

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
September 24, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Ken Kelly led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilman Ken Kelly; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; Councilman Michael Salerno; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: Councilwoman Blair Albright

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; C.J. Kaenzig, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, City Administrator/Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

Councilman Kelly motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2025 Regular without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**ORDINANCE**

**7 OF 2025** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 140 FEES, ARTICLE VI BOARD OF RECREATION FEES OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 7 of 2025 by title only. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Ordinance No. 7 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 7. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman Albright absent. Motion was approved.

**9 OF 2025** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 8-2021, CODIFIED AS CHAPTER 155 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, TO AMEND THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR DESIGNATION, TO REQUIRE AN APPROVED FLOODPLAIN PERMIT PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF A ZONING PERMIT, TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF MARKET VALUE AND WETFLOOD PROOFING, AND TO SET FEES FOR FLOODPLAIN APPLICATIONS

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 9 of 2025 by title only. Councilman Walcoff motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Ordinance No. 9 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 9. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman Albright 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.

**156-2025** A Resolution approving a Change Order No. 3 with Miller's Lawn Care Inc. with regard to Lawn Maintenance Services in the City of Linwood

**157-2025** A Resolution authorizing the refund of various tax overpayments

**RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (consent)**

- 158-2025** A Resolution designating Floodplain Manager Alexander R. Bauer as the Floodplain Administrator for the City of Linwood
- 159-2025** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Atlantic County Numismatic Society Coin Show
- 160-2025** A Resolution approving temporary signage for the Charity League Christmas Mart
- 161-2025** A Resolution authorizing additional funds for a Non-Competitive Contract for Professional Services to Matthew J. Behr, Esquire for Legal Services regarding a personnel matter
- 162-2025** A Resolution awarding the Contract to Arawak Paving Co., Inc. for Improvements to Monroe Avenue, Contract No. 64

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Walcott motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolutions No. 156-162 of 2025. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$525,911.61**

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

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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

Billy Burns, 16 Wendy Drive, Linwood – Billy Burns read a statement about how much he loves playing sports in Linwood and seeing the signs and championship banners at the park and asked Council to reconsider taking them down.

Buddy Mancuso, 1918 West Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Mancuso spoke on behalf of the Linwood Panthers and explained what the money raised from the sponsorship signs is used for. He also indicated temporary signs do not work well for them. He is hoping Council will allow the signs.

Mike Costello, 105 Carol Road, Linwood – Mr. Costello spoke on behalf of Linwood Street Hockey. He is a coach for the organization and a business owner. Their season is year-round. He does not like the new enclosure that was built in the dugouts. The sponsorship signs help them to support their needs. One of the items they are looking to spend money on is new dugouts.

Jean Anderson, 570 Central Avenue, Linwood – Ms. Anderson is a board member for the Panthers. The sponsorship signs help them raise money to take the financial burden off the residents. She explained that she spent two hours putting up the temporary signs this past weekend because she had no volunteers to help. The organization lost storage and snack bar opportunities. The volunteers are not feeling appreciated and their needs are not met.

Jason Skolnick, 201 Forrest Drive, Linwood – Mr. Skolnick agrees with Ms. Anderson. He explained the sponsorship signs for baseball are manufactured to last long and the money raised goes toward supplies. He thanked Council for the turf field. He indicated sheds are disappearing and they need a place to store equipment.

Brian Kolmar, 19 Somers Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Kolmer would like the sponsorship signs to stay.

Lou Perfetti, 222 Belhaven Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Perfetti indicated sports are all becoming year round. He suggested making the signs universal. The signs are needed to raise money for their needs.

Amanda Brady, 12 Crossing Drive, Linwood – Ms. Brady is the field hockey coach at Belhaven. She asked for permission to use the turf field for one of their games.

Kevin Callender, 507 Marie Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Callender coaches multiple sports in Linwood and is on the Recreation Board. He wants the signs to stay up.

Taylor Duffy, 201 Morris Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Duffy indicated that Linwood is the lighthouse of Atlantic County. Business owners are proud to see the signs up and support the organizations.

Bill Burns, 16 Wendy Drive, Linwood – Mr. Burns indicated that the park is the heart of Linwood. He grew up in Linwood and played in the park. He asked why Council wants the signs down.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (continued)**

Rob Stacchini, 512 Garfield Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Stacchini's firm sponsors a sign. The signs are symbols between the league and the businesses to help them survive. They allow businesses to give back to the community and keep the organization fees low.

Bob Edmunds, 232 Cambridge Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Edmunds was born and raised in Linwood. His father sponsored everything he did. It is pride and joy for a family business to sponsor a team.

Robert McConville, 1236 Shore Road, Linwood – Mr. McConville indicated the business owners support the kids and the community.

C.J. Kaenzig, Polistina & Associates City Engineer's Office – Mr. Kaenzig suggesting creating stringent guidelines for the signs and going to Green Acres to see if they can revisit the language in their rules for signs.

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

**FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Matik – The Mayor thanked everyone for their comments. He indicated that everyone on the governing body has coached or ran a team in Linwood and some have sponsored teams. A subcommittee was formed to address the signs. Linwood is a desirable place to live because of the members of the Council that work to make this the best municipality in Atlantic County. All problems are taken seriously and worked on to create solutions. The Mayor announced that this year the Linwood First Responder program was created and read a letter from former Councilmember, current County Commissioner, June Byrnes regarding a recent EMS call. (Attached as Exhibit B)

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The public's input is very valuable, and Council will find a way to get through this with a solution.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Council has a great ability to do the right thing. The First Responder Program, the turf field installation, and the Special Class Officers in the schools. He is confident Council will have a compromise for the signage.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson enjoys seeing residents at the meetings. He commended the Public Safety team with the creation of the First Responder Program to make things even better in Linwood. He is confident there will be a solution on the signs.

Councilman Walcoff – Councilman Walcoff is concerned that the cost of the sports programs is not sustainable with only the participant fees. When his kids played sports, they did a lot of fundraising to offset the costs. Council is working on beautifying the park. He is sure there is a solution on the signs. It is on tonight's agenda because three organizations submitted sign requests. The subcommittee will investigate all options and make recommendations.

Councilman Salerno – Councilman Salerno thanked the public for attending the meeting and for several emails that he received. He enjoyed watching his son play at the park on the weekend. The new field looks great. With a new field comes new issues that will be discussed, and solutions will be found. He is new on Council, but he is confident in the group he serves with.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford discussed his children playing at the park and the championship signs that were hung with their names on it. They were vandalized and broken. He volunteered at the park for every sport his children played. It is unfortunate to hear tonight that volunteerism is nonexistent. He discussed how himself and two other Councilmember volunteered to replace the deck at the Historical Society and how Memorial Park was built on volunteerism and operated that way for years. Everyone talks about how Linwood is great. Hopefully more people will start volunteering. Council President Ford advised Amanda Brady to contact Brian Pruitt on how to request field usage. He wishes all the sport organizations luck.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
City Administrator  
Municipal Clerk