

REGULAR MEETING  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – UPPER LEVEL

December 21, 2010

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was opened with a Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Municipal Clerk.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Powers read the following statement of proper notice:

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE: “Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, has been provided through the posting of the annual meeting schedule of said Council in accordance with Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act”.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bostock, Kownacki, Mount, Puliti and Mayor Powers.

Absent: None.

Also, in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, and Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

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Proclamations and Honors

There were no proclamations or honors.

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Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Manager advised that Resolution (8-K), Authorizing a Professional Service Contract for Consulting Services to the Lawrence Township Police Department, was added to the Agenda, but not included in the Council’s packet, and that Resolution (8-L), Closed Session, is not necessary and can be removed from the Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Bostock, seconded by Mr. Puliti, the Agenda was amended to include the above revisions.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bostock, Kownacki, Mount, Puliti and Mayor Powers.  
Nays: None.

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#### Public Participation

There was no public participation.

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#### Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Puliti, seconded by Mr. Bostock, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of **October 5, 2010** were approved without corrections.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bostock, Kownacki, Mount, Puliti and Mayor Powers.  
Nays: None.

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On a motion by Mr. Puliti, seconded by Mr. Bostock, the Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of **November 9, 2010** were approved without corrections.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bostock, Kownacki, Mount, Puliti and Mayor Powers.  
Nays: None.

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#### Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

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Resolutions

Mr. Krawczun provided an in-depth review of Resolution (8-G), Authorizing Payment of Township’s Share of Hopewell Township Bid No. 10-02R, Twin Pines Airport Recreation Site Improvements, and Resolution (8-K), Authorizing a Professional Service Contract for Consulting Services to the Lawrence Township Police Department, after which there was a comment, question and answer period relative to the police department review and future goals of the department.

Resolution Nos. 423-10 (8A) thru 433-10 (8-K) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X					X	
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X						
Mr. Puliti	X						X
Mayor Powers	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in Resolution Book Volume No. 2 of the Township of Lawrence.

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award of bids.

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Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Powers read by title an ordinance entitled, “ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS OF SIGNS”

**UPON APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES THIS ORDINANCE WILL BE PRINTED IN ITS ENTIRETY AND INCLUDED IN THE MINUTE BOOK**

Mayor Powers asked for comments from the public. There being none, public participation was closed. Mayor Powers asked for comments from Council.

Mayor Powers provided a brief history with regards to a portion of the Township’s Sign Ordinance being declared unconstitutional based on the First Amendment that protects citizens’ rights to view point and commercial speech, and the year long process that has finally come to fruition and the Ordinance being recommended for approval, after which he discussed the legalese in the Sign Ordinance, as it relates to commercial and real estate signs and the proposed categorical ban of balloons, as well as, the use of time, place, and

manner restrictions that would help make the Township constitutionally compliant with the First Amendment in the event there is a future legal challenge. Thereafter, members of Council commented on the finalization of document done by the Planning Board and their perspective as to why the Ordinance should or should not be approved for adoption. In closing, Mayor Powers thanked everyone involved for all their hard work and the excellent job they did in balancing the aesthetics in the Ordinance.

There being no additional comments from Council, Ordinance 2072-10 was adopted on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock		X					
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X						X
Mr. Puliti	X					X	
Mayor Powers	X						

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Mayor Powers read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1698-02 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Mayor Powers asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Powers asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed.

Ordinance No. 2073-10

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1698-02  
 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE  
 DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1:

- a. Section 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance 1698-02, finally adopted April 17, 2002, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Acquisition of Park / Playground Equipment: "...improvements to Twin Pines Airport..."

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

The Ordinance 2073-10 was adopted on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X						X
Mr. Puliti	X					X	
Mayor Powers	X						

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Mayor Powers read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1787-04 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Mayor Powers asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Powers asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed.

Ordinance No. 2074-10

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 1787-04  
 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE  
 DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1:

- b. Section 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance 1787-04, finally adopted April 21, 2004, amended by Ordinance 1850-05, finally adopted May 17, 2005 be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Purchase of Various Park Improvements consisting of:  
 "...improvements to Twin Pines Airport..."

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

The Ordinance 2074-10 was adopted on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X						X
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X						
Mr. Puliti	X					X	
Mayor Powers	X						

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**Manager’s Report –**

Mr. Krawczun stated the first item of business is the list of proposed “fees” he distributed to the Council at the last meeting, and asked if there were any comments, feedback or questions regarding the proposed fee schedule and advised Mr. Kownacki has already sent in his comments with some suggested fee changes. After a brief discussion, Mayor Powers advised that the Council will get the comments back to him prior to January.

Mr. Krawczun stated in conversation with some of the individuals from the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) statutorily he is required to provide to the Council with the Recommended Budget by January 18<sup>th</sup>, and indicated in 2010 they extended the statutory deadline; but it was after they had already taken action. Now, this year, the Local Finance Board is considering a

one-month delay at one of their next meetings and he wanted to inform the Council so that they would have time to consider whether or not they would like the budget pushed back or desire to have it presented on January 18<sup>th</sup>. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to push the budget back, which would give them some latitude and allow them time to review all the variables this year.

Mr. Krawczun provided a recap of the meeting he and Geoffrey Acolia, Tax Assessor, had with the County Board of Taxation on December 16<sup>th</sup> regarding the revaluation, after the County Tax Administrator recommended that Lawrence Township, one of four towns, conduct a revaluation of properties located in the Township, effective for tax year 2013. He indicated although the original intention was for tax year 2013 he presented a couple of items to the Board that he felt was important for them to consider in support of the Township's request for a one-year delay - such as the coefficient deviations, ratios assessed value to market value, appropriations and borrowed funds for the repayment of the 2010 tax appeals and the limited number of firms that can provide a quality revaluation of municipalities in the area.

Mr. Krawczun further discussed the situation of having four large municipalities going out to bid simultaneously in order to have the revaluation on the books for tax year 2013 and Lawrence's position of diluting the number of municipalities out there at one time so as to create opportunity for a quality revaluation to be completed by the appropriate firm and advised after careful consideration of those items presented, the Board granted the one-year delay of implementation; but made it very clear that the County Board of Taxation has ordered the revaluation of the implementation of the reassessments, to be effective for tax year 2014. Thereafter, Mayor Powers thanked Mr. Krawczun for the update and a brief discussion took place relative to the four municipalities being recommended for revaluations at the same time and the request for delay.

Mr. Krawczun stated that Councilman Kownacki brought a matter to his attention based on a matter that came before the Planning Board and advised the Ordinance he distributed would amend the section of the Land Use Ordinance regulating drainage and storm water management basins and would require detention basins to be compliant with the same setback as residential zones. He further advised that the Ordinance is not being introduced; it's just a draft for the Council's review and consideration, as they would like to place the item on the Agenda for early January, so that it can be considered by both the Governing Body and the Planning Board for a courtesy review prior to the final adoption.

Mr. Krawczun stated with regards to shared/consolidated services the Administration was contacted by West Windsor Township to discuss whether or not Lawrence Township could provide Animal Control Services for their Township and indicated after a thorough review it was determined that the Township would

not be able to provide those services for their town based on the existing staff and the present demands on the Township's Animal Control Officer; but, he just wanted the Council to know that they are still having ongoing discussions relative to various shared services with surrounding municipalities.

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**Attorney's Report –**

There was no Attorney's report.

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**Clerk's Report –**

There was no Clerk's report.

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**Council Initiatives/ Liaison Reports –**

Councilmember Kownacki's report:

- Reported that the Planning Board met last night and they reviewed the Sign Ordinance for consistency with the Master Plan which passed - but not by the full majority and proceeded to discuss some of the items of concerns that were discussed during the meeting, after which he thanked all the Committee members who worked on the Sign Ordinance for the past year and a half.
- Mayor Powers advised that there have been a number of cell tower applications coming before the Planning Board and proceeded to discuss the need for the Board to have its own radio frequency expert to share their expertise on the matter.

Councilmember Mount's report:

- Opened by thanking Councilman Powers for his year serving as Mayor and for his leadership that was very strong and helpful even through the hard times, as Lawrence Township continued to prosper during this past year. She further discussed the Council's appreciation for all his hard work, thought and commitment, and for helping them to rise to the occasion by meeting the concerns raised throughout the year.

- Stated it is her understanding that the 2010 Census is out and she was wondering if they could get a copy of the results for Lawrence Township and possibly have someone from the U.S. Census Bureau come out and give a report on their findings and the census numbers whether it is at the county or municipal level.
- Advised they received a letter from Hamilton Township with regards to more issues with Trenton Water Works and their request for the State to take over the management of the Utility and questioned whether or not there have been any new updates on the matter. Mr. Krawczun advised that they seen the request, but no response to the letter.
- Reported that all of her Committees met and they are moving along in preparing for the New Year, after which she discussed the Communities of Light fundraiser that took place on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall in support of Womanspace and their mission to support people being abused and their stance against domestic violence. She further discussed the well respected volunteers in the community – such as church, police and government officials, who participate in the unified effort to help combat domestic violence.

Councilmember Puliti's report:

- Reported on the followings items with regards to the Recreation Committee: The Committee voting to move forward on the Twin Pines project that they are very happy about; the Superintendent of Recreation submitting his annual budget to the Municipal Manager and the review of various recreation programs which they will hear more on; the Spring Brochures that will be out some time in January or February and that being the last mailing, as it will be emailed in the future; the recruitment of sponsors for the printing of the Municipal Calendars and donations for the fireworks; the Treeing Lighting ceremony being a success and the Colonel Hand March scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall.
- Stated that he did not attend the Public Safety meeting, as he had another commitment.

Councilmember Bostock's report:

- Stated that the Cable Telecommunication Advisory Committee met and now that the Government Access Policy has been adopted they are brainstorming on ways to help improve the contents, possibly bring more contents and determine what people are looking for with respect to the contents on the government access channel.
- Reported that the Senior Executive Committee had their Annual Holiday Party which was a great success and very well attended.
- Advised that the Environmental Resources Committee met and members of the Committee were assigned to review various sections of the Environmental Resources Editorial to see if there is any need for updating which will take place over the next several months.

Mayor Powers' report:

- Opened by thanking the Council for a very productive year and proceeded to recap their many accomplishments throughout the year – such as the renovation of the Senior Center, the successful completion of the 2010 Census Count, acquiring Grant funding from the County for the Senior Center project and for the athletic ball fields at the Twin Pines Airport, the clean-up of the Dyson Tract, hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Day event and being the recipient of two plaques from Sustainable Jersey in recognition of their sustainable efforts two years in a row.
- Discussed the excellent job Mr. Krawczun and his staff did with responding to the unexpected Trenton Water Works crisis, and Mr. Krawczun's evaluation and reappointment as Municipal Manager for the professional job he and his staff have done over the years. In closing, he again thanked his colleagues for the opportunity of serving Mayor, as he really enjoyed it, and he is looking forward to turning over the reigns to next person, who will have a very challenging job in 2011.

**Written Communications –**

There were no written communications.

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**Old Business –**

There was no old business.

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**New Business –**

Mr. Puliti invited Mayor Powers to come up to the podium where he presented him with a plaque in honor of his service and thanked him for his leadership and indicated he just highlighted all the things that the Council accomplished throughout the year and they seem to be moving forward in the right direction and it was his leadership that helped in moving them down that football field. So, again, on behalf of the Council and citizens of Lawrence he would like to thank him for his “great” service.

Mayor Powers thanked the Municipal Clerk, Township Attorney, Municipal Manager and each member of Council for the wonderful honor.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned.

7:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Michael S. Powers, Mayor