

LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL
CAUCUS MINUTES
November 25, 2014

Council President Tim Tighe called the meeting to order at 6:07 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 Brian Heun; Councilman Darren Matik; Councilman Ralph Paolone; and Council President Tighe.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; Gary Auer, Engineer's Office; Hank Kolakowski, Superintendent Public Works; and Leigh Ann Napoli, Municipal Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes Without Formal Reading

Councilman Beinfest motioned, seconded by Councilman Heun, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2014 Caucus meeting without formal reading. All members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

3. Mayor's Report

A. The Mayor advised of two new appointments to fill vacancies on the Linwood Board of Recreation. The new members are Sam Watt and Bonnie Petitt.

B. The Mayor announced the additional members of the Blue Ribbon Committee for a Recreation Master Plan that was discussed at the last meeting. The new members are Matt Levinson and Mike Gatley.

4. Councilman Matik

A. Public Safety

1. Councilman Matik discussed a revised Ordinance to address bamboo. He took Dr. Lacy's comments and suggestions into consideration. He removed the prohibition on clumping bamboo. The Ordinance now only prohibits running bamboo. If a complaint is received by the City regarding an encroachment of any bamboo plant or root, and the Code Enforcement Officer of the City, after observation and/or inspection, determines that there is an encroachment or invasion on any adjoining/neighborly private or public property or public right of way, the City shall serve notice to the bamboo property owner in writing and demand remediation of the encroachment of the bamboo from the affected property, and demand approved confinement against future encroachment. After 45 days of notice the owner must submit a plan for remediation. If nothing is done, the Code Enforcement Officer can issue summonses. Also, running bamboo may not be replanted or replaced once such bamboo has been remediated. Councilman Matik indicated that the spirit of the Ordinance is not to prevent bamboo, but it cannot impede on people's property. The State also has a bill in consideration.

2. Councilman Matik advised of a Resolution on the agenda approving a Contract with the Teamsters Local #331. He hopes that everyone had a chance to read the Contract.

3. Councilman Matik may possibly have a Resolution on the next Council meeting authorizing the Contract with the Firefighters Union.

4. Councilman Matik discussed several meetings with a representative from the State that will help the City plan for storm resiliency. This will also help with the City's Community Rating System for flood insurance.

5. Councilman Paolone

A. Revenue & Finance

1. Councilman Paolone advised of a Resolution on the agenda authorizing budget appropriation transfers.

2. Councilman Paolone discussed the proposed Agreement for the Share Municipal Court. He reviewed the proposed agreement along with a spreadsheet of cost analysis prepared by Mr. Strazzeri. City Council in Northfield has proposed a 2.5% increase. Linwood's court revenue has been down significantly. Councilman Paolone asked everyone to review the agreement further and he will meet with representatives from Northfield to discuss same.
6. Council President Tighe
 - A. Administration
 1. Council President Tighe discussed a Resolution to advertise for bids for a liquor license. Bidders will have to pre-qualify to bid. The minimum bid is \$300,000. Bids are due on January 6, 2015.
 2. Council President Tighe announced a change on the Board of School Estimates. Councilman Heun will replace Councilman Beinfest.
 3. Council President Tighe discussed several dates for the 2015 Reorganization Meeting. The meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday, January 6, 2015. He asked everyone to check their schedules and confirm later.
 - B. Planning & Development
 1. Council President Tighe discussed a request to add leaves to Chapter 99 of the City Code on Brush, Weeds, and Grass. After review and comments from the Code Enforcement Officer, Council determined it would be very difficult to enforce. It was decided not to amend the Code.
7. Mr. Youngblood
 - A. Mr. Youngblood discussed a Resolution on the agenda to file an additional lien against Block 107, Lot 13 (23 Elm Avenue). The total now is just over \$65,000. Mr. Youngblood has been in contact with the attorney for the State American Legion Post on this matter and will report again at a later date.

At 6:40 P.M., Council President Tighe called a recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC
Municipal Clerk