

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
September 25, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:27 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Todd Gordon led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Rick DePamphilis; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; and Council President Ralph Paolone.  
Absent: Councilwoman June Byrnes; and Councilman Eric Ford.  
Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Vince Polistina, City Engineer; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2019 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**ORDINANCES**

**16 OF 2019** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF LINWOOD FROM VST CAPITAL, LLC AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

*(PULLED)*

**17 OF 2019** AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SALE OF USED VEHICLES IN THE CITY OF LINWOOD.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 17 of 2019 by title only. Councilman Matik motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun to approve Ordinance No. 17 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 17. 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 five in the affirmative and Councilwoman Byrnes and Councilman Ford absent. Motion was approved.

**18 OF 2019** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3 of 2019, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES, COMPENSATIONS AND SALARY RANGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES HERETOFORE ADOPTED THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 18 of 2019 by title only. Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun to approve Ordinance No. 18 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 18. 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 five in the affirmative and Councilwoman Byrnes 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.

**151-2019** A Resolution adopting Technology Risk Management Standards in compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund's Cyber Risk Management Plan's Tier One requirements

**RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)**

- 152-2019** A Resolution awarding a Non-competitive Contract for Professional Services to Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants for Architectural Services for the Leedsville Schoolhouse Preservation Project in the City of Linwood
- 153-2019** A Resolution authorizing the release of surety with regard to Block 6, Lot 24 (2110 New Road) in the City of Linwood
- 154-2019** A Resolution amending Resolution No. 67 of 2019, a Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2019
- 155-2019** A Resolution appointing Nick LaRotonda as the Uniform Fire Safety Inspector for the City of Linwood

Council President Paolone announced that Resolution No. 153, 2019 was tabled in the Caucus meeting. He asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve Resolutions No. 151-152, 154-155 of 2019. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$31,823.40**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Neighborhood Services Committee Report – Councilwoman DeDomenicis reported that City Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from the Neighborhood Services Committee to not move forward with a skateboard park at this time.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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

Linda Gussie 4 Cedar Place, Linwood – Ms. Gussie thanked Councilwomen Byrnes and DeDomenicis for always being responsive to her calls and emails.

John Miller 311 Melody Lane, Linwood – Mr. Miller discussed the Route 9 repairs understanding that it is the State doing the work. However, he asked what is going at the south end of Route 9 noting that it is a mess. He also commented on the patio fence at The Exchange. He believes it is not high enough. No one should be able to reach over the fence and unlock the gate. Council President Paolone explained that a Resolution authorizing the release of the bond for The Exchange was tabled so that the City Engineer can look into the fence and other issues. He indicated that the Engineer will also look into the paving project on Route 9.

Lawrence P. Lhulier, Sr. 1300 Woodlynne Boulevard, Linwood – Mr. Lhulier indicated that he had eight pages of testimony to read tonight. However, since City Council voted not to move forward with a skateboard park he no longer needs to read his statement. Mr. Lhulier referred to his comments from a previous Council meeting and wanted to offer an apology and recommendation. He was critical of the content of the City Council minutes. He was not targeting the City Clerk and suggested Council hire a recording secretary. He thanked the citizens for coming out to talk to Council and thanked Council for listening.

Andrea Lacovara 301 Steven Drive, Linwood – Mrs. Lacovara thanked City Council for voting no on a skateboard park.

Ken Clifford, 109 East Avenue, Egg Harbor Township – Mr. Clifford asked why City Council voted no on a skateboard park. Council President Paolone indicated that it is too expensive. There are other priority projects in the City. It is not just the costs to build the park, but the success of it is to have it supervised. The costs for supervision are significant.

Christine Sands 300 Steven Drive, Linwood – Mrs. Sands runs on the bike path around 4am and 5am and is very happy for the police presence. She thanked the police for patrolling the bike path in those early morning hours.

Terry Calvi, 1020 Woodlynne Boulevard, Linwood – Mrs. Calvi asked about the lot that was on the agenda to be purchased in Ordinance No. 16. Councilman Matik explained that it is a lot on Poplar Avenue & Patcong Creek. The property owners wanted to build a single family home there but are now selling it. City Council wanted to buy the lot to preserve it as open space due to the proximity to the Creek and the request of other home owners. The City was successful in obtaining a grant to purchase the property. However, the seller would not lower the cost to the appraisal price, which was the amount the grant would cover. Therefore the Ordinance was pulled. Councilman Gordon also noted that the Linwood Environmental Commission recommended the purchase because it is an environmentally sensitive lot.

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 DePamphilis – Mayor DePamphilis commended Councilwoman Byrnes and her committee for their hard work in dealing with a very sensitive subject. He believes Council made the right decision for the time and place the City is in. This is not the first time the issue has come up since he has been Mayor.

Councilman Gordon – Councilman Gordon echoes the Mayor's comments and thanked the public for all their comments.

Councilman Heun – Councilman Heun thanked Christine Sands for her comments regarding the Police Department and glad there are two Officers in attendance to hear her remarks. He also echoed the comments of the Mayor regarding the skateboard park. He believes the committee did a great job with the process.

Councilman Matik – Councilman Matik hopes everyone continues to attend the City Council meetings as it helps Council to make their decisions. He also commended Councilwoman Byrnes on her efforts.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis noted that the issue was never about the people that like to skateboard, it was about a park for them to skate in. She reminded everyone about the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone indicated that the skateboard park was a difficult issue. People were very passionate for it and against it. Council's job is not easy. They certainly disappointed friends that wanted a skateboard park. However, he is proud of the work done by the Neighborhood Services Committee. They did their due diligence and have worked on this for over a year. They looked at all the angles to make an informed decision.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Heun motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to adjourn at 6:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk