

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

December 5, 2017

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by Municipal Clerk. Mayor Maffei also asked for a moment of silence.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Maffei 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, December 5, 2017, 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." Said Notice was forwarded to The Trentonian, The Times and The Princeton Packet on December 22, 2016.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, Powers and Mayor Maffei.
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager, and David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There was review or revision of the agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of **October 3, 2017** were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, Power and Mayor Maffei.
Absent: None.

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On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of **October 17, 2017** were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, Power and Mayor Maffei.  
Absent: None.

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On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of **November 9, 2017** were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, Power and Mayor Maffei.
Absent: None.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

Mayor Maffei asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Maffei asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Lewis, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding Contract to Mazza Mulch, Inc. for Removal of Ash Trees and Stumps/Roots – Phase 5, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 427-17

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Ash Tree Hazard Mitigation Project – Phase 5**; and

WHEREAS, three (3) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the trees are being removed from Alexandria Court; Bayless Drive; Karena Lane; Millerick Avenue; Province Line Road and White Pine Circle; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Mazza Mulch, Inc., who submitted a bid in the amount of \$23,400.00, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is 7-01-20-190-299 (Ash Tree Hazard Mitigation/Replacement Program); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Principal Planner, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a contract with Mazza Mulch, Inc., 3230A Shafto Road, Tinton Falls NJ 07753 in the amount of \$23,400.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to draft the necessary agreement, subject to the approval of the Municipal Attorney as to form and content thereof.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis, Powers and Mayor Maffei.
Absent: None.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE NOS. 599-70 AND 1403-94 IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "GARBAGE AND REFUSE"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance replaces Ordinance Nos. 599-70 and 1403-94 in their entirety, amending Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code entitled “Garbage and Refuse”. The amendment is being revised to include in Sections 1 and 2 “tenant, mortgagee, its agent and/or assigns” as responsible parties in each section; because for enforcement officials the absence of those terms has created a void in enforcement efforts.

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

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

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Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, “ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO REVISE SECTION 409, THE APARTMENT AND TOWNHOUSE DISTRICT”

Mr. Nerwinski advised that Ordinance Nos. (10-B, 10-C and 10-D) specifically relate to Lawrence affordable housing obligations and the town’s compliance with the new affordable housing obligations. This particular ordinance changes a portion of the RD zone to an AT zone which is basically an overlay at Lenox Drive.

Mr. Roskos noted it was part of the Township’s arrangement with Brandywine. Ms. Lewis asked Mr. Roskos to clarify that the ordinances in no way mean that there is any proposed building at the moment; it is just a change to the zoning.

Mr. Roskos advised that the Ordinances are changes to zoning that generate the unit count that ties back in with Lawrence Township housing plan.

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

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

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Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO REVISE SECTION 421"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that this amendment to the LUO specifically deals with the Quakerbridge Mall site that was identified as a potential affordable housing location and the revised zoning encompasses the standards for affordable housing in the Regional Commercial Zone for compliance with the new affordable housing obligations.

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

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

Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO REVISE ARTICLE X, AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROCEDURAL AND ELIGIBILITY, TO IMPLEMENT THE THIRD ROUND OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1985"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that this amendment to the LUO is part of the town's new affordable housing obligations and it establishes affordable housing procedurals and eligibility requirements to comply with the new obligations.

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

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

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2221-15 ESTABLISHING PROVISIONS GOVERNING SPECIAL DUTY ASSIGNMENTS FOR POLICE OFFICERS"

Ordinance No. 2281-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2221-15
ESTABLISHING PROVISIONS GOVERNING
SPECIAL DUTY ASSIGNMENTS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Section II entitled "Administration of Government" is hereby amended as follows:

Section I.

Section 2-65 Manual of police discipline, practices, etc.

- (A) Subject to the approval.....
- (B) Special duty assignments for police officers are governed as follows:
 - (1) Purpose

For the convenience of those persons and entities which utilize the services of off-duty police officers and to authorize the {outside} special duty employment of Township police while off-duty, the Township hereby establishes a policy regarding the use of said officers.

- (a) Sworn officers of the Police Division shall be permitted to accept police related employment for private employers only during off-duty hours and at such times as will not interfere with the efficient performance of regularly scheduled or emergency duty for the Township.
 - (b) Any person or entity wishing to employ a[n off-] special duty police officer shall first obtain the approval of the Chief of Police (or designee), which approval shall be granted if in the opinion of the Chief, such employment would not be inconsistent with the efficient functioning and good reputation of the Police Division and would not unreasonably endanger or threaten the safety of the employee or employees who are to perform the work.
- (2) Escrow Accounts
 - (a) Any person or entity requesting the services of a[n off-] special duty police officer shall estimate the number of hours such services are required, which estimate shall be approved by the Chief of Police, and shall establish an escrow account with the Chief Financial Officer of the Township by depositing an amount sufficient to cover the rates

of compensation and administrative fees set forth in Subsection 8 for the total estimated hours of service.

- (b) Prior to posting any request for services of ~~off-~~ special duty police officers, the Chief of Police or his designee, shall verify that the balance in the escrow account of the person or entity requesting services is sufficient to cover the compensation and fees for the number of hours specified in the request for services. The Chief of Police shall not post nor offer a request for services from any person or entity unless all fees and compensation required in the manner described above have been deposited with the Chief Financial Officer. No officer shall provide any services for more hours than are specified in the request for services.
- (c) In the event the funds in said escrow account become depleted, services of off-duty employees shall cease and requests for further or future services shall not be performed or posted until additional funds have been deposited in the escrow account in the manner prescribed above.
- (d) The person or entity requesting such services shall be responsible for ensuring that sufficient funds remain in the escrow account in order to avoid any interruption of services.
- (e) Failure to pay. In the event the person or entity contracting for such services should fail to pay any balance due for services performed by the members of the Lawrence Township Police Department, such failure shall be deemed a violation of this Ordinance and subject the person or entity to the violations and penalties set forth below.
- (f) Exemption. All public utility companies that are under the jurisdiction of and regulated by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities are exempt from the provisions set forth in this section requiring advance payment to the escrow account; provided, however, that there are no amounts previously due that are outstanding prior to any officer engaging in any further special duty assignments.
- (e) The Township may choose to utilize a secondary service to administrate and perform the above actions related to the special duty employment process. These actions include but are not limited to: Communicating with said person or company to schedule extra duty assignments, Scheduling the Officers for the said assignments, Invoicing person or entity and receiving escrow and or payments from person or entity in a manner set forth by the secondary service provider. The secondary service provider may charge an additional fee

for services that is above and in addition to the fee structure stated above and utilize business type collection rules as set forth in the contract/agreement between the Township and the secondary service provider.

- (f) The secondary service provider will reimburse the Township via ACH or other funds transfer methods, according to the fees set forth in this ordinance, due to the Township and Officer, in a timely manner, usually coinciding with payroll periods for the special duty assignment that the officers have performed or were scheduled for in that period, in accordance with the above listed rules of employment between the Township and person(s) or entity seeking services.

(3) Requests for Service

All requests to the Township for the services of ~~[off-]~~ special duty police officers shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police or the secondary service provider for posting at least ten (10) days prior to the date that such services are required. Any employee assigned and working pursuant to this regulation shall be treated as an on-duty employee of the Township with the exception that wages earned for outside employment shall not be applied toward pension benefits, shall not be considered overtime and shall be paid at a rate of pay as described in Subsection 8.

- (a) The Chief of Police will be responsible for scheduling employees who will be assigned to ~~[off-]~~ special duty work as described herein.
- (b) The Chief of Police may establish a limit on assignments per officer to ensure that ~~[off-]~~ special duty work does not impair an officer's ability to perform during regularly-scheduled tours of duty.
- (c) The Chief of Police shall determine if a Township vehicle is required for the ~~[off-]~~ special duty assignment and shall assign a vehicle in such cases as he deems necessary. A vehicle fee will be charged to the person or entity for the use of such vehicle(s). The vehicle fee will be charged at a rate as described in Subsection 8. No administrative fee will be added to the hourly vehicle rate.
- (d) All police services within the Township shall be delivered by officers from the Lawrence Township Police Department. If the Chief of Police determines that the demand cannot be met by the Lawrence Township Police Department he may request additional law enforcement officers from outside agencies.

(4) [Extra] Special Duty Assignments Voluntary

The work to be performed shall be considered a special duty assignment from independent contractors and will not be considered a direct assignment. The taking of any [extra] special duty assignments shall be on a voluntary basis in accordance with a fair and reasonable system established and administered by the Chief of Police. Any employee of the Township assigned and working pursuant to this regulation shall be treated as an on-duty employee of the Township with the exception that wages earned for outside employment shall not be applied toward pension benefits, shall not be considered overtime and shall be paid at a rate of pay as described in Subsection 8.

The Township reserves the right to assign an on-duty employee to fill a special duty assignment that cannot be filled in such cases where the Chief of Police deems such action to be in the best interest of the Township. In such cases, the Township shall first have posted such assignment without attaining a qualified employee. Should an employee be assigned on-duty, the employee shall receive his/her regular rate of compensation for the assignment. The Township shall retain the right to bill for such an assignment.

(5) Cancellation of Assignment

Any assignment which is canceled on less than four (4) hours notice shall be charged against the party and paid to the employee so assigned. Any other canceled assignment shall not be billable to the party nor payable to the employee.

(6) Chief's Order to Vacate Assignment

The Chief of Police has the authority to order any employee to vacate or terminate any special duty assignment in response to emergency situations or whenever the assignment creates an unacceptable risk to health, safety and/or welfare of the employee and/or the public in the sole determination and discretion of the Chief of Police. The contractor shall not be responsible for any compensation for the time that the employee is away from the special duty assignment and shall have no claim for costs or damages against the Township, the Chief or the employee arising from the termination of special duty assignment other than the prorated return of any costs prepaid to the Township.

(7) Township to Provide Insurance Coverage

The Township shall be responsible to provide all necessary insurance coverage, as required by law, including, but not limited to, workers compensation, public liability, and claims for damage, for personal injury including death or damage to property which may arise as a result of the Township's performance under the contract. The Township may, however, discipline or remove any employee from eligibility for

special duty assignments if, in the opinion of the Chief of Police, his/her job performance or actions place the Township in a position that may result in a claim for liability.

(8) Rates of Compensation; Administrative Fee; Payment for Services

Rate of compensation for contracting the services of ~~off-~~ special duty police officers shall be established as described herein:

Rates of Compensation; Administrative Fee; Payment for Services (hourly rates)

Off- <u>Special</u> Duty Police Officer Road/Utility/Construction	\$75.00
Off- <u>Special</u> Duty Sergeant as Supervisor <u>Security Assignment</u>	\$50.00
Off-Duty Lieutenant as Supervisor	\$56.00
Off- <u>Special</u> Duty Police Officer Security Assignment	\$45.00
<u>Emergent Requests less than 48 hours notice (additional)</u>	<u>\$10.00 per hour</u>
<u>Emergent Requests less than 4 hours notice (additional)</u>	<u>\$25.00 per hour</u>
<u>Marked Patrol Vehicle</u>	<u>\$28.00</u>
Administrative Fee <u>per officer hour</u>	\$5.00

(9) Length of Assignment

The minimum payment for any assignment shall be four (4) hours at the rates described above.

(10) Emergent Circumstances

Nothing contained herein shall prohibit special duty assignments where emergent conditions make compliance with one or more provision of this ordinance infeasible.

- (a) Where emergent circumstances result in a request for a special duty assignment, the Chief Financial Officer may waive the requirement of an escrow deposit as provided for in paragraph B. (2) (a) "Escrow Accounts".
- (b) In emergent circumstances the Chief of Police may authorize a special assignment with less than the ten (10) day posting requirement provided for in paragraph B (3) "Requests for Service"
- (c) In emergent circumstances where a special duty assignment is requested within 48 hours but more than 4 hours of the special duty assignment an additional cost of \$10.00 per hour will be added to the officer's rate. Requests within 4 hours of the special duty assignment an additional cost of \$25.00 per hour will be added to

the officer's rate. The additional cost will assist in obtaining coverage during the late or emergent request for police services.

(11) Violations and Penalties

Unless another penalty is provided by New Jersey Statute, every person, entity, contractor or utility convicted of a violation of a provision of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$1000. This fine is in addition to any outstanding funds owed to the Township or secondary service provider regarding services performed by the Lawrence Township Police Department.

