substitute School Crossing Guard for the City of Linwood.

8. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone discussed an Ordinance on the agenda amending Chapter 52 Personnel and Procedures for compliance with the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund.
2. Council President Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the application of Atlantic City Country Club 1, LLC for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0114-33-001-005 for 2021-2022.
3. Council President Paolone advised of an Ordinance authorizing a Raffle License to Our Lady of Sorrows Church.
4. Council President Paolone reported that Timothy Kreischer from the Atlantic County Shared Services Department will be giving a presentation at the Regular meeting.

At 6:30 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk