

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
September 28, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Ralph Paolone called the meeting to order at 6:50 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Eric Ford led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Todd Michael; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

Absent: Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis.

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**

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**SWEARING IN**

George Adams, Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III

Daniel Bryan, Jr., Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class III

The Mayor administered the Oaths of Office to the Special Class III Law Enforcement Officers. The Mayor and each member of Council welcomed the Officers to the City and congratulated them on their new positions.

**ORDINANCES**

**13 OF 2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 212 RENTAL PROPERTY, FOR LEAD BASED PAINTS 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. 13 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 13 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 13. 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 Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. Motion was approved.

**14 OF 2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 263 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE I GENERAL REGULATIONS 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. 14 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Ordinance No. 14 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 14. Jack Verseput 306 W. Poplar Avenue, Linwood – Mr. Verseput does not want parking prohibited on his side of the street as he needs access to his home. He also said traffic continues to speed on Poplar Avenue and asked Council to do something about it. Linda Gussie 4 Cedar Place, Linwood – Ms. Gussie is happy about the proposed prohibition of parking on Poplar Avenue. She indicated that when cars are parked there it is very difficult to see oncoming traffic as she pulls onto Poplar Avenue. She believes it will be safer now. Council President Paolone indicated that the Engineering Committee studied the situation and made recommendation to prohibit the parking for increased safety. Letters were mailed out to the residents in the area notifying them of the Ordinance. Councilman Ford indicated that Mr. Verseput has been to many Council meetings requesting Council do something about the speeding. Council is making changes to improve safety.

### **ORDINANCES (continued)**

Seeing and hearing no other 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 Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. Motion was approved.

**15 OF 2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 52A EMPLOYEE MANUAL 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. 15 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Byrnes, to approve Ordinance No. 15 for final reading. Council President Paolone opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 15. 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 Councilwoman DeDomenicis absent. Motion was approved.

**16 OF 2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 183 NUISANCES, ARTICLE 1 PROHIBITED USES 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. 16 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 16 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilwoman DeDomenicis 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.

- 155-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2022-16, to Gilda's Club South Jersey
- 156-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2022-17, to PTO Linwood
- 157-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2022-18, to PTO Linwood
- 158-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2022-19, to PTO Linwood
- 159-2022** A Resolution authorizing an Alcoholic Beverage Permit for the Linwood Board of Recreation Fall Festival
- 160-2022** A Resolution approving temporary signage for Mainland Regional High School Support Our Troops event

Council President Paolone asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilwoman Byrnes motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolutions No. 155-160 of 2022. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$438,790.41**

Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative, and Councilwoman DeDomenicis 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.

Jack Verseput 306 W. Poplar Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Verseput asked what Council plans on doing about the speeding on Poplar Avenue. Council President Paolone advised that the Police Department will enforce the speed limit.

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

Kathleen Spaeth 108 Country Club Drive, Linwood

Mrs. Spaeth indicated that she has been coming to Council asking them to look at the Nuisance Ordinance. She commended Council on listening to her comments.

Frank Dougherty, Linwood Country Club

Mr. Dougherty indicated that the Club had measures in place where they would be notified by the Police Department concerning the noise. They have been trying to make a difference and have improved from 3 summonses last year to only 1 this year. He asked Council to reconsider the Ordinance. The changes will be significantly detrimental to the Country Club.

John Miller 311 Melody Lane, Linwood

Mr. Miller indicated that Linwood residents pay 90% of the tax base in the City. Council has to look out for the residents first.

Greg Lecuyer 1023 Oak Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Lecuyer lives next to the High School and hears the band all the time. He is grateful it is nice noise. He discussed a night he was walking on the bike path and could hear the music from the Country Club over a mile and a half away.

Tim Carew 100 Carol Road, Linwood

Mr. Carew discussed how his back deck overlooks the Country Club. There are some nights where he can hear the music and other nights that he cannot. He believes the wind can carry the music sometimes. The owners of the Club have been great community members. He doesn't want them to be too restricted and believes this is a work in progress.

Roger Reed 106 Carol Road, Linwood

Mr. Reed explained that he did call the Police about the music coming from the Country Club one night. He was sitting in his living room watching a baseball game and could not hear his TV. The music from the Club was too loud.

Matt Altman 104 Carol Road, Linwood

Mr. Altman indicated that the music at Country Club has not changed and is too loud.

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 advised that tonight he swore in two new Class III Officers for the Linwood schools. This is something that current events have dictated. He wants to keep the kids safe. They will begin employment on September 29. He is proud how the City and School Board worked together to get this accomplished. He takes offense to the remarks that the City has not done anything regarding the speeding on Poplar Avenue. The City installed blinking stop signs, installed radar signs, and have officers out on patrol. The Mayor has gotten hit by a vehicle at that intersection. The City Engineer will be doing a traffic study soon to see what else can be done to improve the intersection. The City is working on finding a solution. The proposed parking prohibition was initiated because a new resident on Poplar Avenue was parking his truck on the street all night. There is a blind curve in the street and someone will get hurt. The spirit is to prevent cars from having to drive into oncoming traffic.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael is happy about the addition of the Class III Officers in the schools. He thanked the Chief of Police, Lieutenant Brown, and Lieutenant Martin for speeding up the hiring process. It really was a team effort.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their comments. She congratulated the new Class III Officers.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes advised everyone of the upcoming Fall Festival on October 23.

Council President Paolone – Council President Paolone agrees with the Mayor regarding Poplar Avenue. The City is doing everything they can to make it safer. The Police Department has taken steps to enforce speeding on Poplar Avenue. He commended the efforts of Councilman Michael and the Mayor to get the Class III Officers in the schools. The Police Department did a fantastic job with the hiring process. The noise ordinance is a tough

**FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)**

situation. Council has tried very hard to work with the Country Club and the residents. Council has to side with the residents. He doesn't believe people will leave the Country Club if the music is turned down.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to adjourn at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
Municipal Clerk