

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
October 13, 2021

Council President Ralph Paolone 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 Darren Matik; Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Todd Gordon; 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 Jason Weber, Police Department; Lieutenant Steve Cunningham, Police Department; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Gordon motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor with two abstentions from Councilman Levinson and Council President Paolone. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

1. The Mayor advised that Blair Albright resigned from the Planning Board and he is appointing Junetta Dix to fill the vacancy.
2. The Mayor discussed a mandatory vaccination policy for all City employees except volunteer firefighters and crossing guards. He is recommending it for the safety of the employees. Council President Paolone explained that Mr. Youngblood completed research on the legality of a mandate and confirmed that it can be enforced. Councilwoman Byrnes is not in favor of the policy. Councilman Levinson discussed other mandatory policies. After discussion, Councilman Ford requested to table to the subject to provide for more time for review. All members were in favor.

4. Councilman Ford

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilman Ford advised of an Ordinance on the agenda for final reading amending Chapter 277, Zoning, Prohibited Uses to clean up some language.
2. Councilman Ford discussed an Ordinance on the agenda amending Chapter 212 Rental Registration to add language for unsatisfactory inspections and amending the initial inspection fee.

5. Councilman Gordon

A. Planning, Engineering, & Development

1. Councilman Gordon discussed a Resolution on the agenda awarding a Contract to A.E. Stone, Inc. for Wabash & Belhaven Resurfacing. This is a continuation of the stormwater and paving projects on Wabash Avenue.

6. Councilman Levinson

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Levinson discussed the annual mandatory Best Practices Inventory for 2021 required by the State. The inventory assesses each municipality's compliance with various laws and evaluates implementation of fiscal and operational best practices. Linwood continues to score very high and will not lose any State Aid.

7. Councilman Michael
 - A. Public Safety
 1. Councilman Michael discussed Resolutions for the reappointment of Thomas P. Flynn as Fire Official and Nick LaRotonda as Fire Inspector.
8. Council President Paolone
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Paolone discussed a Resolution authorizing an Alcoholic Beverage permit for the Linwood Board of Recreation Fall Festival for a beer garden. He explained that Council passed an Ordinance a few years ago to allow for the consumption of alcohol in the park for City sponsored events. The permit is contingent upon a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the City as additional insured. He also indicated that the bartenders should be well trained.

At 6:20 P.M., Council President Paolone called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk