

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

February 17, 2015

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Inspiration and 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, February 17, 2015, 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 David Roskos, Township Attorney, Mark Ubry Chief of Police, Judge Kevin Nerwinski, Lawrence Municipal Court, Gregory Whitehead, Public Works Director and Christine Lee, Superintendent of Recreation.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Oath of Office Administered to New Police Officers

Chief Ubry welcomed everyone and gave special recognition to the dignitaries and distinguished guests including Daniel Posluszny, former Lawrence Township Police Chief, Christine Lee, Superintendent of Recreation and Father Yasick of St. Hedwig Church.

Chief Ubry congratulated the two new officers that are presently in the academy, Robert Janoski and James Gorski, Jr., then proceeded with a brief background on the new Police Officers prior to each one taking the Oath of Office.

Mayor Lewis then administered the Oath of Office to each of the following new Police Officers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1) Jose Corado | Police Officer |
| 2) Dean Sawasky | Police Officer |
| 3) Bartosz Chojnowski | Police Officer |
| 4) Paulina Halat | Police Officer |
| 5) Alicia Tara | Police Officer |
| 6) Marcin Piegza | Police Officer |
| 7) Matthew Ubry | Police Officer |
| 8) Mark Eggert | Police Officer |

Each new Police Officer spoke briefly once they took the Oath of Office.

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### **Municipal Court Budget Presentation**

Judge Nerwinski greeted everyone and distributed copies of the budget. He then highlighted some areas of the budget in regards to the operations of the court and budgetary concerns. Judge Nerwinski stated that the budget for 2015, remains the same as the 2014 budget, and provides for \$46,000.00. He went on to discuss the very unique Court in Lawrence Township, and the variety of cases, including traffic violations, criminal, theft and domestic cases. The State's computed case-load value is 95,343. He stated that it would require 7.61 employees; this number was determined by the state based on the case load. In 2014 they operated with 4 employees due to circumstances beyond their control; Judge Nerwinski is incredibly proud of his staff, and wanted to convey that to all in attendance. He thanked his staff for their professionalism, and hard work in 2014. Judge Nerwinski imparted that they had recently added an employee from Ewing Township who is now a part of the Lawrenceville Municipal Court. Her name is Michelle Helmut and she is the Senior Account Clerk.

Judge Nerwinski then discussed the Red Light camera on Franklin Corner Road which was shut down by the State, and the program itself no longer being active that has resulted in a loss of revenue for the Township. The average revenue from the Red Light camera averaged \$40,000.00 per month, which the Township would receive a third of the money, which is an estimated loss of \$150,000.00 annually. He did state that with the addition of new Police Officers, they are procuring more traffic summonses than they have in the past.

Judge Nerwinski imparted that they are looking into hiring a collection agency to try and collect on older outstanding fines. Changes to the law now allows for this. The Judge stated they will proceed with this slowly as it may prompt some other issues in terms of requiring more work which the Judge feels the Municipal staff cannot take on, although they may be able to given the new staff member they have secured.

Councilmember Maffei asked of Judge Nerwinski to impart the amount of old debt that is still outstanding. Judge Nerwinski stated that it is approximately \$600,000 to \$800,000 as these are fines that are at least five years old, and perhaps some of this debt is owed by individuals incarcerated in other States.

Councilmember Powers asked if there was an increase or decrease in shoplifting at the various malls in Lawrence Township. Judge Nerwinski said that it appears to be the same as in previous years. He did speak of a new program called "Conditional Dismissal" which was enacted in January of 2014 that has benefitted the Municipal Courts greatly; if an individual stole less than \$200 they could apply for "Pre-trial intervention" and eventually get the matter dismissed. Prior to 2014 anyone that was accused of shoplifting would have to appear in front of the Court. Since the law was enacted it does free up Court time as these individuals do not have to go to trial or stand in front of the Judge. It serves the same as a first time shoplifting offense in so far as probationary terms, et al. Judge Nerwinski feels that because of this new law, the Municipal Court handles these offenses in a much more efficient way.

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Recreation Department Budget Presentation

Christine Lee opened by stating what an honor it is to speak in front of everyone, and a double honor to present a report that encapsulates the wonderful work done by her predecessor in 2014. Ms. Lee had started in September of 2014 as the new Recreation Director.

The Recreation Department of Lawrence Township is responsible for recreational and leisurely needs of the Township. The Department has been operating with 2 full-time staff members and 75 to 100 seasonal, part-time employees that helped to coordinate events. In 2014, the Department provided a wealth of programs including instructional swimming, outdoor tennis, basketball, hockey, competitive wrestling, as well as summer camps including safety camp, art and theatre camp, and travel camp.

Ms. Lee pointed out an organizational chart on page 3 of the report highlighting that she came on board in September of 2014, and her predecessor retired in November of 2014. On page 5 of her report she highlighted the number of participants in each of the programs that were offered in 2014. There were over 3,600 registrants for these varying programs.

On page 7 of the report Christine Lee discusses the Office on Aging and the Center for Senior Citizens that offer a variety of social, recreational and educational activities. Active programming included line dancing, exercise classes, tai chi, and chess.

Ms. Lee discussed Special Events, and imparted that the Recreation Department is responsible for coordinating several special events. Special events included "Mother Nature Works" at Drexel woods, and the largest event was the fireworks display. Christine Lee was proud to show numbers that the Recreation Department achieved with

fundraising, which rose over \$28,000 with the largest event being the Labor Day Kids Triathlon.

Imparting information of 2014 expenses and revenues, Ms. Lee stated “the numbers keep going up,” and she is hopeful to continue to raise these numbers in her tenure. Total expenses for the Recreation Department were \$492,589.51 with total revenue of \$335,291.64. Ms. Lee would like to find new ways to increase revenue, as well as continue fundraising efforts and bring programs to the community without having to get into the Municipality’s budget at all.

For this year, Ms. Lee is looking for avenues to increase funding for scholarships for the summer camps; seeking corporate funding providing passive or active participation. In previous years there were sponsorships from Bristol Meyers-Squibb, and Ms. Lee is hoping to sustain as well as increase sponsorships from other corporations in Lawrence Township. Councilmember Kownacki offered a suggestion of getting in touch with The Lawrenceville School to see if there would be opportunities for funding.

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There was no review or revision of Agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mayor Lewis for adoption of minutes of previous meetings seconded by Mr. Brame, the Minutes of the following meetings were approved:

- A. Regular meeting – March 18, 2014
- B. Regular meeting – April 1, 2014
- C. Closed Session – January 20, 2015
- D. Closed Session – February 3, 2015

These were approved on the following roll call vote:

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

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Lewis read by title and ordinance entitled: "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,090,000, WHEREAS ANY TRANSPORTATION TRUST GRANT FUNDING TO BE USED TO OFFSET BONDS OR NOTES AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,035,500 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

There were no questions or comments for this ordinance introduction.

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						

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Mayor Lewis read by title and ordinance entitled: "BOND ORDINANCE FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$1,697,325 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,612,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

There were no questions or comments for this ordinance introduction.

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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance titled, "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."

Ordinance No. 2206-15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2168-14  
PROVIDING CERTAIN JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND PROVIDING COMPENSATION  
FOR THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE,  
COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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 – Chief of Police and for 2014."

Section II. Salaried Employees

The following is the salary range for the Chief of Police for 2015.

Chief of Police                      \$164,859

Section VIII. Repealer

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances adopted prior to the date of this ordinance that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed insofar as they relate to or concern the job classifications listed in this ordinance.

Section VIX. Severability

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section X. Effective Date

- A. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption thereof.
- B. All salary or compensation provided for and by this ordinance shall be effective the first day of January.

The Ordinance 2206-15 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 titled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2173-14 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2014-2016."

Ordinance No. 2207-15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 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	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 35.75	Federal Minimum Wage up to 35.75
School Traffic Guard	Hourly	16.10	16.41	16.78
Secretary/Board &	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 Attendee	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

Section IV. Eligibility

The ranges in Section II of this ordinance shall pertain to individuals employed by the Township of Lawrence on or after the effective date of this ordinance.

Section V. Longevity

- A. Each employee hired before January 1, 2013 and covered by this agreement shall in addition to his/her regular wages and benefits, be paid longevity based upon years of service as of December 31, 2013 with the Township in accordance with the following amounts. Said amounts to be paid to an employee shall not be adjusted beyond the longevity amount being received by an eligible employee as of December 31, 2013. Longevity shall be pensionable and included as part of the employee's regular pay. Any employee hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall not be eligible to receive longevity pay at any time in the future.

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Length of
Service

Beginning in year 8 through 11	\$800
Beginning the 12 th year through year 15	1100
Beginning the 16 th year through year 19	1400
Beginning the 20 th year through year 23	1700
Beginning the 24 th year through year 27	2000
Beginning the 28 th year and beyond	2300

Section VI. Other Personnel and Working Conditions

All other functions, responsibilities and rights not specifically enumerated in prior sections of this ordinance shall be judged to be within the province of management, subject only to the laws, rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Personnel, the provisions contained in applicable agreements (if any) or policy manuals, and by the issuance of Administrative Directives by the Municipal Manager.

Section VII. Repealer

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances adopted prior to the date of this ordinance that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed insofar as they relate to or concern the job classifications, salaries and benefits listed in this ordinance.

Section VIII. Severability

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section IX. Effective Date

- A. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption thereof.
- B. All salary or compensation provided for and by this ordinance shall be effective the first day of January.

Adopted: February 17, 2015

Additions are underlined _____

Ordinance No. 2207-15 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						

Manager's Report –

There was no Manager's report.

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 –

Mayor Lewis opened a discussion with regards to having an Open House as there are new recruits in the Police Division as well as a new Superintendent of Recreation. Mayor Lewis feels that is important for the residents of the Township to meet and get to know them better so if there are no objections relative to the proposal she will let the Municipal Manager know so they can move forward with the plan.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 77-15 (18-A) thru 97-15 (18-U) 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.

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Mr. Brame stated that as the Superintendent of Recreation had already given her report; however, there was one matter that was not touched upon. Mr. Kownacki stated that the Committee is looking for ways to further involve children in programs, as the children tend to drop out of the programs once they reach a certain age. The committee is aware of it, and sensitive to looking at ways to attract them back to recreation and sports. He went on to say that the Recreation Superintendent will have to work with fewer resources and that the Committee will need to be patient and work with her in generating more contributions.

Mr. Maffei discussed an item on Page 7 of the Recreation Report citing 665 people at Bingo, and 244 people at line dancing at the Senior Center. He was very impressed with the amount of participation at the Senior Center.

Mayor Lewis discussed the Growth and Redevelopment Committee wanting to further advertise in order to have greater public participation at its committee meetings. She is hoping the Committee will provide her with a report and suggestions on the topic.

Written Communications –

There was no written communications.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Cathleen M. Lewis, Mayor