**Minutes of the Special**

**Meeting of the 2017 Council of the**

**City of Linden, held Thursday**

**December 7, 2017**

A special meeting of the 2017 Council of the City of Linden, was held in the Council Chambers in the City Hall on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 6:08 pm. The meeting was called to order by Council President Jorge Alvarez and he 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.

Council President Jorge Alvarez informed those present of the proper procedures for exiting the room in the event of an emergency.

Council President Jorge Alvarez 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 Jorge Alvarez 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 Barry Javick

“ Monty Brooks

Councilwoman Rhashonna Cosby

Councilman Robert Sadowski

Councilman Ralph Strano

Councilwoman Gretchen Hickey

Council President Jorge Alvarez

Mr. Medina and Mr. Brown were excused from the meeting. President Alvarez announced that the purpose of this meeting was only for the introduction of

**ORDINANCES ON INTRODUCTION**

**An Ordinance entitled:**

61-85 An ordinance to amend and supplement Chapter VII, Traffic 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.

7-33 Handicapped Parking Regulations, 7-33.1A Handicapped Parking On-Street

Name of Street Spaces Location

Delete:

933 Baldwin Avenue 1 On the southwesterly sideline of Baldwin Avenue

177 feet more or less southeasterly from the projection

Of the southeasterly curbline of East St. Georges Avenue in front of 933 Baldwin Avenue for a length of

22 feet. The aforesaid space is specifically reserved and

Designated for a vehicle for Elaine Matarazzo to be identified by license plate number and a placard to be issued by the City, and no other vehicle bearing or displaying handicapped license plates and/or placards, or not, shall be permitted to park in such place.

President Alvarez asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Ordinance #61-85 was introduced by Mr. Javick and was read on first reading by the Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Javick, seconded by Mrs. Ormon, the foregoing Ordinance was on roll call vote was unanimously introduced.

**An Ordinance entitled:**

61-86 An ordinance to amend and supplement Chapter VII, Traffic 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 7-15.7 RESIDENTIAL OVERNIGHT PARKING PERMIT in its entirety:

ADD SECTION 7-15.7 RESIDENTIAL OVERNIGHT PARKING PERMIT.

President Alvarez asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Ordinance #61-86 was introduced by Mr. Javick and was read on first reading by the Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Javick, seconded by Mrs. Ormon, the foregoing Ordinance was on roll call vote was intorduced, with all voting yes, except Ms. Cosby, who voted no.

**An Ordinance entitled:**

61-87 An ordinance to amend and supplement Chapter VII, Traffic 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.

That Chapter VII, Traffic, Section 7-15, Parking by Permit Only in “Designated Residential Areas, shall be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

DELETE SECTIONSN 7-15.1 PARKING DECALS in its entirety.

ADD SECTION 7-15.1 PARKING DECALS

President Alvarez asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Ordinance #61-85 was introduced by Mr. Javick and was read on first reading by the Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Javick, seconded by Mrs. Ormon, the foregoing Ordinance was on roll call vote was unanimously introduced.

**An Ordinance entitled:**

61-88 An ordinance to amend and supplement Chapter VII, Traffic 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.

Section 1. That Chapter VII, Traffic, Section 7-10, Parking Prohibited at All Times on Certain Streets, shall be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

7-10 PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS

Name of Street Side Location

ADD:

Louis Avenue East From Grier Avenue to Bedle Plac

President Alvarez asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Ordinance #61-85 was introduced by Mr. Javick and was read on first reading by the Clerk.

Someone from the audience asked if this only effected the one street. President Alvarez responded yes.

On motion of Mr. Javick, seconded by Mrs. Ormon, the foregoing Ordinance was on roll call vote was unanimously introduced.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kelly Valsic, 1006 W. Elizabeth Ave. Stated that she had had a interaction with the Mayor’s secretary, and after that someone came to the W. Elizabeth Ave address, and wrote them up with summons. She noted that there have been several other incidents of what she called harassment. She then explained that recently a city worker installed “no parking” signs on the roadway across from their location, and when they questioned the worked he stated that the Mayor ordered them to be installed. She described her concerns in detail, and asked a number of questions. President Alvarez stated that he did not believe there was anything personal. Ms. Valsic disagreed, and presented her arguments. Mr. Antonelli, explained his understanding of the need for the no parking, in this location, that it was based on a safety issue. A discussion, involving Mr. Antonelli, President Alvarez and Ms. Valsic, concerning parking and other issues relative to the site.

Joe Asalato, 2006 W. Elizabeth Ave. Mr. Asalate explained that the City workers came over to him, asked him not to shoot the messenger, regarding the installation of the signs, but the orders came from the Mayor. He noted that the signs are up, without an ordinance, and therefore are not legal. He asked how an officer would know that, and not issue tickets. Mr. Antonelli responded and addressed the concerns raised by Mr. Asalato.

John Principato, 1706 Westover Road. Mr. Principato stated that he owns a business on 21st and S. Wood Ave., and it is being affected by refinery workers parking all day on the street. He noted a particular area, asked if the parking, at that location, be limited to fifteen minutes, and his reasons why. He asked how he puts his request in.

Ms. Cosby moved to close the public comment portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strano and was unanimously ordered approved by a roll call vote.

Mr. Brooks left during the public comment period.

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

Mr. Strano responded to Mr. Principato’s request, noting that the situation was caused by the number of temporary workers for a special project at the refinery. He thought that changing the parking, to address a temporary situation, was not the answer, and he would call the refinery and ask them to assist in solving the issue.

Mrs. Ormon commented that it was nice to meet Ms. Valsic, and put a face to the person behind the Facebook post. She commented about the use of Facebook and posting.

Ms. Cosby reminded all that the Fifth Ward is going to have a visit from Santa on December 16th. She provided details on the event, and stated she was looking forward to the event.

Mrs. Hickey thanked the three public speakers for attending this evening and voicing their opinions on different issues. Next she stated that earlier this week we had a pretty amazing night, thanks to Anthony Wolhrab and volunteers from the Board of Education. It was a Christmas Caroling event. She stated it was the most amazing night she had this year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Alvarez announce the following Council Meetings:

\*Council Conference meeting, Monday, December 18, 2017 in the Council Conference Room, City Hall, 301 N. Wood Ave.

\*Council Conference meeting prior to the Council meeting:

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Council Conference Room, City Hall, 301 N. Wood Ave.

\*Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 N. Wood Ave.

There being no further business to come before the governing body, Mr. Strano moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sadowski and was unanimously ordered approved by a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. Bodek

City Clerk