

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

March 4, 2014

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, March 4, 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, March 4, 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 was Richard Krawczun, Municipal Manager and David Roskos, Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

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**Department Budget Presentations**

Mayor Lewis stated this evening they have two departmental presentations that will consist of various discussions from Department Directors regarding their 2014 departmental budgets, after which the Council will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding each presentation. She then turned the floor to the Acting Police Chief Ubry.

**Police Department – Acting Chief Mark Ubry, 2014 Budget Presentation**

Acting Police Chief Ubry greeted the Council and thanked them for opportunity to present his 2014 Budget and Annual Report of the Police Department and advised since this is his first time presenting the Report he will be doing things a little different and indicated if he was to compare the past two years it would not be doing any justice for the hard work and dedication that the men and women of the Lawrence Township Police Department put into their jobs each and every day despite some disparaging words that were said a couple of years ago, and he can assure the Council that when a crime happens in Lawrence whether it be a robbery, burglary or a fatal motor vehicle accident on Route 1, each and every officer, detective or supervisor works tirelessly to bring each case to a successful conclusion. And, for the last seven years the Police Department has become more proactive in the community by responding to issues before they become a problem.

Acting Chief Ubry proceeded with a detailed overview as to how the Police Department has evolved over the last 25 years relative to the following items: Uniform Crime Report, Call for Service Statistics regarding arsons, assaults, burglaries, larceny-thefts, motor vehicle thefts, rapes, robberies and homicides and the staffing levels of the Police Department as it relates to police and emergency management services, retirements, vacancies, existing employees and equipment needs relative to their day-to-day departmental operations, as well as, his 2014 Budget request for Council's consideration. A general comment, question and answer period ensued relative to Chief Ubry's presentation, after which Mayor Lewis and the Council all thanked the Chief and gave closing remarks regarding him and his staff's diligent service and the great job they do in protecting the community.

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Public Works Department – Gregory Whitehead, 2014 Budget Presentation

Mr. Whitehead greeted the Council and advised that he as well will be providing a general overview of each Division within the Public Works Department, which is comprised of 32 employees and the (6) six divisions and they are responsible for all the parks, roadways, municipal facilities, vehicle maintenance, ecological facility operations in conjunction with Princeton, and a multitude of contracts they have with vendors for trash removal, recycling, capital improvement programs and general services. He then proceeded with a detailed review of his staff relative to their day-to-day functions, training mandates, departmental duties and initiatives, brush collection, white goods pickup, snow removal, capital improvement projects, operational costs and shared services associated with the compost facility, outsourcing and privatization of services, expenditures, grants, equipment maintenance and usages and shared services for each of the Divisions, that included various services and projects that were accomplished in 2013 and future cost-saving projects for 2014.

An at length comment, question and answer ensued relative to Mr. Whitehead's presentation, budget request and decision-making struggle regarding snow removal, after which Mayor Lewis and Council commended Mr. Whitehead on the exceptional job he and his staff did during the winter storms. Mr. Krawczun also thanked and commended Mr. Whitehead for his tremendous efforts and for how he managed not only the operations; but, the salt supply and delivery, which was not an easy task and the entire town should be thankful to him and his department.

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$15,493.50 THEREFOR AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF"

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Ordinance establishes the special assessment for sidewalk/concrete improvements and each year the Township provides the opportunity for residents to participate in certain kinds of concrete

improvements where road work is being completed as part to the town’s Capital Improvement Program and last year when work was being done on Darrah Lane contiguous property owners were given the opportunity to participate and get the same prices that the Township received for concrete work. And, once the work is completed the owners are then assessed for their proportionate share with a 5-year payback plan to the Township.

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						
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Lewis	X						

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, “SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2014-2016.”

Ordinance No. 2173-14

SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE-UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2014-2016

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section I. Short Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be recited as "The Salary Ordinance of the Township of Lawrence - Unclassified and/or Exempt, Seasonal, Emergency (non-union) Employees for 2014-2016."

Section II. Salaried Employees

The attached list of salaried positions and job titles are hereby authorized and assigned the appropriate salary ranges for 2014-2016 and are determined by date of hire as an employee of Lawrence Township.

This ordinance will continue the Township's consistent policy of providing comparable fringe benefits to exempt employees during their active service as that provided to Supervisors, CWA Local 1032, through their collective bargaining agreement. The Township will still maintain the flexibility of granting retiree benefits

to exempt employees hired after January 1, 2011. Accordingly, employees covered by this ordinance that are eligible for health and/or prescription benefits shall contribute to the cost of the said health benefit premium for medical and prescription coverage as required by law, specifically Chapter 78, P.L. 2011. All employees hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall contribute based upon the year four rates specified by said law and to be made an Appendix to a successor Agreement.

