

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
October 9, 2013

Council President Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Rick DePamphilis; Councilman Elliot Beinfest; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Todd Gordon; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; Councilman Tim Tighe, and Council President Donna Taylor.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, City Solicitor; Steve Mazur, Dixon Associates; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; Robert James, Chief of Police; Anthony Strazzeri, CFO; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 Caucus meeting, without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor advised a Proclamation proclaiming October as Flood Safety Awareness Month.

B. The Mayor was just informed by the Governor's Office that Linwood received a \$30,000 Hazard Mitigation Grant. A mandatory FEMA meeting will be held for the grants on October 28.

4. Councilman Gordon

A. Engineering

1. Councilman Gordon advised of two Resolutions on the agenda approving Change Orders with Lafayette Utility Construction Company with regard to the Southwest Drainage Improvements project. The work was completed and approved.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda to award the Contract for General Repairs and Construction of Sanitary Sewer Facilities in the Cities of Linwood and Northfield to Lafayette Utility Construction Co., Inc. They were the lowest qualified bidder.
3. Councilman Gordon reported that the Engineering Committee is still working to resolve outstanding homeowner issues with regard to the Southwest Drainage Improvements project.

5. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing an unpaid Leave of Absence for Patrolman Chester Brown.

B. Energy Aggregation

1. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda appointing Commercial Utility Consultants as the City's energy agent. Councilman Tighe asked if the City would be committed to go through with the rate the agent obtains. Councilman Matik indicated that if the City does not like the rate, they are not committed to go forward with it. If the City does move forward with it, the contract is set for only a one year term.

6. Councilman Paolone

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Paolone reviewed the Best Practices Inventory. The results determine how much of each municipality's final 5% allocation of CMPTRA and ETR aid will be disbursed. Council discussed the inventory last week with zero percent being withheld at 82%. After reviewing the inventory once again, three more answers were revised to the affirmative giving the City a score of 88% with zero percent will be withheld. The Mayor indicated that

he would like to suggest questions for the inventory indicating that the City does not seem to be getting credit for things they are doing such as shared services. He would like to see more money being given to municipalities for shared services, rather than taking money away.

7. Councilman Tighe

A. Planning & Development

1. Councilman Tighe discussed a Resolution on the agenda authorizing the release of surety with regard to Royal Meadows, a subdivision along E. Royal Avenue. At this time, the property will not be developed. The Resolution includes language that no building permits will be issued in the future until a new surety is posted with the City.
2. Councilman Tighe advised of a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Non-Competitive Contract to Archer & Greiner for legal services with regard to redevelopment at the Cornerstone Commerce Center.

8. Council President Taylor

A. Administration

1. Council President Taylor explained that she will discuss a proposal to donate properties to the City at the next Council meeting.
2. A Resolution is on the agenda authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License to Linwood Nursery School.
3. Council President Taylor advised of a Resolution on the agenda approving an amendment to a Raffle License for Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

9. Mr. Youngblood

- A. Mr. Youngblood discussed an enabling Resolution on the agenda with NJ Green Acres for the Patcong Creek Open Space Acquisition project. The Resolution must include matching funds which will be comprised of other grant funds or abatements.

At 6:13 P.M., Council President Taylor called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk