

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
November 9, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Councilwoman June Byrnes called the meeting to order at 6:09 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE:

Councilman Todd Michael led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman June Byrnes; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; and Councilman Todd Michael.

Absent: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilman Matt Levinson; and Council President Ralph Paolone.

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

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2022 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

166-2022 A Resolution honoring John D. Showell, Jr.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 166 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 166. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved. Councilwoman DeDomenicis read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Showell. Each member of Council thanked and commended Mr. Showell for his twenty-five years of employment with the City.

171-2022 A Resolution authorizing 2022 Budget Appropriation transfers

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 171 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 171. A roll call vote was heard with four in the affirmative and Councilwoman Albright, Councilman Levinson, and Council President Paolone absent. Motion was approved.

ORDINANCES

18 OF 2022 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 221 SEWERS, ARTICLE I USE OF SEWERS 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. 18 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Ordinance No. 18 for first reading. A roll call vote was heard with four in the affirmative and Councilwoman Albright, Councilman Levinson, and Council President Paolone 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.

167-2022 A Resolution authorizing the refund of a tax overpayment made by Robert Merrifield, Jr. for Block 99 Lot 6, 212 W. Jefferson Avenue

168-2022 A Resolution amending Resolution No. 46, 2022, A Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2022

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 169-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-01, to Our Lady of Sorrows
- 170-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Bingo License, #2023-01, to Our Lady of Sorrows
- 172-2022** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 with American Pipe Cleaning, LLC with regard to the 2022 Video Inspection and Main Cleaning

Councilwoman Byrnes asked if any member of Council would like to remove any other items from consent. No items were removed. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolutions No. 167-170, 172 of 2022. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,307,971.31

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with four in the affirmative and Councilwoman Albright, Councilman Levinson, and Council President Paolone absent. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Councilwoman Byrnes opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

Ed Sutor 301 Schoolhouse Lane, Linwood

Mr. Sutor indicated that if he was allowed to vote, he would have voted yes on the referendum question.

Ryan Rendfrey 1529 Wabash Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Rendfrey would like to have a turf field. It would benefit the City and the kids.

McKenzie Allen 608 Oakcrest Avenue, Linwood

Ms. Allen ask City Council to approve a turf field to help make the fields better.

Chris Meade 201 Ross Lane, Linwood

Mr. Meade discussed growing up in Linwood, teaching and coaching sports in Linwood and the poor conditions of the fields. He asked City Council to install a turf field.

Rick Dill 306 Forrest Drive, Linwood

Mr. Dill discussed the unsafe conditions of the field and asked City Council to install a turf field.

Richard Gerhardt 400 Van Sant Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Gerhardt takes pride in the City Seal. The current conditions of the park are not a good reflection of the City.

Arthur Chew 130 Seaview Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Chew wants to see the fields improved. He is a Board member of MUSA (Mainland United Soccer Association) and the Association has money they are willing to use to help pay for a turf field.

Dan Miller 505 Barr Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Miller congratulated Mr. Showell on his twenty-five years. He indicated that the vote is not over. Council will have a big decision to make.

Ryan Sharp 110 Myrtle Avenue, Linwood

His children play sports in Linwood and he has enjoyed the football experience. He hopes Council votes to install a turf field.

Marisa Hieb 125 Pierson Avenue, Somers Point

Mrs. Hieb is a volunteer coach and is a member of the MUSA Board. She believes more people would have voted yes for a turf field if they were more informed.

Lauren Carpenter 121 Balfour Avenue, Linwood

Ms. Carpenter indicated that Linwood's fields are currently unplayable. She asked City Council to improve the fields.

Kelly Klever 1405 Woodlynne Boulevard, Linwood

Ms. Klever graduated from Mainland High School and came back after college to teach there and live in Linwood. She also believes the conditions of the existing fields are unplayable and would like to see a safer playing surface. Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Byrnes closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He grew up in Linwood and played on the fields. The fields should have been address years ago. The question was place on the ballot because it was voted down years ago at Mainland High School by 80% of the voters. Cleary, things have changed with the results now being so close. City Council will get together and make the best decision for the community.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford enjoyed seeing so many people active in the process to get the vote out, even the children. Three of his children played on the fields here in Linwood. He agrees they are in bad shape and something has to be done. He Chairs the Planning, Engineering and Development Committee and they are reviewing all the issues of the park. The park is an asset and he believes in reinvesting in it. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis agrees with Councilman Ford. She thanked all the speakers for their comments and their hard work to get people out to vote.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes thanked Public Works for picking up the leaves. She thanked all the poll workers and City employees for working Election Day. She thanked the parents for teaching the children about the election process. It is not an easy decision, but Council will do what is right for Linwood.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk