

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

November 23, 2010

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, November 23, 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, November 23, 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 John Dember, Acting Municipal Attorney.

Proclamations and Honors

Mayor Powers stated although there are no proclamations or honors formally on the Agenda, he would like to publicly recognize and congratulate Councilwoman Mount on receiving the Leadership Award at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference, for her active involvement in sustainability, and to acknowledge Lawrence Township for receiving recognition two years in a row by Sustainable Jersey for practicing sustainability, after which Councilwoman Mount spoke about the recertification process and the two plaques the Township received at the Conference in recognition of their sustainable efforts. In closing, Mrs. Mount thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk advised that there is one amendment to be added to the Agenda, Resolution (8-1) – Authorizing the Transfer of Ownership of Affordable Housing Unit - 32 J. Russel Smith Rd - from the Township of Lawrence to Agata Strazaikowska and Wojciech Rosol.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Puliti, seconded by Mr. Bostock, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2010 were approved with corrections.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 395-10 (8A) thru 404-10 (8I) with the exception of Resolution 402-10 (Bid Awards) 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.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

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. On a motion by Mr. Puliti, seconded by Mr. Bostock the following resolution was presented for adoption:

Resolution No. 402-10

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2010, bids were received for Bid No. 10-19, Snow Plowing Service; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received from Rusling Paving and was reviewed by the Township Manager and Director of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, said bid is being recommended for rejection because the bid came in over the budget amount estimated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the bid for Bid No. 10-19, Snow Plowing Service, is hereby rejected.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers, Bostock, Kownacki, Puliti, Mount, Mayor Powers.

Nays: None.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Powers read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER' OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE – Dog License Fees"

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. 2070-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A: 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER' OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of new Jersey that Chapter 6A entitled 'Fees: The Consolidated License, Permit and Fee Chapter' of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code be and is hereby amended as follows:

Section 6A-2 Animal License

A. Dogs

- 1. Dogs, if neutered or spayed [\$9.00] \$10.00
- 2. Dogs, if not neutered or spayed [\$12.00] \$13.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect with the licensing year commencing January 1, 2011 and continuing thereafter.

Deleted material in brackets []
 Additional underlined

The Ordinance 2070-10 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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Mayor Powers read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER' OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE – Peddler Permit Fee"

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. 2071-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A: 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER' OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 6A is hereby amended as follows:

Section 6A-10

Peddler Permit Issuance Fee ~~[\$50.00]~~ \$75.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect with the licensing year commencing January 1, 2011 and continuing thereafter.

Deleted material in brackets []
 Additional underlined _____

The Ordinance 2071-10 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						

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun stated that he has nothing to report other than the matters for Executive Session.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Dember advised that Resolution (8-1) that was added to the Agenda is an affordable housing unit that fell into foreclosure due to the owner passing away and became an estate property. So, because it is part of affordable housing, Andy Link notified his office about the situation, which led to the Township involvement, the bank reducing the mortgage and Township reselling the property and recovering all the costs associated with renovating the property. Now, the next person on the affordable housing list has made an offer and is ready to purchase the unit. A brief discussion followed relative to the property remaining an affordable housing.

Clerk's Report –

Mrs. Norcia asked the wishes of the Council, as to when they would like to interview candidates for the Planning and Zoning Boards, and if they would like to also interview the incumbents. In addition, she asked how and when they would like to appoint the members of the Green Team.

After some discussion regarding the deadline date to respond to the Municipal Clerk and the considerable amount of vacancies on the advisory boards, it was the consensus of the Council for each Liaison to reach out to their members and ask that they respond immediately via email, fax or telephone to Clerk, as to whether or not they would like to be reappointed. Additionally, there was some discussion relative to the submission of two applications for the Rent Control Board that is still pending due to a non-appointment of a tenant required for the Board. There was additional dialogue relative to Mr. Parvesse, Township Engineer, having the applications and list of members for the Green Team.

Additionally, there was an at length discussion relative to proper advertisements, recruitment and filling various positions on the boards/committees, committees linked to grant funding and the disbandment and consolidation of some of the overlapping boards/committee, after which it was the consensus of the Council to notify the member of the boards and committees they plan to consolidate, to see if they are in favor or have a strong objections to the proposal then prepare a resolution, accordingly.

Council Initiatives/ Liaison Reports –

Councilmember Kownacki's report:

- Mr. Kownacki reported last Monday they had a Planning Board meeting and that the application submitted regarding water level testing was a little tough and it will be resubmitted to the Board sometime in April. In addition, they were asked to work with their professional staff on a redesign of a retention basin.
- Mr. Kownacki reported that the Municipal Alliance on Drug and Alcohol Abuse did not meet due to a quorum scheduling conflict, and the Health Advisory Board did not meet due to a lack of a quorum, so they are now considering quarterly meetings.

