

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
July 14, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman 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; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

**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.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**135-2021** A Resolution honoring the Mainland Regional High School Volleyball Team

The Clerk read Resolution No. 135 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 135. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. Mayor Matik read and presented the Resolution to the team.

Timothy Kreischer – Atlantic County Shared Services Department. Mr. Kreischer gave a presentation on the County Office of Shared Services and how they can assist municipalities in developing shared services.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**130-2021** A Resolution approving a request for a Hardship Exception from Road Opening moratorium for Block 120, Lot 3 located at 724 Brighton Drive

The Clerk read Resolution No. 130 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 130. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Ford absent. Motion was approved.

**133-2021** A Resolution authorizing a fireworks display on private property at the Linwood Country Club pursuant to N.J.S.A. 21:3-3

The Clerk read Resolution No. 133 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 133. A roll call vote was heard with six in the negative and Councilman Ford absent. Motion was not approved.

**136-2021** A Resolution requesting approval of items of revenue and appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87

The Clerk read Resolution No. 136 of 2021 by title only. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 136. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Ford absent. 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. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Ordinance No. 10 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 10. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Paolone closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Ford absent. Motion was approved.

- 15 OF 2021** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 52 PERSONNEL AND PERSONNEL PROCEDURES, EMPLOYEE MANUAL, 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. 15 of 2021 by title only. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Ordinance No. 15. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Ford absent. Motion was approved.

- 16 OF 2021** AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF LINWOOD IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES AND ESTABLISHING A CHAPTER ENTITLED CANNABIS AND AMENDING CHAPTER 228 SMOKING OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 16 of 2021 by title only. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Ordinance No. 16. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Ford 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.

- 131-2021** A Resolution certifying the review of the annual Audit by the Governing Body
- 132-2021** A Resolution approving the application of Atlantic City Country Club 1, LL for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0114-33-001-005 for 2021-2022
- 134-2021** A Resolution authorizing the hiring of Eileen T. Barton as a Substitute School Crossing Guard for the City of Linwood
- 137-2021** A Resolution authorizing the refund of unused escrow funds posted with regard to a dumpster permit
- 138-2021** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Linwood Panthers
- 139-2021** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, 2021-06, to Our Lady of Sorrows Church
- 140-2021** A Resolution awarding the Contract to Capela Construction, Inc. for the Linwood Library Site Improvements, Contract No. 33

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Nothing was removed. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve Resolutions No. 131-132, 134, 137-140 of 2021. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$4,079,541.15**

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Ford 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 thanked City Council for resolving the fireworks issue and the recent amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance. It has been very quiet by her house lately and she gets to enjoy her back yard.

George Butrus, 210 Central Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Butrus is a lifelong resident of Linwood and the 2017 Citizen of the Year. As curator for the Linwood Arboretum, he reported that they held their first event since COVID and had over three hundred gardeners attend. He discussed the drainage project being done near the Arboretum and thanked the City Engineers for working with him to make adjustments to the project that will minimize the effects on trees.

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 those who attended the meeting tonight. He appreciates the presentation on shared services. Linwood has been at the forefront of sharing services and listed all of them. The elected officials work to get the best value for the tax payer with continued services. The soon to be County wide court will provide savings to Linwood as well.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This is the first one that was not on zoom. It is nice to have the sports teams here again. She congratulated Chase Petty on the baseball draft and Italy for winning the European Cup. She thanked the committee on cannabis, Councilwoman Byrnes and Councilmen Levinson and Michael, for doing their research, holding the public meeting, and working with Council on this issue. She appreciates all their hard work.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked the Linwood Historical Society and Fire Department for holding the July 4 bike parade. It was very well attended. She discussed the upcoming site improvements to the Library. She also reported that the Friends of the Linwood Library have new members and are planning future events.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He appreciated the help from the cannabis committee and the input from the Police Department. He also commented on the bike parade and thanked everyone involved in putting it together.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson discussed all the public areas that keep a possible cannabis location at bay. It is not an easy issue. He reiterated the Mayor's comments on Linwood's numerous shared services. He is happy to hear from George Butrus. He loves visiting the Arboretum. It is a real star of Linwood. He thanked Mr. Butrus and all the volunteers. He voted no on the fireworks tonight because he does not want to set a precedent and have them every weekend. He also thanked the Police and Fire Departments for helping with the bike parade. It was a nice event.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon echoed the comments of the Mayor and Council.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone thanked the cannabis committee for all their work. Council truly has a lot of difficult decisions to make. They did their job in weighing the pros and cons. Decisions do not always make everyone happy. His most rewarding experience on Council was getting involved with the Arboretum. Dr. Allen Lacy, who had a true labor of love for it, and Doortje Fenwick made it happen. It is the gem of Linwood. He also congratulated Chase Petty. The Linwood Education Foundation held a fundraiser at the Linwood Country Club. It was very well attended. Councilwoman Byrnes won for the longest drive on the golf course.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to adjourn at 7:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk