

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

January 17, 2017

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by Municipal Clerk.

At the commencement of the meeting Councilman Powers 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, January 17, 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.”

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis and Powers.
Absent: Mayor Maffei.

Also in attendance were Richard Krawczun Municipal Manager, and Township Attorney David Roskos.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Sustainable Jersey Recertification Final Report Presented by The Sustainability Studies Capstone Seminar – Rider University

Ms. Pamela Mount greeted everyone and advised that Sustainable Lawrence who collaborates together on all sustainable jersey actions and a notification that was done and they are delighted to be present this evening to report on the Town’s Silver Certification. She then introduced the following representatives that were present in the audience: Ed Frankel, Mike Winka, John Emmons, Teresita Bastides-Heron, Professor Dan Drunckenbrod, Professor Brooke Hunter and Rider students Jabria Benson, Kathy Blachut, Connor Kubitsky, Jessica Munyan, Rachel Nangle, Hayley Purcell and Alexandra Reynolds.

Ms. Mount stated that the representatives along with others have been working on sustainable issues for many years and that Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Lawrence were formed over ten years ago. They were first certified as bronze in 2009 then 2010, 2011 and 2014 and finally by 2016 they reached the goal of silver. Sustainable Jersey now has 441 municipalities and 582 schools registered and working on sustainable actions throughout the State since enrollment was extended to the schools and that all of Lawrence Township Schools are registered and they meet with the Green Teams of the schools to work on projects together. She advised that only 47 towns in New Jersey reached their goal of silver and turned the floor over to Professor Hunter and the students at Rider University who reported on some of their sustainable actions that played a part in Lawrence Township achieving the Silver Certification. Additional discussion took place relative to recruitment of new individuals for the Green Team and sustainable efforts in the works to help Lawrence achieve the next level - Gold Certification.

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

Ms. Elizabeth Betty Wnek, 12 Larkspur Lane, advised that she lives in the western end of the Township in the Twin Pines development and she is here to speak on behalf of her neighbors who would like to get their neighborhood put on the docket for repaving of their streets and repair of the curbing and advised that a letter was sent to the Township Council in October 2016 and then again in December with no response or acknowledgment of receipt which they were disappointed about so a group of residents are present this evening to make their request face-to-face to the Council and discussed other neighborhoods in the Township that have been repaved that are much newer and their community only receiving patchwork jobs for the last several years.

Mr. Powers advised that the Public Works Department has a program in terms of assessing roadwork that needs to be done in the Township. Mr. Krawczun further advised that the presentation of the 2017 Recommended Budget and Capital Plan, two separate ways to expend funds in New Jersey, will be presented this evening and that Brandon Road, Spring Beauty Drive and Larkspur Lane are all included in the Capital Plan for work to be done. As for the curb work, it falls under the Concrete Program so if any of those roads are accepted, homeowners will be notified and if they have any interest they can participate and piggyback off of the Township's bid price and property owners will have a five year period to repay the cost of that loan. He then explained the adoption process for the Capital Plan as it relates to issuance of debt to pay for the work.

Ms. Christine Casole, 22 Larkspur Lane, advised that she has resided at her residence with her husband for 17 years and when they first moved in they noticed that the curbs were starting to crumble and over the course of the years they have gotten

significantly worse with the snow plowing, leaf pickups, etc. and many years ago her husband called the Township regarding the problem and was told they were liable for the cost if they wanted the curb redone, so she would like clarification about the curbing as it relates to the owner's responsibility and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that the homeowners have the option of repairing the curbs at their expense and reiterated his previous comments regarding the Concrete Program and their plans for repair of the curbs.

Mr. Karnic Kouyoumdjian, 18 Larkspur Lane, advised that he has resided at his residence for more than 40 years and the problem is the curbing has been destroyed and not fixed for a very long time and that he has observed other areas in the Township where the curbing has stayed intact; but, Larkspur Lane is not a straight road. It has a lot of curves, so his first question to the Council is what is the life span of the curves before they begin to fall apart and could the damage be due to the way the curbs are salted, leaves and garbage are picked up, and the snow plows that come around hitting the curbs and eventually causing them to fall apart and what precaution could homeowners take to prevent this from happening going forward and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that the estimated useful life is about 15 to 20 years and he does not know of any particular safeguards they could put in place to prevent some of the events Mr. Kouyoumdjian referred to because salting, leaf pickup and snow plowing are not done by hand and that the same rock salt is used all over town. But, he would certainly relay their concerns to the Township Engineer and Public Works Department.

Ms. Casole asked when the approval process would take place on the Capital Plan for the roadwork to begin and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that he does not have an exact date as to when that will occur and suggested she can check the Agenda on the Township's website to see when it is listed for approval and proceeded to discuss the Engineering Department in conjunction with the Public Works Department who annually list all of the roadways in Lawrence Township and rank them in way as to when they should be done and this year the streets in question have risen to the level of making it into the plan and continued to explain the ranking process and the operating budget for the Streets and Roads Division of less than \$90,000 for 200 lane miles of road in Lawrence Township.

Ms. Susan Reilly, 11 Larkspur Lane, echoed Mr. Kouyoumdjian's comments with regards to the curb portions of the road being the most destroyed and stated although the destruction of the curbs are unintentional and the road crew is doing their very best there is an issue that needs to be addressed because she can hear the plows hitting the curbs as they are come around the curve in front of her house and although she does not mind spending money to have the curbs replaced she does not want them crumbling again due to the same issue, and indicated if they come and assess the street they will see that the straighter portions of the curbs are in much better shape than the curve parts like in front of her house where there is almost no curbing.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There was no review or revisions of the agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

Councilman Powers asked for comments from the public. There being none, Councilman Powers asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Amending the Contract with Earle Asphalt for the 2016 Road Improvement Program, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 48-17

WHEREAS, a contract was awarded to Earle Asphalt Company for a project known as the **2016 Road Improvement Program** in the amount of \$1,041,013.13, as outlined in Resolution No. 208-16 and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to amend this contract in the amount of \$22,157.06 (Change Order No. 1), resulting in a new contract amount of \$1,063,170.19, said increase allowed by statute without re-bid; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 reflects final quantity adjustment and supplemental items required during construction; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged for the additional increase C-04-55-419-240 (Ordinance 2229-16 – Federal City Road (Denow to Coach) \$4,657.06; C-04-55-419-242 (Ordinance 2229-16 – Ridings Development (Coach, Paddock, Surrey, Birdie) \$10,000.00 and C-04-55-419-244 (Ordinance 2229-16 – Eldridge Park (Arcadia, Alcazar, Manitee, Hazelhurst, etc.) \$7,500.00;

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

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an amended agreement with Earle Asphalt Company, P. O. Drawer 556, Farmingdale NJ 07727 for a revised amount not to exceed \$22,157.06 and availability of funds has been certified for said amount.
2. Notice of this resolution shall be published in The Trentonian as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage as required by law.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis and Powers.
 Absent: Mayor Maffei.

Introduction of Ordinances

Councilman Powers 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 \$5,562.50 THEREFOR AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF"

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Ordinance establishes the special assessments for sidewalk improvements at residential locations which participated in the 2016 Concrete Program. There are five locations with a total assessment due of \$5,562.50 and owners are required to repay the amount due within (5) years.

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						X
Ms. Lewis	X						
Mr. Powers	X						
Mayor Maffei				X			

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Councilman Powers read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC'" – Carson Road

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Ordinance will establish a weight limit for trucks in excess of four (4) tons on Carson Road and that Province Line Road already has a weight limit in place but they have been experiencing a problem with trucks proceeding onto Carson Road due the restriction so they thought it would be helpful for drivers to have the town’s weight limit put on their networks to avoid using the road as a pass-through.

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   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers   | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Maffei |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |

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Councilman Powers read by title, an ordinance entitled, “ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2252-16 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2017”

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Ordinance was previously adopted at the end of 2016 for exempt and non-classified employees and the amendment will include a title inadvertently omitted from the adopted version. The ordinance will add Grade 15 that was excluded and increase the top salary range by \$1500.

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						
Mayor Maffei				X			

Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

Manager’s Report –

Mr. Krawczun submitted invoice listings for the month of January 2017 in the amount of \$1,215,148.31.

Mr. Krawczun reported in 2016 the organic waste program collected 124 tons of organic waste during the course of the year and as the Council may recall the Township made a request to Sustainable Jersey for an amendment to the grant application to allow for an extension of time so that they could provide reimbursements to participants and use the additional money for advertisements/public relations and advised that both of the requests were approved and they just has to submit a more detailed plan to Sustainable Jersey. So, the Administration will be getting back to them with some specifics. However, they did authorize the remaining grant money to be used to subsidize past the original two year period. Some discussion followed relative to the Township achieving their goal of 300 participates in the program.

