

REORGANIZATION MEETING – LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

Friday, January 1, 2016 – 12:00 Noon

The Reorganization Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council was held on Friday, January 1, 2016, at the Lawrence Township Municipal Building – Council Meeting Room at 12:00 Noon.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk read the following statement of proper notice:

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE: “Adequate notice of this Reorganization Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council, being held January 1, 2016, was forwarded to The Times, and The Trentonian on December 14, 2015 by the Municipal Clerk.”

The Deputy Municipal Clerk stated that Father Gerard Lynch of St. Ann’s Church will give the Invocation, and Sidney Maffei will lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call for continuing Council members was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt and Kownacki.
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Richard Krawczun, Municipal Manager, David Roskos, Esq., Township Attorney, Mark Ubry, Chief of Police, Freeholder Pat Colavita, Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher-Muoio, and Mercer County Surrogate Diane Gerofsky.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk stated, “It is my pleasure to announce the results of the November 3, 2015 General Election for the following members of Township Council for a four-year term:”

Cathleen M. Lewis
David C. Maffei
Michael S. Powers

The Deputy Municipal Clerk advised that the following individuals would be administering the Oath of Office to the (3) three elected officials.

- ❖ Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher-Muoio administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Lewis.
- ❖ Freeholder Pat Colavita administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Maffei.

- ❖ County Surrogate Diane Gerofsky administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Powers.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk called for nominations for Office of Mayor for a two-year term ending December 31, 2017.

Mr. Powers nominated Dr. David C. Maffei for the Office of Mayor, seconded by Mr. Kownacki.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Ms. Carter declared the nominations closed and called the roll for the nomination of David C. Maffei as Mayor.

RECORD OF VOTE

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

Mercer County Freeholder Pat Colavita administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Maffei.

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Mayor Maffei welcomed the following dignitaries: *County Executive Brian Hughes, Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami-Covello, Assemblywoman Elizabeth Muoio, Freeholder Pat Colavita, Freeholder Tony Carabelli, Freeholder John Cimino, County Surrogate Diane Gerofsky, and County Counsel Arthur Sypek. Mayor Maffei then asked for all former Mayors of Lawrence Township to please stand up. All were applauded for their service.*

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Mayor Maffei’s Mayoral remarks:

“Wow, Mom, Dad, Aunt Fran and Aunt Flo, if you could see me now. As a young boy, riding my bike to Jackie’s which is now Captain Paul’s, and playing in the woods, in my wildest imagination I never thought I would be standing in front of my family, friends, and residents as Mayor of this great Township called Lawrence. I am indeed proud to speak to you today about my deep seeded roots in the community. I have lived here for 55 years, and have seen it grow from a small, one-mall town, to a population of over 34,000 people with major commercial and corporate

enterprises. This is in part due to our Township Managers and Council initiatives. Recently in Lawrence, we have had over one million square feet of commercial enterprises being completed.

I have thought long and hard about what I would like to accomplish in the next two years, with the help of our Township Manager, Richard Krawczun, the staff at Town Hall, and Council. Council is as strong as our Manager, our Township Attorney, David Roskos and the professionals we employ.

Public safety is always our major concern. Council will work with the Police Department and the Chief of Police, Mark Ubry, our three Fire Departments, our EMT's, the Health Department, our Municipal Court, the Recreation Department, the Clerk's office, and Public Works to make sure our Township is prepared for any eventuality.

I believe strongly in our roots, in our beginning history, it is a cornerstone of our community. In 1697, under colonial rule, the Township was named Maidenhead. Lawrence was also closely involved in the pivotal events of the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. These events helped establish Continental Army as a viable force that could challenge the British and Hessian supporters. After the War of 1812, we became Lawrence in 1816 named after the famous naval hero, James Lawrence. The dying Captain told his men "don't give up the ship" a motto that has been echoed to every generation of our commitment to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." I am proud to live in a community with that type of tradition, and would like to see some type of memorial in recognition of Captain Lawrence, a courageous hero who said "Never give up." Our youth should be aware of the significance of the motto and I will work with Dr. Dennis Waters, our Township Historian, the Historical Society, and the Historical Preservation Committee to achieve this goal.

