

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

September 19, 2017

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.

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

Mayor Maffei then asked for a moment of silence for the victims of 911, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and indicated he would also to reach out to all the survivors and families affected by those disasters that they may have the strength to rebuild not just in the physical but may their courage and spirits continue to reach towards recovery and the future.

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, September 19, 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, Municipal Manager and Township Attorney David Roskos.

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

- A. **Presentation by Dr. Dennis Waters, Township Historian** – Re-scheduled for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting.
- B. **Administer Oath of Office to:** Emergency Medical Services; Supervising Emergency Medical Technician (Promotion); Fire Division and Robert Santello, Lieutenant (Promotion) – Swearing-in Postponed until further notice.

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Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

*Ms. Janice Fisher, Manasquan New Jersey*, advised that she coordinates the Puppy Mill Awareness Campaign for Friends of Animals United New Jersey and she is presents this evening to talk about a Pet Store Ordinance; but, she would first like to say Mercer County is near and dear to her heart as she grew up in Hamilton Township and her mother-in-law lived in Lawrence Township in Woodmont for many years so it was really nice to ride through her old neighborhood and see her old house as she has not been back in quite a while. And, she is really proud to report that Hamilton Township adopted a Pet Store Ordinance because as an advocate she has worked with countless customers who became victims of unscrupulous pet stores who took advantage of customers in many ways; one being the sub-prime pet lease targeting those with marginal credit and if the idea of leasing puppies is not troubling enough the leases will end up costing the customers double the purchase price and most of the New Jersey Pet Stores are leasing animals today.

Ms. Fisher explained that a lot of pet store customers were being kept in the dark about where the pet stores purchased their puppies and transparency had to be legislated in 2015; legislation that was strongly opposed by the pet store industry and even after the law took effect 26 out of 29 of New Jersey pet stores were fined by the Department of Consumer Affairs for failure to comply with law. And, the pet industry argues the lack of need for a Pet Store Ordinance given New Jersey has the toughest pet store laws in the country; but what they fail to advise consumers is that the State of New Jersey fails to enforce the most important aspect of the law which is where pet store puppies come from, and last year her group and the Humane Society of the United States did research on every breeder for every New Jersey Pet Store and found that the vast majority of the pet stores were sourcing puppies from breeders with serious animal welfare act violations. Violations that were prohibited by New Jersey law and would have made pet store customers cringe if they knew the truth. And, if anyone is interested in viewing the information they have retrieved all the documentation and official reports from the USDA.

Ms. Fisher went on to explain the details of the findings in the report and the results showing that the incidences were not isolated but common place which is the nature of mass breeding and those are the breeders that supply pet stores with puppies and the State no longer being able to enforce the law even if they wanted to because as of the beginning of the year the USDA removed all of their breeder inspection reports from the USDA database citing privacy concerns which is a huge problem. So, their request for records resulted in fully blacked out or redacted reports and they are now left with no transparency, no ability to research and no ability to regulate where the pet store puppies are coming from and pet stores cannot obtain the records either which creates a inherited risk for towns that license pet stores that sells puppies/kittens because bad breeders usually equals sick puppies and sick puppies can wreak havoc on a community.

Ms. Fisher continued to discuss towns struggling with problematic pet stores who violate health codes, consumer fraud laws and cruelty laws forcing towns to expend absorbent amounts of time and tax payer's dollars on multiple investigations, license revocation, hearings and court proceedings and indicated in East Hanover alone their legal fees were in excess for \$90,000 dealing with the Just Pups which is a waste of taxpayers' dollars. And, her question to towns, is do they really need pet stores that sells puppies and kittens when there are so many responsible breeders, shelters and rescue organizations from which to get a pet and advised 24 out of the 25 major pet chains in the country do not sell puppies and kittens because they recognize this as being an inhumane business model and they know as people become more educated they are going to be oppose this type of business, and advised Pets Plus in Lawrence is a very successful business who does not sell puppies or kittens as they have converted to humane way several years ago and they are in support the Puppy Mill Ordinance. Thus far, 107 towns in New Jersey has passed or adopted such ordinance and none of them have been legally challenged and of all of the ordinances that have been adopted across the nation, only six have been legally challenged and all six were upheld in Court even on appeal.

In closing, Ms. Fisher discussed the alternative leading to death for puppy mill animals and Lawrence Township having the ability to adopt an ordinance that would make an impact on animal cruelty, protect taxpayer's dollars, support taxpayer funded shelters by encouraging adoption and promote businesses like Pets Plus or responsible breeders who sell puppies in a humane way and that other towns and the constituents widely supports this trend in New Jersey and she strongly encourage the Council to consider introducing and adopting such an ordinance.

Mayor Maffei inquired if the Pet Store Ordinance from Springfield Township contained all the information she spoke of this evening and do she have any additional supporting documents for the Council to review and he would also like to forward the information to Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer, who has expertise on the subject if it is acceptable to Council.

Ms. Fisher replied she would be more than happy to supply the USDA Inspection Reports stemming from an OPRA Request; but, the documents would have to be sent in a PDF file to the Municipal Clerk for distribution as the documents are voluminous in size and not available for public inspection anymore on the USDA website. They can also review the packet that will be distributed to them which have sample inspections reports for two pet stores that seem to be going town-to-town to try and oppose the ordinances with no successful, thus far. Additional discussion took place relative to the various chains those that sale/not sale puppies, promotion of good breeders and the effects of the New Jersey Pet Purchase Protection Act and adoption of a Pet Store Ordinance as it relates to breeders and municipalities.

Mayor Maffei imparted the information regarding puppy mills is very interesting and that the Township Council will do everything that they possibly can to aid in the situation.

*Mr. Larry Cohen, Fanwood New Jersey*, distributed the packet that Ms. Fisher referenced during her comments and advised it contains tons of information on the puppy mill topic and stressed that he would like to emphasize a few important points without repeating Ms. Fisher's comments, and advised he use to feel like most Town Councils consider them to be a group without a cause and looking for a cause so he just like to review with the Council where this matter is nationwide. He then proceeded to discuss a Bill in the State of California that passed the State Senate 33 to 0 and the Bill going into effect as soon as the Governor signs it which will affect dogs, cats and rabbits in pet store throughout the state. In addition, there are over 250 cities and towns across the country including big cities that have passed an ordinance along with 108 in New Jersey and that the matter is no longer a fringe effort it is going mainstream and he hopes as they go town-to-town that members of Council realize they have a real opportunity to make a very strong moral statement on behalf of their citizens and constituents that the values and morals of the town does not include stores that participate in this dark underworld and that the push for this ordinance has nothing to do with the multi-billion dollar pet store business that is growing by leaps and bounds.

Mr. Cohen advised they are not hurting legitimate businesses with the passage of this Ordinance; but, instead they are encouraging pets stores to foster a more humane environment and combat the problem of pet overpopulation and euthanasian, where in New Jersey 17,000 dogs and cats were killed last year because there was not enough room for them. And, because, it is hard to pinpoint just how many have been put down they suspect the numbers are in the millions and continued to discuss at length the reason for the "puppy mill" problem, Federal, State and County regulations not properly addressing the sale of puppy and kittens, the New Jersey Pet Purchase Protection Act as it relates to the NJ Lemon Law, the Animal Welfare Act and Humane Society Pet Report as it relates to the general problem that exist throughout state government in New Jersey and the positives if the Council adopts the Pet Store Ordinance to help combat inhumane breeding conditions and promote community awareness of animal welfare.

A general comment and question period took place relative the various town euthanasian rates and town-by-town statistics and that data being obtained from each individual shelter and compiled by the State.

*Ms. Ellen Coyote, Hamilton New Jersey*, advised that she attended Notre Dame High School in Lawrence and she has been a volunteer in animal protection and rescue arena for 41 years and she has been fighting the puppy mill issue for at least 20 years; a fight that has been so discouraging up until now. Further, she knows there is a lot wrong with the world so she can certainly see things being overlooked but she would love for the Council to help her do something about this issue while they can do something; because, although, people know the word "puppy mill" they do not seem to distinguish the connection between puppy mills and pet stores and sometimes have to be protected as consumers due to their own ignorance as they buy on impulse or they think their rescuing the animals from the cages and when the dogs gets sick they just take care of them but they do not follow through and file a complaint with the Division of Consumer Affairs or the Department of Health and she often wonder how those types of breeder manage to stay in business being they seem to be so unscrupulous, defrauding the customers and so cruel to the animals.

Ms. Coyote advised she is also New Jersey Certified Animal Cruelty Investigator and for the past year she has help rescue and take care of about 400 hundred puppy mill dogs so she has firsthand experience of what those dogs endure and expressed her lack of understanding of how the breeders can be so cruel to living animals, and she knows the USDA is farmer friendly and considers them to be crops...dogs like cows and chickens are considered units and even though a breeder comply with USDA requirements and might be USDA licensed a breeder can keep animals in an extremely inhumane conditions and proceeded to explain at length all the cruel acts she has witness that in some cases has lead to death of the animal or the animal being very sick and that animal regulations such as the ones Ms. Fisher and Mr. Cohen spoke of are so weak and unenforceable it is criminal.