Submission of the 2017 Recommended Municipal Budget

Mr. Krawczun distributed copies of the 2017 Recommended Municipal Budget for the Council to review and proceeded to discuss the budget in-depth. The 2017 Municipal Budget Recommendation includes no local tax increases for the proposed \$44.3 million municipal budget.

Mr. Krawczun stated as this is his final budget message as Lawrence Township Municipal Manager he would like to thank the current and past Township Council, Township Department Directors, staff of the Divisions of the Finance Department and the Municipal Manager's office for the many years of support, patience and many contributions for not only this year but in all past years developing and managing the municipal budget. Their professional knowledge and expert execution in each of their respective areas of responsibility has produced an effective and fiscally efficient municipal government operation. In closing, he thanked the Council again and stated that the Township Administration is prepared to fully cooperate in the review of the recommended budget by the Township Council.

Councilman Powers stated that Mr. Krawczun's approach in creating the municipal budgets looking years in advance is really appreciated and extended a warm thank you on behalf of Council for all of his efforts over the years and indicated while behind the scenes state aid has remained flat he has managed to increase the towns reserve by \$2 million which is quite an accomplish in the current economy and he knows the residents are going to be very pleased to hear that for the fourth time there will be no increase in their tax rate.

Councilwoman Lewis thanked Mr. Krawczun for exemplary management of the budget over the years making it look so easy and for making the tough decisions to get the township through the hard times. She further thanked him for the Council not having to worry about budgetary problems this year.

Councilman Kownacki also thanked Mr. Krawczun for all that he put into the maintaining the municipal budget and the strategic contract negotiations with the unions that has led to givebacks, cost-savings and a stable budget for the past four years and he knows that it has not been easy and took a lot of hard work so personally he cannot thank him enough for what he has done for the township.

Councilman Bobbitt echoed previous comments with regards to the Mr. Krawczun bringing the Township through a rough patch with respect to the budget and how the township is now running great if not better and he knows the residents will appreciate this budget as well as the Council.

Councilwoman Lewis noted in addition to the exemplary job Mr. Krawczun has done the 2017 budget has the largest surplus balance the Township has had since 1995 and again extended Council's appreciation.

Mr. Krawczun reviewed a few items relative to the 2017 Recommended Budget and advised that the Council will have an opportunity to review the budget and at the next meeting have a discussion on how they would like to proceed as well as ask any immediate questions at that point.

Attorney's Report –

There was no Attorney's report.

Clerk's Report –

There was no Clerk's report.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

Mr. Powers advised that the Council reviewed the Boards and Committees listing from the Municipal Clerk, and Ms. Lewis stated that they do not have an excess of new applicants so they can move all the applicants in a block. Nominations were cast for the

nominees by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, and the individuals were appointed or reappointed to the following boards and/or committees:

Resolution No. 67-17

Affordable Housing Board -- 3-year term ending 12/31/19

Susan McCloskey
Jean Washington
Murali Mallampati
Andrew Meltzer

Construction Board of Appeals – 4-year term ending 12/31/20

Richard Hocking

Environmental Resources and Sustainability Green Advisory Committee – 4-year term ending 12/31/20

Barry Chalofsky
Pamela Mount

Growth and Redevelopment Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/19

Tushar Patel
Peter Ferrone

Health Advisory Board – 3-year term ending 12/31/19

Mary Baird
Maureen Adams

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee – 4-year term ending 12/31/20

Douglas Sargent
Leona Maffei
Thomas Morris

Human Relations Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/19

John Gaskins

Municipal Alliance on Drug and Alcohol Abuse – 2-year term ending 12/31/18

Kelly Nitti
Lewis Korngut

Public Safety Advisory Committee – 2-year term ending 12/31/18

Michael Burzachiello
Jitesh Patel

Recreation Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/19

Ed Budzinski
 Glenn Collins
 Ernest Cerone
 Ron Dziminski
 Siobhan Cahill

Senior Executive Committee – 4-year term ending 12/31/20
 Janet Henne
 Cheng How Mao

Shade Tree Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/19
 Sheila Grant

Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/19
 Jeffrey Lang
 Nicholas Bosted
 John Emmons
 Chris Zelechowski – to fill an unexpired 3-year term ending 12/31/18

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 48-17 (18-A) through 66-17(18-R) 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 –

There was Liaison reports.

Written Communications –

There was no written communication.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Michael S. Powers
Councilmember