Section II. Repealer

All ordinances or parts of same inconsistent with any provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section III. 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 IV. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after adoption thereof.

Additions _____
Deletions []

Ordinance No. 2281-17 was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

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

Manager's Report –

Mr. Nerwinski submitted invoice listings for the month of December 2017 in the amount of \$1,787,629.45.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Administration finally received the Letter of Intent with regards to the First Responders Memorial Park across from the EMS building. They now have a formal agreement to act upon in terms of doing the environmental investigation and the title work. And, he thinks they will be in position within the next 60 days to include that into their rolls as a park donated by the Lawrence Township First Aid.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Roskos reported that he has nothing to report except about a memo he did regarding the Designation of a Ceremonial Deputy Mayor position and he hopes everybody received a copy of that memorandum.

Clerk's Report –

Ms. Norcia stated she heard back from Mayor Maffei regarding his wish to attend the 26th Annual Mayors' Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at The State House Annex from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and she would like to know if any other members of Council are interested in attending so she can order the tickets. All members of Council confirmed their plans to attend.

Ms. Norcia brought to the attention of Council another very large OPRA Request she received from Jennifer Coombs flying under the name timetochangejerseystyle@outlook.com. A brief discussion took place relative to the submission of the OPRA request and the Township having no recourse under OPRA laws to charge a fee for those requesting the information be sent electronically or faxed, no matter the size or intent of the request.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

Mr. Powers revisited the matter of having the position of a Ceremonial Deputy Mayor which was discussed at the last meeting of Council in November and advised that he provided the Council with a draft Resolution for review and consideration. And, the way he has the resolution keyed out the “deputy mayor” designation would be a ceremonial position, honorary with no additional powers or civil service rights, and the Lawrence Township Municipal Charter does provide for a deputy mayor position. Also, with the Mayor’s two-year term and possible conflicts of scheduling it would be nice to have someone in place to help out with activities. The designation can take place at the Reorganization Meeting held on January 1st every other year.

Ms. Lewis stated one of the issues that came up in previous conversations was about what other towns operating under the Council-Manager form of government, same size or smaller in population, who may or may not be Falkner Act towns, are doing in terms of having a deputy mayor position and asked if Mr. Powers or Mr. Roskos performed any surveys or any research to include soliciting information from the League of Municipalities on towns operating under the same charter and population.

Mr. Kownacki stated the concern he has is when the matter was previously looked into many years ago back when Bill Guhl was the Municipal Manager and Pam Mount was serving on Council and inquired about the Deputy Mayor position and the decision rendered by Civil Service is that the Ceremonial Deputy Mayor position was prohibited due to Lawrence Township’s population not meeting the requirement of 80,000 to 300,000 according to the town’s municipal charter. The letter was sent to Mr. Guhl who in turn provided the information to the Township Council. And, he understands Councilman Powers’ point on the matter; but they have to reinvestigate the matter to get the right facts and see if there have been any rule changes before moving forward.

Mr. Powers asked the Municipal Clerk if the letter was still on file and if the person who rendered the decision was still working for Civil Service. Ms. Norcia replied ‘yes’ and she did speak with Debbie Monroe, Payroll Supervisor, who contacted the State again and they came back with the same response that Lawrence does not qualify for the position. And, she does not know whether Ms. Monroe made it clear that the position was to be ceremonial only. In addition, she does not know if the position was ever submitted to the Department of Personnel as an actual title or if it was just done at Reorganization and never submitted to the State.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Deputy Mayor’s position was utilized when the Mayor was unavailable. There would be written communication to the Municipal Clerk stating the Mayor would be out of jurisdiction and unable to perform his or her duties, make decisions or take formal action and for that sole purpose a person was designated to be the deputy mayor with no real authority although it was inconsistent with the Statute.