Section III. Part-Time or Seasonal Employees

The following part-time or seasonal positions and job titles are hereby authorized and assigned the following pay maximums commencing January 1, 2014, 2015 and 2016:

Position of Job Title	Basis	2014	2015	2016
Armed Court Attendant	Hourly	23.16	23.61	24.14
Emergency Medical Technician	Hourly	20.50	20.90	21.37
Firefighter	Per Diem	130.00	135.00	140.00
Laborer (Seasonal)	Hourly	10.53	10.74	10.98
Life Guard	Hourly	Federal Minimum Wage up to 15.00	Federal Minimum Wage up to 15.00	Federal Minimum Wage up to 15.00
Recreation Aid	Hourly	Federal Minimum Wage up to 35.75	Federal Minimum Wage up to	Federal Minimum Wage up to

			35.75	35.75
School Traffic Guard	Hourly	16.10	16.41	16.78
Secretary/Board & Committee	Per Annum*	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Tax Search Officer	Per Annum	10,687.00	10,895.00	11,141.00
Zoning Officer	Per Annum	4,971.00	5,068.00	5,182.00
Municipal Court Attende	Hourly	20.77	21.18	21.65
All Others	Hourly	Federal Minimum Wage up to Step 1 in Applicable Job Title	Federal Minimum Wage up to Step 1 in Applicable Job Title	Federal Minimum Wage up to Step 1 in Applicable Job Title

* Denotes title paid monthly. All other titles bi-weekly.

Ordinance 2173-14 was adopted on 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						

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CENTERS"

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Ordinance authorizes an amendment to the Lawrence Township Land Use Ordinance to provide for definitions for the following: Behavioral Health Care Facilities, Health Care Facilities, Medical Clinics, Office – Medical, Office – Research and Development, Residential Medical Detoxification Centers and Urgent Care Centers. The amendment will also rename the "Limited Industrial 1 (I-1) District" to "Mixed Use 2 (MX2) District", and the mixed use district will add as a conditional use residential detoxification centers and behavioral health care facilities.

Mr. Krawczun advised last evening the Lawrence Township Planning Board did a review for consistency with the Master Plan. They authorized and approved the Ordinance as it met the goals of the Master Plan; so, it should move forward. He then asked the Council to have the public hearing, but adjourn the closing until the next meeting as they need to send out notice of the change which has not yet been completed. Request was granted.

(ORDINANCE ADJOURNED UNTIL NEXT MEETING)

Ordinance 2174-14 was approved for adjournment on 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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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**Manager’s Report –**

Mr. Krawczun stated at the last meeting of Council a resident voiced some concerns about people who walk their dogs and them keeping their dogs under control, and advised that the matter has been referred to the Health Advisory Committee who did discuss some recommendations but are not prepared to finalize the recommendations until the March meeting in which they will provide a written recommendation. They also discussed a prior issue that was raised relative to the Nuisance Ordinance and the control of animals that may not require a leash - such as livestock, cat, dogs, etc., which they will present to the Council along with their recommendation as well.

Mr. Krawczun stated the second matter he would be presenting to the Council is his 2014 Municipal Budget Recommendation and that the Report was delayed for receipt of the new assessed valuations based upon the work of the revaluation company, which they verbally received at the end of the day Friday and in written form yesterday morning; so, between Friday and this afternoon they were able to finalize the document. He then distributed copies of the recommended budget for the Council to review and proceeded to read the 2014 Municipal Budget Recommendation Report.

Mr. Krawczun advised that Geoffrey Acolia, Tax Assessor, will be present at the next meeting to provide the Council an overview and some of the highlights and changes as a result of the Revaluation, after which Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Krawczun on behalf of Council for the “snap shot” in time depicting the fiscal condition of Lawrence and to him and his staff for continuing to find creative ways to do more with less. A short comment, question and answer period took place relative to Mr. Krawczun budget report as it relates to the past versus the present fiscal condition of the town.

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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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**Old Business –**

There was no old business.

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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

*Mr. James Cleak, 7 East Darrah Lane*, gave kudos and thanks to the Public Works Department for all their efforts and excellent job they did plowing during the terrible winter storms. He then questioned the billing process with respect to the sidewalk assessment and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that the assessment against his property had not been established; but, once it is he will receive a separate bill that can be paid in full or in installments. Thereafter, he discussed the new union contracts as it relates to employees’ health benefits, retirement contributions as it relates to the State not making their contributions and changes to the contract that he feels are both good and realistic and thanked the Administration and employees for the compromise.

Mr. Cleak inquired about the paving situation on Darrah Lane where there seems to be a problem with stripes going down the middle of the road once it is paved and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that he is well aware of the situation and he did discuss the matter with Mr. Whitehead, Director of Public Works, and because they do have a concern the contractor has not been fully paid; and, the matter is still an “open” issue. He further inquired about the growth of the town’s surplus and what percentage is targeted in the municipal budget and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that the policy is to work toward a reserve of at least 3-months of the town’s operating expenses, which is a moving target due to a drop in miscellaneous revenues. Additional dialogue took place relative to the surplus.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 105-14 (17-A) thru 118-14 (17-N) were 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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

There was no Liaison report.

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**Written Communications –**

A. 2013 Highest Motor Vehicle Crash Locations – No Discussion

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

8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Cathleen M. Lewis, Mayor