

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
November 22, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Councilwoman June Byrnes called the meeting to order at 6:32 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; Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis; Councilman Eric Ford; Councilman Matt Levinson; and Councilman Todd Michael.

Absent: 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 November 9, 2022 Regular meeting without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor with abstentions from Councilwoman Albright and Councilman Levinson. 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. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Ordinance No. 18 for final reading. Councilwoman Byrnes opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 18. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Byrnes closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Council President Paolone absent. Motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

173-2022 A Resolution authorizing 2022 Budget Appropriation transfers

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 173 of 2022 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilwoman DeDomenicis, to approve Resolution No. 173. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Council President Paolone absent. Motion was approved.

180-2022 A Resolution awarding a Contract to Arthur R. Henry for Oak Avenue Restoration Contract No. 41

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 180 of 2022 by title only. Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to approve Resolution No. 180. A roll call vote was heard with five in the affirmative, one abstention from Councilwoman Albright, 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.

174-2022 A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1-Final with Arawak Paving Co., Inc. with regard to the FY 2022 Resurfacing of Franklin Boulevard

175-2022 A Resolution approving Change Order No. 2-Final with American Pipe Cleaning, LLC with regard to the 2022 Video Inspection and Main Cleaning

RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- 176-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Bingo License, #2023-02, to Contact Cape Atlantic
- 177-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-02, to Contact Cape Atlantic
- 178-2022** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2023-03, to Contact Cape Atlantic
- 179-2023** A Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Thomas P. Flynn, Jr. as Fire Official for the City of Linwood

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 Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions No. 174-179 of 2022. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$1,329,298.81

Councilwoman DeDomenicis motioned, seconded by Councilman Ford, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with four in the affirmative, two abstentions from Councilwoman Albright and 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.

Ryan Rendfrey 1529 Wabash Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Rendfrey indicated that Linwood is a great City filled with great people. He believes a turf field would be a great addition to the City.

Marisa Hieb 125 Pierson Avenue, Somers Point

Mrs. Hieb spoke in favor of a turf field.

Chad Myers 1538 Woodlynne Boulevard, Linwood

Mr. Myers ask City Council to move forward with the installation of a turf field.

John Franchini 6 Crestwood Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Franchini thanked the Governing Body for their support of the Panthers football program. He asked that they move forward with the installation of a turf field.

Jack Carpenter 121 Balfour Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Carpenter asked City Council to install a turf field.

Regan Miller 505 Barr Avenue, Linwood

Ms. Miller asked City Council for a turf field.

Chris Meade 201 Ross Lane, Linwood

Mr. Meade discussed Memorial Park as the center of Linwood and encouraged City Council to install a turf field.

Dan Miller 505 Barr Avenue, Linwood

Mr. Miller read a prepared statement in favor of a turf field and indicated that the Mainland United Soccer Association has money to put toward the field.

Seeing and hearing no other members from the public wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Byrnes closed the floor.

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Matik – The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting and letting Council know how they feel. He explained that Council has a lot of work to do with regard to the fields. He knows the Engineering Committee met today and are trying to figure it out. There are numerous improvements coming to the City and thanked Tim Donovan on the great job he is doing as Park Director. The Mayor also thanked Chief Cunningham for hosting Coffee with a Cop today at Brandall Estates. It was a very successful community policing outreach event. Councilwoman Byrnes and the Senior Advisory Committee also participated in the event.

Councilman Ford – Councilman Ford thanked everyone for their comments. He advised that the referendum question was a non-binding question. When Mainland High School had the question on the ballot, the turf field was voted down by 80% of the voters. Now, the vote is 50/50 with only 30% of the voters voting on election day. Now Council has to do their due diligence. He Chairs the Engineering Committee with Councilwoman Albright

FINAL REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL (continued)

and Councilman Michael as members. They did meet today about the needed park improvements for the next two years; lights, drainage issues, and safety issues. They also discussed other needed items such as sewer and road improvements. The park is the center of the City and Council will do what is right for Linwood.

Councilwoman DeDomenicis – Councilwoman DeDomenicis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their comments. City Council will go through the process to make the best decision for Linwood.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked everyone for attending and echoed the comments of the other Councilmembers. The park is the heart of Linwood and improvements are needed. Council will work hard to make the right decision.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson thanked everyone for their comments. City Council will do what is best, led by Councilman Ford and his committee, doing a lot of the work. Councilman Levinson commended Dan Miller and the soccer association on their efforts on the turf field and getting residents together to work on an issue. Recreation is an important part of Linwood and is why it is on the City seal.

Councilman Michael – Councilman Michael thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked Chief Cunningham for hosting Pizza with the Police at Seaview Elementary School. A great community policing program. He agreed with Councilman Ford's comments. They know money has to be put into the fields. They will make sure the process gets done right.

Councilwoman Byrnes – Councilwoman Byrnes echoed the comments from City Council. They will go back to the drawing board and do what is best. She thanked Chief Cunningham for the Coffee with a Cop program today announcing that it was a great event.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Michael, to adjourn at 7:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk