

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
August 10, 2022

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone

Absent: None.

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

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2022 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Councilwoman Albright

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilwoman Albright advised that the Ordinance amending the City Code to provide for a time line on abandonments of nonconforming uses is on the agenda for first reading.
2. Councilwoman Albright discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the installation of a street light on West Vernon Avenue.

4. Councilwoman Byrnes

A. Neighborhood Services

1. Councilwoman Byrnes discussed a Resolution on the agenda to establish a Dedication By Rider for Board of Recreation fees. The City will charge for use of the fields and the money will go directly back into the maintenance of the fields.
2. Councilwoman Byrnes advised that the Neighborhood Services committee met and discussed the added responsibilities of the Park Director. They are recommending an increase to the salary for the additional duties.

5. Councilman Ford

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilman Ford discussed a Resolution on the agenda waiving a Construction Permit fee for an Eagle Scout Project along Patcong Creek and River Road. The project will consist of an interpretive sign much like the one done at the South Jersey Industries Park.
2. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution awarding a Contract to American Pipe Cleaning for the 2022 Video Inspection & Main Cleaning. This is the final portion of the system to be filmed. The entire system will then be on video.
3. Councilman Ford advised of a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Contract to Arawak Paving Co for the resurfacing of Franklin Boulevard.

6. Councilman Levinson

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Levinson discussed a Resolution authorizing a Services Agreement with Empower Retirement, LLC. This is an existing, optional retirement plan for employees. The initial company changed and a new agreement was required.
2. Councilman Levinson advised that due to the 20% to 30% estimated increase in health benefit rates, the City will shop out for better rates. He will keep everyone updated.

7. Councilman Michael

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Michael discussed a proposal to add two Class III Officers to be placed in the Linwood Schools. One at Seaview and one at Belhaven. There is already one in Mainland High School. Class III Officers are retired police officers. They would be hired by the City of Linwood and become City employees. The Linwood School Board has already unanimously voted to approve the officers. The City would pay for one officer and the schools would pay for the other officer. A grant application has been submitted and if awarded, the grant would pay 75% of the salaries for three years. Every member of Council agreed that having an officer in the schools would be a benefit. Councilman Michael advised that the schools still intend to reconfigure the vestibules in each school to improve security.
2. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing submission of an American Rescue Plan Firefighter grant application to the State Department of Community Affairs.
3. Councilman Michael advised of a Resolution authorizing the renewal of a Shared Services Agreement with MRHS for the Class III Officer.

8. Council President Paolone

A. Administration

1. Council President Paolone advised of Resolutions on the agenda authorizing Raffle Licenses to Our Lady of Sorrows and Mainland Football Boosters.

At 6:23 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk