

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

January 7, 2014

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 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 Lewis 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, January 7, 2014 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, Kownacki, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Lewis.  
Absent: None.

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

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

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Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

There was no public participation.

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### Review and Revisions of Agenda

Mr. Krawczun requested that the Agenda be amended to include Personnel Matters to Resolution 24-14 (17-F) – Authorizing a Closed of Council Immediately Following the Regular Meeting to Discuss Litigation in the Matter of Simone/Sunrise and to Discuss labor Negotiations.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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### Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Brame, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of November 7, 2013 and December 17, 2013 were approved without correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brame, Kownacki, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Lewis.  
Nay: None.

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On a motion by Mr. Kownacki, seconded by Mr. Brame, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of December 3, 2013 were approved without correction.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brame, Kownacki, Maffei and Mayor Kownacki.  
Nay: None.  
Abstain: Councilmember Powers.

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award of bids.

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Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2054-10 PROVIDING CERTAIN JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY- Salary-Police Chief 2014."

Mr. Krawczun advised that the salary of the Police Chief set by Ordinance expired December 31, 2013 and this Ordinance will establish the salary for Chief of Police for 2014. The salary will be effective for both the incoming and the permanently appointed Chief for calendar year 2014 and the reason the Ordinance comes in separate from the other non-classified employees is because the police position follows other provisions of the labor contract for the Rank and File of Superior Officers and those contracts are settled for 2013 and 2014.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 2095-11 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS HEREIN."

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Local Bond Law requires that the proceeds from a bond ordinance or capital ordinance can only be utilized for the purposes authorized by that Ordinance. The Ordinances under both 9-B and 9-C included a description for a hybrid sports utility vehicle and this will amend the description to provide for just a sport utility vehicle and not require a hybrid to be purchased. The primary reason for the change is the lower cost so they are proceeding to amend the purposes to include just a sport utility vehicle.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 2052-10 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS HEREIN."

Mr. Krawczun stated again the Ordinance amend the purpose for which proceeds can be utilized no longer to approve a hybrid but just a simple sport utility vehicle.

The Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

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**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Krawczun submitted invoice listings for the month of January 2014 in the amount of \$1,125,597.62.

Mr. Krawczun stated at the last meeting he mentioned to the Council that his 2014 Recommended Budget would be delayed by a couple of weeks waiting for the new assessed valuation from the Re-val; but, since then they have received Notice that there will be a change in the statutory dates for 2014 and because Lawrence is a Faulkner Act community the Recommended Budget for January 15 is now delayed to February 7; the introduction from February 10 to March 14 and adoption from March 20 to April 25. They will also begin at the next

meeting to have some of the Department Directors come in and present their Operating Budget Reports for 2014.

Mr. Krawczun also reported that they received Notice in regards to the 2014 Budget that the limit on the appropriation cap is .5% and the Local Budget Law requires that limit be 2.5% with a cost of living adjustment, whichever, is less. Further, there is provision to adopt a Cap Rate Ordinance and the Council has adopted those ordinances in the past that will allow the “cap” rate to either exceed .5% and the excess can be utilized in 2014 to be banked for future use in any of the next two budget years; so, they will prepare the Ordinance as it is their anticipation that they will be banking that authority for either the next two budgets or when needed.

Mr. Krawczun advised that the first set of Re-val Letters have been received primarily by property owners south of I-95 and the next batch should be received towards the end of the week. Also, they have already had some meetings scheduled with Professional Property Appraisers by homeowners and they are tracking some of the results as to what the adjustments are as the property owners come in and request changes; so, it is an evolving process at this point.

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**Attorney’s Report –**

Mr. Roskos stated that the Administration received a request to modify an emergency access easement on Mercer Mall property and that he has spoken with the Township Manager and will confer with the Township Engineer to deliberate the request. And, indicated the request is from a metes and bounds description from 1980 for a road the Planning Board apparently granted some recent approvals and it is a blanket easement for emergency access. The request might make sense; he just needs to confer with both Mr. Krawczun and Mr. Parvesse before rendering a decision.

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**Clerk’s Report –**

There was no Clerk’s report.

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**Old Business –**

Mr. Powers stated that the Council previously received a letter from a resident regarding the Township re-implementing payment of property taxes by credit card and he knows they have a new vendor in mind and asked Mr. Krawczun to provide them with an update on the vendor.

Mr. Krawczun advised that they sought responses from three (3) vendors one of which did not officially respond to their request to accept credit cards for tax payments and they are in the process of trying to reach an agreement with one of the other vendors; but, the vendor needs to make changes to their software to be able to communicate with Vital Communications, the provider of the tax and sewer billing and receipt process. He indicated in the past the Township did take credit cards for various fees and services in town and initially as part of their compensating balance the merchants fees were paid by the bank. Since then there has been a lot of changes in banking regulations at the Federal and State level as there are higher capital reserve requirements against municipal deposits; therefore, the banks are not reimbursing as many service fees as they had in the past and in the case of Lawrence, the transaction fees in the Tax Office was costing the Township about \$85,000 a year so they ceased taking those payments.

Mr. Krawczun further advised that the new arrangement will permit the receipt of tax payments by credit cards; but, the property owner will pay a fee of about 3% for the transaction and the second vendor had multiple fees depending on which credit card is used. So, they anticipate most likely for the second quarter; because right now they are running dual systems with the property values based on the Re-val on the old properties until they settle the revaluation and make the final switch. And, the other difficulty is through 2012-2013 they had reduced the staff in the Tax Office so they are down to two people and they have about 11,000 tax line items and almost as many sewer items and they collect about \$113M a year, so there is a lot of activity that goes through that office. So, they will make credit card payments available once all the kinks can be worked out and again there will be no charge to the Township. The service fees will be completely paid for by the user. A brief discussion took place amongst the Council relative to the merchant fees and the incentives to the residents.

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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**Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –**

There was no public participation.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 19-14 (17-A) thru 34-14 (17-P) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

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**Appointment to Boards and Committees –**

Mayor Lewis advised that the Liaisons will be casting their nominations for the nominees appointed to the following Boards and Committees:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD – (Susan McCloskey, John Masso and Jean Washington – 3-year term ending 12/31/16)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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CABLE TELECOMMUNICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – (Bryan Smith – 4-year term ending 12/31/17)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS – (Albert Frascella and William Hart – 4-year term ending 12/31/17)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – (Teresita Bastides-Heron, Ed Frankel, Viktor Krapivin, Donald Little and Dionne Polk – 4-year term ending 12/31/17)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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GROWTH AND REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – (Donald Addison-Class III, Christopher Bobbitt-Class IV, Tushar Patel-Class IV and John Schloesser-Class IV – 3-year term ending 12/31/16)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD – (Mary Baird and Maureen Adams – 3-year term ending 12/31/16)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE– (Mark DiGiacomo – 4-year term ending 12/31/16)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE – (John Gaskins – 3-year term ending 12/31/16)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE on DRUG and ALCOHOL ABUSE – (Susan Varga – 2-year term ending 12/31/15)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

PLANNING BOARD – Christopher Bobbitt and Terrence Leggett – Class IV - 4-year term ending 12/31/17 and Aaron Duff – Alternate - 2-year term ending 12/31/15)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – (William Holmes, Michael Oakley and Elissa Schragger – 2-year term ending 12/31/15)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – (Edmund Budzinski, Glenn Collins and Christopher Sawasky – 3-year term ending 12/31/16)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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RENT STABILIZATION BOARD – (Andrew Schragger – 2-year term ending 12/31/15)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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SENIOR EXECUTIVE BOARD – (Lorraine Colavita, Delores Fuessel and Veronica Pickering – 4-year term ending 12/31/17)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – (Janet Kane – 3-year term ending 12/31/16)

Resolution No. 35-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Mr. Powers stated that they do have a few ribbon cutting ceremonies coming up with Outback and Bonefish coming to town in Mercer Mall and although they are both in the same location there will be one ribbon cutting taking place on January 20<sup>th</sup> and then another cutting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. They also have the Colonel Hand March rescheduled for this Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10: 00 a.m.

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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.

6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Cathleen M. Lewis, Mayor