I sincerely hope to help complete our long anticipated Lawrence-Hopewell Trail; of 22 miles, only 4 miles are left to complete. Over 40,000 residents and friends have enjoyed the tranquil surroundings as they have walked or biked around our Township since 2015. It is the largest trail in the Country, funded by public, private and non-profit sectors. To Eleanor Horne and Becky Taylor, as co-presidents of the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail, and to all those people who have worked to maintain this jewel of our Township, I will endeavor to bring this project to conclusion.

In relation to our hard-working and dedicated environmental and sustainable committees, we currently have our bronze recognition, and I hope during the next round of certifications that we will attain silver status. The Lawrence community could never have the scope of available programs and activities if it wasn't for our volunteers. I have had the pleasure of visiting many organizations these last 4 years and I am truly amazed by the spirit and vitality our citizens give freely; from the success of a project to comforting a Senior in need of assistance, to encouraging our youth in soccer and T-ball. Another example is the Nature Center, where volunteers continue their innovative programs to stimulate the minds of all who participate. Our Senior Center could never serve over 1,400 meals a week without those individuals who take it upon themselves to serve; another cornerstone of our community. I would like to honor many of these citizens with the appropriate recognition for their tireless efforts on behalf of Lawrence.

We need to let our residents know how much we value and appreciate their assistance in making our community a strong and compassionate one. It is said that complacency breeds indifference and Lawrence Township can never fall into that category. Therefore, I invite the community to attend our Council meetings and bring their concerns before us. We can work together to solve most problems.

I have found that many of our younger generation may not be fully aware of our historical beginning or how our Township is organized. I hope to see civic groups from the High School at our Council meeting. Our schools have to endeavor to enlighten our youth, not just any school that invites me. I hope many of the students that I speak to will become new assistants and volunteers to contribute new ideas to further our community.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Colonel Hand march beginning at 10:00am tomorrow at Town Hall. An enlightening short program by our own Colonel Hand, Bill Egress, will begin the festivities and conclude with the famous march from his location to Notre Dame High Scholl, where again, the cannon will be fired. It is a wonderful and enlightening event for all our citizens.

I end my speech with remembrance. We remember our former Councilman, Steven Brame, a committed man to our community. Councilman Christopher Bobbitt, you have broad shoes to fill, and I know you will. I remember 2 family members who played a key part in my upbringing and who I am today. I remember my brother Jeffrey, my older brother, my best friend throughout my school years. One who always gave me advice with love and respect. I so wish you could be here, my accomplishments will always be yours. I remember my Uncle Pat, Pasquale Maffei, who passed away about 2 weeks ago. A scholar, an educator, a statesman; one I could always go to when a problem arose and needed to be solved. I know your spirit will always follow and advise me wherever I go. We also had a loss in one of our departments, Christopher Marcucci, he was the Assistant Supervisor of Maintenance Repair.

And lastly, I have to honor my wife Leona, who has been my constant companion, in good times and in bad, for over 46 years. My love has never wavered and I can't imagine not having you by my side. With all my heart, I love you!

I would like all of my family to please stand up now. *(audience applause)* These are the loved ones who are my backbone, always supporting me in any endeavor. I thank you all.

To all those here today, I also thank you for your patience and your support. To the Lawrence Community, don't hesitate to call me if you have a concern or comment. Council and I serve to listen to you. I give a special thank you to Freeholder Pat Colavita for swearing me in, and I thank you all. God bless."

Mayor Maffei administered the Oath of Office of the Chiefs of the Fire Companies as follows:

Chief Mark Lenarski	Slackwood Fire Company
Chief Michael Byrd	Lawrence Road Fire Company
Chief Gary Wasko	Lawrenceville Fire Company

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Mayor Maffei stated he had another person to recognize; Lucy Walters.

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Public Participation

There was no public participation.

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Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 1-16(A) through 17-16(Q) with the exception of 10-16(J) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

All adopted Resolutions are spread in its entirety in the 2016 Resolution Book.

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Resolution No. 10-16(J) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

The adopted Resolution is spread in its entirety in the 2016 Resolution Book.