Mayor Maffei asked the legal opinion of Mr. Roskos as to how the Township would go about selecting a Deputy Mayor. Mr. Roskos stated based on the conversation and what they are all acknowledging they are not qualified to have a deputy mayor in the sense of someone who would step-in in the Mayor's absence because they cannot select an individual to take over right now for a mayor who is not incapacitated and that person cannot perform marriages or sign contracts as they would not be legal so they would be creating a position that would be entirely ceremonial. And, when you go back and look at the Township's Municipal Charter it talks about a deputy mayor and the genesis of that he just does not understand. But, if the Council would like to select someone to stand in for the Mayor at a ribbon cutting, Colonel Hand March or some kind of ceremony when the Mayor is unavailable, that would probably be acceptable. However, the person cannot act in the capacity of the Mayor simply because the mayor is not around. So the Council needs to understand what they are creating long-term that could pose a problem in the future when the Council changes, and advised they need clarification on the matter prior to proceeding with the adoption of a resolution. (The Municipal Clerk noted that Lawrence Township Municipal Charter does call for a Deputy Mayor being elected on January 1st)

An at length discussion took place relative to past practice in selecting a member of Council to fill-in during the Mayor's absence; cause of elimination for the Deputy Mayor's position; creation of a Sworn-in Statement for the Deputy Mayor to sign acknowledging the position is ceremonial; requesting/awaiting a response from Civil Service to re-review the definition of deputy mayor paid position versus a ceremonial non-paid position; surveying other Falkner Act municipalities, similar in size with the same Council-Manager form of government, who have a deputy mayor to see how they do it; soliciting advice from the League of Municipalities or another entity prior to the next reorganization meeting; the Township Attorney reviewing the proposal and resolution to find language that would make the it more logical. Additional dialogue took place relative to the Township Attorney's research and Lawrence Municipal Charter being inconsistent with the law for the Deputy Mayor's position and Lawrence staying consistent with the law.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

Mr. John Ryan, 128 Villanova Drive, advised that he remembers when Pam Mount served on Council and there was a definitely a Deputy Mayor designated to serve in the absence of the Mayor for ceremonial activities such as ribbon cutting ceremonies, grand openings of businesses or parks, etc., and he does agree they need to further investigate to make sure everything is on board with the State.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 418-17 (18-A.1) through 434-17 (18-H.5) with exception of Resolution No. 427-17 (Bid Award) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Councilman Bobbitt reported that the Growth and Redevelopment Committee is having issues with getting members and one of things they discussed was potentially moving the term date from January to February because the Township Council does not make appointments in time for them to have a January meeting, as their meetings take place the second Tuesday of the month, so the Committee typically loses out on one meeting each year. So, it is just something for the Council to think about going forward.

Mayor Maffei inquired as to how many members presently exist on the Committee. Councilman Bobbitt replied at the present time he is unsure of the exact number and he heard a few people are leaving. The Municipal Clerk advised that they did post the openings for Boards/Committees on the Township’s website and she does believe she received a few responses back from people who are interested. Also, on December 19th she will be sending out the Boards and Committees list for Council’s review.

Councilwoman Lewis questioned Mr. Roskos and Ms. Norcia if it would be possible to do a Resolution for 2017 extending the member’s terms of the Boards and Committees by one month to kind of see it that helps and give them that month.

Councilman Powers’ noted that he has been experiencing problems with membership enrollment as well. The Shade Tree Committee is now down to four members and they have been seeing a general decline in volunteerism, and advised that the Council used to do a holiday party at the end of the year acknowledging the volunteers and maybe the Council should consider doing that again to possibly renew interest as they should try and do more for their volunteers.

Councilwoman Lewis pointed out the Council tried to pay recognition to the members three years ago, which was done during the Open House at Town Hall, and none of the volunteers bothered to show up and she does not have a problem acknowledging them but the last time the Council tried to they said...thanks...but, no thanks. So, maybe that is a conversation the Liaisons need to have with their Boards and Committees concerning how they would like to receive recognition.

Mr. Roskos advised the Council that they could possibly extend the terms of the Advisory Boards, but definitely not the Statutory Boards. A general comment and question period ensued relative to how the change would affect other Boards and Committees (statutory versus advisory), the reason for the drop in membership/volunteerism, possible a solutions to help resolve the conflict for advisory boards and future ideas as to how they should go about thanking the volunteers for their service.

Mayor Maffei asked Ms. Norcia if they received any applications for the Construction Board of Appeals. Ms. Norcia advised they did appoint another member at the last meeting so if they need to have a hearing they are good. A brief discussion took place relative to filling the other vacancies to ensure they will have a quorum.

There were no additional Liaison Reports.

Written Communications –

There was no written communication.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

David C. Maffei, Mayor