**Minutes of the Regular**

**Meeting of the 2017 Council of the**

**City of Linden, held Tuesday**

**April 25, 2017**

The regular meeting of the 2016 Council of the City of Linden, was held in the Council Chambers in the City Hall on Tuesday, April 27, 2017 at 7:12 pm., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis and she announced that the notice of this meeting stating the date, place and time, has been disseminated as required under the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The Clerk rendered the opening prayer, after which the members of the Governing Body and the persons in attendance saluted the flag. Each of the Scout Groups present recited their scout oaths.

Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis informed those present of the proper procedures for exiting the room in the event of an emergency.

Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis asked all members of the public, wishing to speak during the public comment session to please sign in on the sign-in white sheets provided in the front of the room.

Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis asked all to place their cell phones on vibrate, and if they must take a call to please leave the room to do so.

A roll call showed the following members were present:

**ROLL CALL**

Councilwoman Lisa Ormon

Councilman Donald Beyer

“ Peter Brown

“ Monty Brooks

Councilman Ralph Strano

Councilwoman Michele Yamakaitis

Councilman Armando Medina

Councilwoman Gretchen Hickey

Mayor Derek Armstead

The Clerk noted that Council President Alvarez was excused.

**SCOUTS PARTICIPATION IN MEETING TO FOLLOW**

Mayor - Riley Frees-Kroboth Council President – Joseph Gorringe

First Ward – Samantha Wilkolaski Second Ward – Cody Lagun

Third Ward – Andrew Maldonado Fourth Ward – Troy Smith

Fifth Ward – Hadassah Correia Sixth Ward – Victoria Robinson

Seventh Ward – Victor Heras Eighth Ward – Arabella Mohan

Ninth Ward – Lily Bachofen Tenth Ward – Zoey Mora

City Clerk – Gavin Mayes Chief Financial Officer – Theodora Mora

Fire Chief - Anthony Bullaro Municipal Attorney – Jason Kostovcik Police Chief – Donovan Frees-Kroboth

Council President Pro Tempore announced that tonight is the annual participation by the Boy and Girl scouts in Linden City Government. Members of the Scouts will be taking the place of City officials. Tonight will be the 73rd Annual Scout in Government. Mrs. Yamakaitis invited the scouts to come up on the dais and thake their seats with the members of the Governing Body.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the first consent item, which he did.

**Tax Sale** Requesting the refund of the premium paid at the 2014 & 2015 tax sale on the following block & lot.

**Block Lot Redemption Date CTF# Amount**

16 8 3/20/17 13-00020 $2,100.00

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of 2,100.00, payable to: TTLBL, LLC, Attention: John Lemkey, 4747 Executive Drive, Suite 1, San Diego, CA 92121 charging same to account #-7-01-55-276-999-956.

Scout Council person Samantha Wilkolaski moved the first consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Cody Lagun and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the second consent item, which he did.

**Tax Sale** Requesting the refund of the premium paid at the 2014 tax sale on the following block & lot.

**Block Lot Redemption Date CTF# Amount**

16 9 3/20/17 13-00021 $36,400.00

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $36,400.00 payable to: US Bank Cust for Pro Cap 4 & Crdtrs, 50 South 16th Street, Suite #2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, charging same to account #-7-01-55-276-999-956.

Scout Council person Cody Lagun moved the second consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Andrew Maldonado and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the third consent item, which he did.

**Tax Sale** Requesting the refund of the premium paid at the 2014 & 2016 tax sale on the following blocks & lots.

**Block Lot Redemption Date Cert# Premium**

51 28 4/10/17 13-00055 $22,000.00

110 12 3/20/17 15-00136 $1,300.00

444 6 3/22/17 15-00252 $1,300.00

534 14 4/6/17 15-00308 $11,600.00

546 10 3/24/17 15-00317 $1,300.00

565 18 3/29/17 15-00335 $2,400.00

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $39,900.00 payable to: MTAG Cust Fig Cap Invest NJ, 13, P.O. Box 54472, New Orleans, LA 70154, charging same to account #7-01-55-276-999-956.

Scout Council person Cody Andrew Maldonado moved the third consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Andrew Troy Smith and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the fourth consent item, which he did.

**Tax Sale** Requesting the refund of the premium paid at the 2016 tax sale on the following block &

lot.

**Block Lot Redemption Date CTF# Amount**

107 1 4/6/17 15-00065 $1,100.00

524 78 3/20/17 15-00304 $1,000.00

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $2,100.00 payable to: FWDSL & Associates, LP, Attention: Jared Cucci, 17 W. Cliff Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 charging same to account #-7-01-55-276-999-956.

Scout Council person Andrew Troy Smith moved the fourth consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Hadassah Correia and was ordered approved by a roll call vote, with all voting in favor except for the Tenth Ward Council scout, Zoey Mora, who abstained.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the fifth consent item, which he did.

**Tax Sale** Requesting the refund of the premium paid at the 2016 tax sale on the following block &

lot.

**Block Lot Redemption Date CTF# Amount**

313 20 3/22/17 15-00194 $900.00

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $900.00 payable to: US Bank Cust for PC6, LLC Sterling National, 50 South 16th Street, Suite #2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, charging same to account #-7-01-55-276-999-956.

Scout Council person Hadassah Correia moved the fifth consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Victoria Robinson and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the sixth consent item, which he did.

**Tax Sale** Requesting the refund of the premium paid at the 2014 tax sale on the following block &

lot.

**Block Lot Redemption Date CTF# Amount**

342 11 4/7/17 13-00321 $200.00

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $200.00 payable to US Bank Cust BV Trst 2015-1, 50 South 16th Street, Suite #19, Philadelphia, PA 19102, charging same to account #-7-01-55-276-999-956.

Scout Council person Victoria Robinson moved the sixth consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Victor Heras and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the Seventh consent item, which he did.

**Tax Sale** Requesting the refund of the premium paid at the 2016 tax sale on the following block &

lot.

**Block Lot Redemption Date CTF# Amount**

384 4 3/24/17 15-00223 $1,700.00

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $1,700.00 payable to: KCC Promised Lands, LLC, 2560 Route 22 East, # 175, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 charging same to account #-7-01-55-276-999-956.

Scout Council person Victor Heras moved the seventh consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Arabella Mohan and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the eighth consent item, which he did.

**Credit Balance** Block 171 Lot 2, 615 Roselle Street

2017 Garbage Fee Appeal

There now exists a credit balance on the above referenced block & lot due to a property being listed as a 2 family and is utilized as a 1 family per documentation provided from the owner. The property owner has paid the entire amount due for 2017 and is entitled to a refund of $120.00.

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $120.00 payable to: Martin & Margaret Tuohy, 615 Roselle Street, Linden, NJ 07036, charging same to account # 7-01-08-607-011.

Scout Council person Arabella Mohan moved the eighth consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Lily Bachofen and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the ninth consent item, which he did.

**Credit Balance** Block 195 Lot 12, 522 Washington Avenue

2017 Garbage Fee Appeal

There now exists a credit balance on the above referenced block & lot due to a property being listed as a 2 family and is utilized as a 1 family per documentation provided from the owner. The property owner has paid the entire amount due and is entitled to a refund of $120.00.

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $120.00 payable to: Joan V. Huff, 522 Washington Avenue, Linden, NJ 07036 charging same to account *#*7-01-08-607-011.

Scout Council person Lily Bachofen moved the ninth consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Zoey Mora and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Council President Joseph Gorringe called upon Scout Clerk Gavin Mayes to read the tenth consent item, which he did.

**Credit Balance** Block 203 Lot 16, 836 Baldwin Avenue

2017 Partial Garbage Fee Refund

There now exists a credit balance on the above referenced block & lot due to a property being listed as a 2 family and is utilized as a 1 family per documentation provided from the owner. The property owner has paid the entire amount due and is entitled to a refund of $120.00.

Therefore, it would be in order for the council to authorize the treasurer to issue a check in the amount of $120.00 payable to: Linda Waltman, 836 Baldwin Avenue, Linden, NJ 07036 charging same to account *#* 7-01-08-607-011.

Scout Council person Zoey Mora moved the tenth consent item. The motion was seconded by Scout Council person Samntha Wilkolaski and was unanimously ordered approved.

Scout Mayor Riley Frees-Kroboth was recognized to say a few words. He made the following comments:

Good evening, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Armstead, the City Council and all the various Department Heads for allowing the Scouts to participate in the City of Linden’s Annual Scout Government Day. I’d like to especially thank Councilwoman Yamakaitis for all of her time, concern and efforts in arranging a very informative and fun filled day for us! In addition, a special thank you to Mr. Bodek for arranging dinner and refreshments for myself and all of the other Scouts. I would also like to thank all of our Scout Leaders who took time from their schedules to participate and make this day happen. In carrying on the long history of Scout Government Day, I as Mayor for the day saw firsthand the hard work and dedication of many of the Departments that make up the City of Linden. I see what a tough job it is to lead a City like Linden. I enjoyed working with the various Departments as my time as Mayor. Leadership is a key to being a scout and helping the community. We the Scouts have learned a lot during our time in the City of Linden. Once again, thank you all for your time, patience and showing us the uniqueness of Linden. I loved being Mayor for the day and I love Linden. I wish you all a goodnight.

Mrs. Yamakaitis then gave a report on the activities that the scouts participated in during the course of the day. She asked all of the scout leaders and the parents of the scouts to stand and be recognized.

Mrs. Yamakaitis, Mrs. Ormon, Mr. Sadowski and Mayor Armstead presented each of the scouts with certificates recognizing their participation this evening.

**PRESENTATION TO EAGLE SCOUTS**

**Michael Palay Brian Vieira**

**Nicholas Reyes Gavin Mayes**

Mrs. Yamakaitis explained that tonight four scouts would be recognized for having attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Prior to present the Eagle Scouts with their certificates, the troop leader, Fred Reyes, spoke about each, except Gavin Mayes, and what their Eagle project was. He thanked, Mrs. Yamakaitis, the Mayor and members of Council for keeping alive the tradition of Scout in Government Day. Gavin Mayes explained his Eagle Scout project, prior to receiving his certificate, as he was from a different troop.

**EARTH DAY PRESENTATION – POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

Mrs. Yamakaitis announced the Linden Environmental Commission had sponsored its eighteenth annual Earth Day contest in recognition of Earth Day. She asked the Environmental Commission chairperson, Mary Purves, to make the presentations, with Mayor Armstead and Councilman Brown. Mayor Armstead spoke about the contest and what a success it was. He then called upon each of the winners, who came forward, and received a prize for their entry.

**Joshua Abdelshahed Christina Ackerman**

**Brianny Antigua Gabriela Carnejo**

**Emanuel Chirino Alvia Collier**

**Alyssa Lee Collins Meg Cudella**

**Gabriella Czylek Kayla Delbrune**

**Samantha Dieudonne Gabriella Puerto Forero**

**Javen Hall Jyannah Henriguez**

**Nyla Hilton Victoria Imeogu**

**Shirley Jilus Czrmelind Joseph**

**Joanna Kepa Anglica Klisiewicz**

**Victoria Knopka Emily Krypal**

**Miranda Knurek Daniella Lopadchak**

**Claudia Madarova Isabelle Maerts**

**Ashley Mairagas Erik Mairagas**

**Allison Matos Gabriella Meloni**

**Andrew Montonez Sebastian Natanos**

**Alexa Novoa Sivana Perez**

**Mayjah Jean Pierre Anna Pieta**

**Isabel Polo AAryan Pugazehdhi**

**Gabriel Ramos Samir Reid**

**Kylie Reed Katelyn Salvador**

**Julia Scafidi Roberto Stagnaro**

**Katherin Torres Michelle Zapata**

Mrs. Purves recognized all of those that had acted as Judges in the poster contest, members of the Linden Environmental Commission and the companies that donated prizes for the contest. At 8:30 pm, Mrs. Yamakaitis declared a brief recess so that pictures could be taken. Mrs. Yamakaitis called the meeting back to order at 8:36 pm. All present before the recess were still present.

**CITY OF LINDEN EMPLOYEES WITH THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE**

Mrs. Yamakaitis noted that tonight, City of Linden employees, with thirty years of service will be recognized for their dedication to the City. She asked Mayor Armstead to step forward make the presentations. Mrs. Yamakaitis called each up, and Mayor Armstead presented them a watch for their service.

**Michael J. Hreha – Fire Department Stanley D. Yashay – Fire Department**

**James L. Clinebell, Jr. – Fire Department Andrew J. Clinebell – Fire Department**

**Albert F. Martin, Jr. – Fire Department Timothy J. Smigelsky – Fire Department**

**Mindi L Kuznaik – Finance Department David R. Hart – Police Department**

**Philip G. Palma – Public Works Tracey lee Malosky – Public Works**

**Andrew J. Salmon III – Public Works Michael Rauseo – Public Works**

Mrs. Yamakaitis thanked all of the employees for their service to the City of Linden.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis announced that **PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE PERMITTED FOR THOSE SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT APPROVAL. PLEASE READ THE SYNOPSIS OF THE RESOLUTIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE. EACH IS INFORMATIVE AND SELF-EXPLANATORY, HOWEVER, IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC RESOLUTION, THE COUNCIL WILL ENTERTAIN QUESTIONS ON IT.**

John Roman, 15 W. Linden Ave. #2 asked to remove Resolution #2017-199.

Mr. Sadowski moved for approval of Resolutions 2017-200 and 2017-201. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strano and was unanimously ordered approved by a roll call vote.

Resolution 2017-199

John Roman, 15 W. Linden Ave. #2. Mr. Roman stated that he had wanted to speak on resolution 2017-200, but had given the wrong resolution number. Since it had already been voted on he had no further comment.

Mr. Sadowski moved for approval of resolution 2017-199. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strano, and was unanimously ordered approved by roll call vote.

Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis called upon Mrs. Cosby-Hurling for a committee report.

Mrs. Cosby-Hurling reported that the Construction Code and Lighting Committee had recommended approval additional street lights for Park Ave. Mrs. Cosby-Hurling moved to approved the placement of a street light on pole #61306, 304 Park Ave., and pole #61303, 596 Park Ave. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strano and was unanimously ordered approved by a roll call vote.

**ORDINANCE - FIRST READING**

**An Ordinance entitled:**

#61-36 An ordinance to amend and supplement Chapter XVIII sewer and water, of an ordinance entitled, an ordinance adopting and enacting the revised general ordinances of the City of Linden, 1999, passed November 23, 1999 and approved November 24, 1999, and as amended and supplemented.

DELETE Section 17-9 Sewer Connection fees for new users or increased flow in its entirety.

ADD New section 17-9 sewer connection fees for new users or increased flows for residential, commercial and industrial.

Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ordinance #61-36 was introduced by Mrs. Cosby-Hurling and was read on first reading by the Deputy Clerk.

On motion of Mrs. Cosby-Hurling, seconded by Mr. Strano the foregoing Ordinance was on roll call vote

Unanimously Ordered approved.

**An Ordinance entitled:**

#61-37 Ordinance of the City of Linden approving the application for a long term tax exemption and authorizing the execution of a financial agreement with SRV 1 Urban Renewal LLC and SRV 2 Linden Urban Renewal LLC.

John Roman, 15 W. Linden Ave. #2. Mr. Roman stated that while we business to come, we also want the revenue to come in so that we can stabilize taxes and reduce the burden on the citizens. He asked for a copy of the agreement. Mr. Antonelli responded yes, and to make his request, tomorrow to the City Clerk’s office.

Council President Pro Tempore Michele Yamakaitis asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ordinance #61-37 was introduced by Mr. Strano and was read on first reading by the Deputy Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Strano, seconded by Mr. Sadowski the foregoing Ordinance was on roll call vote

Unanimously Ordered approved. Mr. Brown, noted the property that this concerned, and spoke about what the City has spent on this property, and how the revenue helped pay the debt service on the property. Mrs. Cosby-Hurling stated that she was voting in favor, for introduction, but was going to do her research on the agreement. She noted her concerns, and what she hoped would go into the development. Mrs. Hickey agreed with Mrs. Cosby-Hurling comments, and noted that she had quite a few concerns and would do her research before making this happen.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE – ON CITY BUSINESS ONLY (NOT TO EXCEED 5 MINUTES)**

**There was no public comment.**

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

Mr. Sadowski stated that this one minute of public comment was put in a couple of months ago, and that he is getting comments, from members of the public that it is a waste of time. He stated that it is a waste of time.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Council President Pro Tempore Yamakaitis announced that th**e next** Council Meetings will be as follows:

Council Conference meeting:

Council Conference meeting, Monday, May 15, 2017 in the Council Conference Room, City Hall, 301 N. Wood Ave.

\*Council Conference meeting prior to the Council meeting:

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Council Conference Room, City Hall, 301 N. Wood Ave.

\*Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 N. Wood Ave.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Governing Body, Mr. Strano moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and was unanimously ordered approved by a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. Bodek

City Clerk