Mayor Maffei announced that immediately following the meeting all are invited to reception and refreshments in the Lower Level Conference room sponsored by the Lawrence Township Democratic Club.

Mayor Maffei asked Council for their closing remarks:

Councilmember Bobbitt's remarks:

"I'd like to say that I am still new to the Council, and it is a bit overwhelming to see so many friendly faces, but at the same time it shows me the responsibility that I have being on Council. It is not just an abstract of a town, but it's actually people, and that's one thing I will always try to keep in mind. I did it while knocking on doors meeting everyone throughout the community, and now sitting in here, it's a weight and gravitas to this process that we have. I thank you for being here it makes this New Year's Day wonderful. Also I'd like to thank all the members on Council for being first friends of mine; before I began this journey I started 10 years ago not knowing, actually 11 years ago not knowing anyone in this town, being recently arrived, by serving in the community donating my time, I got to know some of these people including the Town Manager and others, it's been a wonderful experience, so anyone who wants to volunteer, please do so."

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**Councilmember Lewis' remarks:**

"First, I'd like to say Happy New Year and thank you to everyone who took time out of their Holiday to come here to celebrate with us. I'd like to have a special thank you from us to Assemblywoman Muoio who swore me in today. I am excited for 2016. As a community, we have accomplished much, and we are poised to continue that success. It will take a renewed commitment to ensure that rather than resting on past successes we look ahead to see an even stronger, greater community in which we live. There are no doubt challenges; over a million square feet in new business development mean our residents must adjust to changing traffic patterns. It means we must have new residents in our business community, and potential partners who we must work to integrate into our community. I have no doubt that together we can do that. If you didn't notice as you walked in, the Township has entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Not only do we have these wonderful new televisions in here from a grant, we also have Wi-Fi. Which I am hopeful as we move forward will allow us to not only to be more accessible to our residents but also allow us to be less reliant on paper. It's just another way that we've opened Town Hall to our residents, and I look forward to meeting more residents this year at our events. Whether it's Colonel Hand tomorrow, our National Night Out which is now at our Township Complex, or any of the other events we have throughout the year. Recently, I and Councilman Bobbitt visited our local Mosque for Friday services. They had a great dialogue with our community, and a quote from that day has stuck with me, and I think it's relevant today on New Year, "Human beings, we created you all from male and female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other. In 2016 let us all make a commitment to know each other better." Lastly, I want to thank my parents who without their guidance and support, I would not be here. You

have taught me the importance of service, kindness, compassion and resilience. To my husband and children who are running around out in the hallway, theirs is the largest sacrifice and my biggest source of support. Thank you.”

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Councilmember Kownacki remarks:

“Happy New Year” to you all and thank you for coming out...

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**Councilmember Powers remarks:**

“Councilman Kownacki just wants to get to the hoagies that are in the hall downstairs...(laughter) First of all, a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all. I’m not hung over; I had Lasik eye surgery so that is the reason for the glasses and the reason for my red eye. But let me begin by acknowledging my family that is here with me today, my wife Nancy, my mother and father, thank you for being here for the swearing in. I want to thank Mercer County Surrogate Diane Gerofsky and to be the first person to wish her best wishes on her re-election as Surrogate in 2016. Diane, you got your first plug there... I want to acknowledge Cathleen Lewis for her 2 year term of Mayor. She should get a round of applause for her service. I also wanted to welcome our newest member of Council, Councilman Christopher Bobbitt. He didn’t get the fancy swearing in like we did, there was about 5 of us in November, so it’s good to have him here. He hit the ground running; I know he was at the Mosque, and the Chamber of Commerce event. He’s doing a great job, and we welcome him on the Council. Finally, Mayor Maffei I welcome you and I look forward to your 2 years of leadership, and I am sure you will carry out your agenda with great success. Happy New Year everybody”

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**Mayor Maffei’s closing comments:**

“So, we know there’s going to be hoagies downstairs. If we can motion for an adjournment, we can get there as soon as possible. Happy New Year everybody”

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On a motion by Councilmember Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Tonya D. Carter, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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David C. Maffei, Mayor