Councilmember Mount's report:

- Mrs. Mount reported that the Lawrence Rewards Cards are moving right along, as they are distributing them around town and more and more business are signing up... so a lot of people will be rewarded for shopping locally, especially during this holiday season.
- Mrs. Mount reported that the Nature Center has been really busy with the business of the grant and people from Rutgers, installing the rain gardens with the help of Public Works and educating the public on how to do rain gardens in their own yards which has been very well attended and a big success, after which she encouraged people to go and view the rain garden behind the Nature Center.
- Mrs. Mount stated with regards to Sustainable Jersey she met with DEP Assistant Commissioner, Michele Siekerka, who was a former Director of Mercer Chamber of Commerce and has now been appointed as an official for Economic Development and Sustainability, and that they had a good meeting regarding economic growth for Lawrence Township. She also advised that Congressman Rush Holt was re-elected and he would like everyone to know that he is back at work and ready to help with whatever efforts the Township calls upon him to do.
- Mrs. Mount reported that there is a great group of women at the Mercer County Library, who put on a program called the "Heroes of America of the Women Movement" and about a dozen of them represented different women who made a difference in history, and she was chosen to research Alice Call who was instrumental in the ratification of the Constitution that led to women voting.

- Mrs. Mount stated that the Lawrence Community Foundation is awarding Grants, which they do every spring and fall and they will be awarding approximately \$20,000 to non-profits in Lawrence Township.
- Mrs. Mount reported that she and Mr. Krawczun met with NJ Transit at the Central Jersey Transportation Forum, where she spoke to representatives about their interest in upgrading bus routes and installing new bus stops with electronic bus schedules, which is not ready yet. But, they are working on putting signs on every bus stop that will have a code that individuals can access from their cell phones or computers to check approximate bus schedules and advised the overall meeting was very good and productive and proceeded to elaborate on the proposed plan to upgrade the buses along Route 1. Some discussion followed relative to the use of the Hamilton and Princeton Junction Train Stations and bus shelters for commuters.
- Mrs. Mount stated that she had a meeting today at DOT with the Princetons, their fourth or fifth Commissioner and a smaller group of people, to discuss truck traffic problem/congestion that has existed for years along the Route 1 Corridor and Route 206, and indicated there is a little glimmer of hope, as the new Commissioner lives in a walkable community in Princeton and he is familiar with the traffic problems that exit along Route 206. She also discussed DOT not having money for projects and new rules associated with the non-submission of a Problem Statement for new projects.

Councilmember Puliti's report:

- Mr. Puliti stated with regards to the Recreation Committee he did get a chance to speak with people from the community during a soccer event regarding the recreational plans at the Twin Pines Airport, just to get some input from the Soccer League and future direction for Council.
- Mr. Puliti had no report on the Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Bostock's report:

- Mr. Bostock stated he is pleased to report that the League of Municipalities adopted unanimously the Resolution to remove the current tax exemption for housing provided by not-for-profit educational institutions to members of the administration, faculty

and staff for private secondary schools and proceeded to elaborate on the support he received at the League and the resolution becoming part of their legislative agenda for the coming year.

- Mr. Bostock reported that the Senior Executive Committee met last week and they are continuing to be very pleased with the addition to the Senior Center, to include their acoustics and game room. He further reported they recently returned from a cruise where they had a good time, and their Annual Holiday Luncheon is at Cedar Gardens on Friday, December 3rd at 12 Noon and welcomed all to attend.
- Mr. Bostock reported that the Environmental Resources Committee did not meet, as their regular meeting was on Veterans' Day and the building was closed, and the Cable Telecommunications Committee met; but he was unable to attend... so he will report on that at the next meeting.

Mayor Powers' report:

- Mayor Powers stated that they had the Veterans' Day ceremony, where they honored the War World II veterans with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Township and that Councilman Puliti and Kownacki were present at the event. He then spoke about Jim Hewitt being a remarkable person and a Pearl Harbor survivor.
- Mayor Powers echoed Councilwoman Mount's comments with regards to the NJ Transit meeting that took place on November 15th being very productive.
- Mayor Powers stated that the Human Relations Committee met and made an official decision to move Diversity Day scheduled for May 1st to the Lawrence High School cafeteria.
- Mayor Powers reported that tomorrow is the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that will take place at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m., and the Tree Lighting ceremony will take place at Town Hall on December 5th at 7:00 p.m. for those interested in attending.

Written Communications –

There were no written communications.

Old Business –

There was no old business.

New Business –

There was no new business.

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

7:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Michael S. Powers, Mayor