

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

October 15, 2013

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Kownacki 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, October 15, 2013 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 Brame, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.
Absent: Councilmember Lewis. (The Municipal Clerk advised that Ms. Lewis is excused.)

Also, in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, and David Roskos, Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

Mr. Joseph Mislán, 4 Sunset Road, resident of Lawrence for 43 years spoke about the organizational profits and it being the appropriate time for the Council to reconsider municipal and school board organizations as it relates to them focusing on making a profit much like businesses that are organized and easy to determine whether they are effective and making a profit, which is the measure of success of the organization and deeply important as the organization

within an organization to have cost control stemming from present methods – such as the use of spreadsheets and indicated municipal organizations by comparison including school boards are organized primarily to increase money-in and they have been very successful in doing that; but in doing so it means an increase in taxes. And, although, the Township downsized the employment rolls as a cost saving measure they still see an increase in taxes and proceeded to discuss Senator Sweeney's S-2 Bill before the New Jersey Legislature that will force municipalities to reorganize facilities and share services to reduce operating cost and the Bill being on hold for a year, possibly, because of the considerable opposition surrounding the municipalities as they do not want the change.

Mr. Mislan continued to discuss Lawrence Township's organization needing an Inspector General to oversee the Township's spending and enforcing the issue of controlling the money-out and advised that he worked for the Inspector General in Washington for the Department of Defense and that was their goal to reduce cost by looking into how things are organized; so, he always looks at the organizational chart to determine who is responsible for doing what and when he did not find anybody responsible for reducing costs in Lawrence he is calling for Council's leadership because when they are in the business of governing they must sometimes step up and govern and he hopes that the message of change gets through to the Council. Additional comments and dialogue took place between Mr. Mislan and Council relative to his remarks and how the Township is working very hard to lower taxes, curtail spending and finding new ways to bring in more rates, as well as, the spending of the town being proportionate to its revenues and the use of its surplus.

Ms. Leona Maffei, 3640 Lawrenceville Road, stated that she has been to several Council meetings and has listened to numerous situations that have arisen and she has also had the opportunity to look over the budget and it is very easy to say lower the budget, lower the taxes...but they have to look at all the programs and services that Lawrence Township provides being people move to Lawrence for the exact same reasons as Mayor Kownacki previously stated why he moved to Lawrence Township 15 years ago... good schools and programs that helped his children become adults. And, they seem to forget that those programs are what make Lawrence what it is today and indicated she as well has lived in Lawrence Township for 43 years and she has seen Lawrence grow from a very small town to what it is today and she is very proud to be a member of the community and to participate in some of the programs that they provide. So, before they start making changes to the budget to lower taxes they should take a closer look at what the budget provides for the people with respect to programs and services and why people choose to live in Lawrence and why Lawrence is as prosperous as it is; and, it is because of the services and the type of lifestyle it provides to the population.

There being no one else who wished to address Council, Mayor Kownacki closed Public Participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Manager requested that the Agenda be amended to add Resolution (17-K), Authorizing Agreement Between ELSA, PNC Bank, Federal Realty Investment Trust, Mercer Mall Property Group, L.P., Township of Lawrence and West Windsor and Windsor, and remove Resolution (8-A), Authorizing the Awarding of Bid 13-11 Refuse Collection and Trash Disposal, to present information to Council from the bid results.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brame, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilmember Lewis.

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding and/or Rejecting of Bids

There were no bid awards.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun submitted invoice listings for the month of October 2013 in the amount of \$1,170,822.96.

Mr. Krawczun stated that this past Tuesday they received bids for Curbside Trash Collection in Lawrence Township and they are currently in year three of a five year term but the term has annual renewals under the town's current contract with Central Jersey Waste. The bid document they have created provides for multiple options for the Township to explore for different and creative ways to collect curbside trash and bulk waste. Also, he thinks that for some they will see that the current service as it is provided with weekly collection and bulk waste on same day under the new proposal will be the most advantages and indicated the Local Public Contract Law allows for a contract for waste collection up to 5-years. Afterwards, he then presented the various trash options (Options 1-9 and Price Options #2 "Common" Bulky Items) and comparison of present and new bid for curbside, bulk waste and recycling services including the organic recycling program.

An at length comment, question and answer period took place regarding the cost and the various trash and recycling options, after which Mr. Krawczun recommended Options 1 & 9 be considered by Council, as those options will keep trash services exactly the same with a once a week pickup and bulk waste collection on their regular trash day as well as an option for residents who chose to participate with the recycling of food waste as a curbside collection by subscription. The Council thanked Mr. Krawczun for all his hard work and the information that looks good with all the cost savings over the span of the 5-year contract.

Mr. Krawczun advised the Council that on October 8th they submitted a Problem Statement to NJDOT for Pedestrian Crossing Countdown Fixtures at the intersection of Eggert Crossing Road and Route 206, as they thought those fixtures would be helpful to enhance the level of safety for the number of students, parents and other pedestrians who may be using that intersection since it is a very busy intersection. So, the Statement has been submitted to DOT asking them to change those walking signals to counter types.

Attorney's Report –

There was no Attorney's report.

Clerk’s Report –

There was no Clerk’s report.

Old Business –

There was no old business.

New Business –

There was no new business.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 320-13 (17-A) thru 329-13 (17-J) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Brame	X						
Ms. Lewis				X			
Dr. Maffei	X						X
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Kownacki	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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Resolution No. 330-13 (17-K) was approved by the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Brame      | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Ms. Lewis      |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |
| Dr. Maffei     | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers     |     |     |         |        | X       |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

Cited Resolution is in its entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Councilmember Brame's report:

- No Report.

Councilmember Lewis' report:

- No Report-Absent.

Councilmember Maffei's report:

- No Report.

Councilmember Powers' report:

- Stated that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee met and they have been reviewing the Planning Board plans and one of things they talked about was Council's support of the Memorial Tree Program at the Dyson Tract and that the Committee is recommending to the Council that there be uniformity in the tree selection and not having the donors select a random tree. And, he was surprised to learn about a Redwood Tree, which is a long-lasting tree, native to New Jersey, quite majestic and inexpensive that will look beautiful 20 years from now that can be purchased. So, they would like to solicit the support of the Council to do the program in Lawrence and they did discuss this with the Municipal Manager in terms of acceptance of the donations and having the trees planted.
- Advised that Mr. Krawczun already reported on the safety counter fixtures at Eggert Crossing Road and that they did the Safe Walk to School Program with St. Lawrence and the kids will be coming in soon to report their findings to Council; so, it would be good for them to remember to tell them about the safety counters that will allow them to safely cross Eggert Crossing Road.
- He further advised that the Human Relations Committees will meet on Wednesday.

Mayor Kownacki's report:

- No Report.

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**Written Communications –**

There was no written communication.

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

7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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James S. Kownacki, Mayor