

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

February 3, 2015

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Chief of Police.

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 3, 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 Richard Krawczun, Municipal Manager and David Roskos, Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer, Budget Presentation:

Ms. Chamberlain greeted the Council and distributed copies of her 2015 Annual Health Department Report which she indicated is a narrative since the State requires the report to be filed online, which they can view and proceeded with an overview of the Health Department’s mission, activities, programs, various public/health services and partnerships they have with other agencies that are governed by the State Health Department and the Department of Environmental Protection. She further discussed her staff and their day-to-day functions as it relates to health inspections, formal and informal shared services, inter-local agreements, cooperative purchases, grants,

various health screenings, new prescription drug drop-off program, new category of individuals who can officiate wedding ceremonies, health improvement plans that include healthy eating, mental health and addiction issues and the Biggest Loser Program that township employees' seemed to have enjoyed and benefited from.

In closing, Ms. Chamberlain extended a special thank you to the Health Advisory Board who she indicated is an excellent smart group of people that she really enjoy working with and is always there for advice when needed. She then presented her 2015 Budget request for the Council's consideration. A general question and comment period took place relative to Ms. Chamberlain's budget presentation, after which Mayor Lewis and Council complimented Ms. Chamberlain and her staff on the wonderful job they do, especially, during emergency situations and on the wonderful success of the prescription drug drop-off program.

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**Police Department – Chief Mark Ubry, 2015 Budget Presentation**

Police Chief Ubry greeted the Council and thanked them for opportunity to present his 2015 Budget and Annual Report of the Lawrence Township Police Department and Emergency Management Division and advised that Jack Oakley, Emergency Management Coordinator, had to leave to go out on a fire call but he would be presenting the budget report for that division and proceeded to discuss Mr. Oakley's duties and how vital his services are to the Lawrence Township Police Department as well as their equipment needs relative to their day-to-day departmental operations and 2015 Budget request for the Division of Emergency Management for Council's consideration. A general comment, question and answer period ensued relative to the Chief's budget presentation.

Chief Ubry continued with a detailed overview 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, iXP dispatch performance, the new prescription drop-off program 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 and his 2015 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 relative to the wonderful things he has done over the past year, how he has showcased how technology in police cars has helped lessen crime and the great job the police department has done in serving and protecting the community.

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Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

*Mr. Mislán, 4 Sunset Road*, stated that he has been a resident of Lawrence for 45 years and he would like to discuss what he likes and dislikes about the proposed budget and indicated he likes that the budget will be put online for the public to view, the overall budget looking healthy and the two column comparison for 2013/2014 that allows people to see if things are going up, down or staying the same. All in which he indicated are going in the right direction; but, does not like that the budget is still in the same old accounting format instead of being in a spreadsheet format like corporations use and that the budget not being broken down into specifics items – such as how much it cost to cut the grass or maintain the municipal buildings. And, it is his guess that the cost are broken down somewhere in the budget; however, he should not have to spend time searching for it and trying to figure out where it is located in the budget. Additional discussion followed relative to the matter of the 08648 Zip Code that had been previously addressed by the Township Council.

Mayor Lewis advised Mr. Mislán that the format of the Municipal Budget is mandated by the State of New Jersey and that the way he is requesting to see the budget would require two sets of books, which would be a bad idea as it would create mistakes and things possibly being missed.

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Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to include Resolution (18-R) – Authorizing Recreation Fee Refunds.

On a motion by Mr. Kownacki, 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

There was no adoption of minutes.

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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, "ORDINANCE 2168-14 KNOWN AS THE SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – CHIEF OF POLICE FOR 2014."

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Ordinance amends the Salary Ordinance for the position of Police Chief that had not been updated as the salary ordinance for non-union employees does not include the Police Chief's salary or his health benefits that are defined by the FOP contract.

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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Dr. Maffei   | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Powers   | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mayor Lewis  | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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Mayor Lewis read by title an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2173-14 KNOWN AS THE SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2014-2016."

Mr. Krawczun stated that the Ordinance establishes the salary grade for Unclassified and/or Exempt employees by changing the salary grade for the position of the Director of Public Works.

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						
Dr. Maffei	X						X
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mayor Lewis	X						

Adoption 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 \$2,014.00 THEREFOR AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF."

Ordinance No. 2205 -15

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,014.00 THEREFOR AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF

WHEREAS, at the request of certain owners of properties identified herein, the Township of Lawrence has previously authorized and undertaken certain sidewalk improvements; and

WHEREAS, the understanding between the property owners and the Township was that these improvements would be specially assessed against the properties; and

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to authorize the special assessment of the cost of such improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3 of this ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Lawrence, New Jersey as a local improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$2,014.00.

Section 2. (a) The improvement hereby authorized is the improvement of the sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons along the streets listed below. The affected properties, listed by name of record owner, street address, block, lot and assessment amounts are as follows:

OWNER of RECORD	No.	PROPERTY ADDRESS	TOTAL
Richard C. Johnson, ux	2111	Princeton Pike	\$400.00
Darlene Thomas	101	Lawn Park Avenue	\$825.00
Conrad Daniel*	157	Lawn Park Avenue	\$789.00
		Total	\$2,014.00

*mailing address: 119 Monticello Drive, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

(b) The estimated cost of the improvement or purpose is equal to the amount of the appropriation herein made therefore.

Section 3. The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance shall be undertaken as a sidewalk improvement and the cost thereof shall be assessed in the following manner. An accurate account of the cost of construction of the sidewalks shall be kept, and such cost shall be assessed upon the several properties fronting on the improvement in proportion to their respective frontage or square yardage thereon pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:65-1 *et seq.*

Section 4. The owner of any land upon which any assessment for the local improvement shall have been made may pay such assessment in the number of equal yearly installments herein determined, with legal interest on the unpaid balance of the assessment. The first of the installments shall be due and payable two months after the confirmation of the assessment, and each subsequent annual installment and interest shall be payable in each successive year thereafter at such time as the governing body shall by resolution determine, provided that any owner of land so assessed shall have the privilege of paying the whole of any assessment or of any balance of installments with accrued interest thereon at any time. Whenever any such installment shall remain unpaid for thirty (30) days from and after the time it shall become due and payable, the whole assessment or balance thereof shall become and be immediately due and payable and shall draw interest at the rate imposed upon the arrearage of taxes in the Township and shall be collected in the same manner as provided by law for other past due assessments. Such assessment shall remain a lien upon the land described herein until the assessment with all installments and accrued interest thereon shall be paid and satisfied. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Township shall have the right to waive default as may be permitted by law.

Section 5. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of this ordinance is not a current expense. It is an improvement or purpose that the Township may lawfully undertake as a local improvement the cost of which shall be specially assessed in the manner provided herein.

(b) The number of annual installments within which the special assessments are to be levied on the lots and parcels of real estate affected by the improvement is three (3)].

(c) The Township will not contribute to the payment of any part of the cost of the improvement.

(d) The estimated maximum aggregate amount of the special assessments is \$2,014.00.

Ordinance 2205-15 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 –

Mr. Krawczun submitted invoice listings for the month of February 2015 in the amount of \$2,435,464.72.

Mr. Krawczun stated that they are reinstating the installation and inspection of motor vehicle child restraints and/or child safety seats. The paid firefighters and EMT Supervisor have been certified for the installation and checking for the safety of those two devices. Appointments can be made through the Fire Marshall’s Office and information is available on the Township website.

Mr. Krawczun stated that Chief Ubry, Jim Parvesse, Township Engineer, and he met with Dr. Mohammed and another resident of Yorkshire Village regarding issues of additional street lighting and installing of cameras; especially, along Mercer Mall and police patrol. Dr. Mohammed will return and speak to members of HOA and will continue the discussion of street lighting and cameras as it has been determined it is a matter for the HOA since the fence around Mercer Mall is on private property. Mr. Krawczun stated that Chief Ubry introduced Lieutenant Caloiaro to Dr. Mohammed to discuss the possibility of setting up a neighborhood watch.

Mr. Krawczun advised that Municipal Offices will be closed Friday, February 13th for Lincoln’s Birthday instead of the scheduled date February 12th.

Mr. Krawczun stated there was a previous complaint about dirt bikes being driven behind Meadowbrook Apartments and he was advised by the Police Chief that two juveniles have been arrested and charged with the offense.

Mr. Krawczun stated previously he advised the Council that the Administration had requested a meeting with the former Commissioner of the DOT as well as the new Commissioner, James Fox, to discuss safety improvements and possible changes to the intersection of Route 206 and Franklin Corner Road. In a letter from the DOT dated January 21st they stated although they share their concerns there is not any funding for any type of improvement at that location at this time. The DOT suggested contacting the County to look into improvements; but, since Lawrence Township has no jurisdiction over either roadway, Mr. Krawczun is unsure what can be accomplished.

Mr. Krawczun stated at the conclusion of Ms. Chamberlain and Chief Ubry's presentations that after scrutiny of the municipal budget he would like to proceed much earlier this year with the Capital Improvement Plan as that portion of the budget will not be impacted if there is a change in State aid. And, if there are no objections he would like to speed up the process by introducing the Ordinance at the next meeting, The reason is the roads have already been identified and the Engineering Office mails out letters to homeowners along those roadways to give them time if they would like to do any type of improvements as there will be a 5-year moratorium placed on those roads once the work has been performed and no cuts will be approved unless it is an emergency. The goal of the 2015 improvements is to get all the road work done during the time when schools are closed. He indicated if any have questions between now and then to please feel free to contact him; otherwise, he will move forth with the preparation of the Ordinance to be presented at the next meeting of Council.

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. 58-15 (18-A) thru 76-15 (18-R) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Brame	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						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 –

There were no Liaison reports.

Written Communications –

Lawrence Township received a letter from the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection congratulating Lawrence Township on its voluntary Organic Waste Recycling Program that began on March 1st. Mayor Lewis reminded everyone that there is still time to sign up for the recycling program and take advantage of the promotion period.

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

8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Cathleen M. Lewis, Mayor