Ms. Coyote continued to discuss a Washington Post article that came out regarding pet store puppies being linked to bacteria outbreak among people in seven states and the pets stores disputing the claims stating that the animals are regulated, healthy animals which is impossible when they are raised in the most disgusting conditions no better than concentration camps and the root of the problem being money and the breeders wanting to get the maximum amount of profit with the least amount of effort and expense. And, for a lot of the breeders it is not a full-time job but a side business for them and once they make an initial investment it is free money; therefore, they do not invest in vet care which is appalling and something that they have gotten away for decades by the USDA with only a written warning for violations and those are the type of breeders that pet stores are purchasing animals from which is unconscionable. So, she employs the Township Council to try and stop this problem and people from wasting thousands of dollars on those types of dogs when instead they can rescue dogs that are being put to death for the crime of just being homeless.

Mayor Maffei asked if a dog shows up one day on someone's porch how many days the person has to take care of the dog before they can take ownership and are there many cases where dogs are abandoned.

Ms. Coyote replied it is seven day and he must inform the police department, alert the animal control officer and information must be posted pertaining to the lost dog and if no one claims the dog then the person can take owner. And, in many instances people just let their dog run loose because they do not want to deal with them anymore and she has been fighting with Hamilton Township because they do not have a policy where people can surrender their dogs given they only pickup dogs off the streets which is how she got one of her dogs who was thrown into traffic by the owner; an owners way of euthanizing the animal or hoping some sympathetic person would pick it up. She then thanked the Council for their time and consideration and distributed additional handouts relative to the topic.

Mayor Maffei imparted the information regarding puppy mills has been very interesting and that the Township Council will do everything that they possibly can to aid in the matter.

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#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that Ordinance (11-A), BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,425,000, WHEREAS ANY TRANSPORTATION TRUST GRANT FUNDING TO BE USED TO OFFSET BONDS OR NOTES AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,325,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF, on the agenda for adoption be removed and re-introduced as Ordinance (10-B).

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, the Agenda was amended to include the above revision.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 15, 2017 were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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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 Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing the Awarding of Bid for Electrical Improvements at the Lawrence Township Police Facility to Gary Kubiak & Son Electric, Inc., was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 325-17

WHEREAS, on Thursday, August 16, 2017 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Electrical Improvements at the Lawrence Township Police Facility**; and

WHEREAS, seven (7) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Gary Kubiak & Son Electric, Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$31,210.00, 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 C-04-55-433-232 (Ordinance 2258-17 – Electric Upgrade-Police/EMG Management); 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 Municipal Engineer, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a contract with Gary Kubiak & Son Electric, Inc., 12 Sharon Road, Robbinsville NJ 08691 in the amount of \$31,210.00; 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.

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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. Bobbitt, seconded by Ms. Lewis, Resolution (9-B), Authorizing the Awarding of Bid for Province Line Road Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk Lighting System to Techna-Pro Electric, LLC, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 326-17

WHEREAS, a bid was awarded to Techna-Pro Electric, LLC for services for a project known as the Province Line Road Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk Lighting System in the amount of \$10,777.00, as outlined in Resolution No. 233-17; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to amend this contract for an additional \$712.38, resulting in a new contract amount of \$11,489.38, said increase allowed by statute without re-bid; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 reflects 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 account to be charged for the additional increase is 7-16-56-843-299 (Open Space);

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 Techna-Pro Electric, LLC, 100 Pike Road, Building B, Mount Laurel NJ 08054, ATTN: Mike Cerula, represented by John J. Gres, President, for a revised amount not to exceed \$11,489.38, subject to appropriation in the 2017 budget and availability of funds.

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, Powers and Mayor Maffei.  
Absent: None.

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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 Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, Resolution (9-C), Authorizing the Awarding of Bid for Removal of Ash Trees and Stumps/Roots to US Athletic Fields, Inc., was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 339-17

WHEREAS, on Thursday, September 7, 2017 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Ash Tree Hazard Mitigation Project – Phase 4**; and

WHEREAS, two (2) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the trees are being removed from Bergen Street, Dix Lane, Overlook Way, Woodlane Road, Flanigan Street, Vaccaro Road, Baker Street, Canal View Drive, Morrell Road, Mink Court, Roxboro Road, Van Kirk Road, Province Line Road and Village Park; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was US Athletic Fields, Inc., who submitted a bid in the amount of \$28,900.00, 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 US Athletic Fields, Inc., P. O. Box 38, Skillman NJ 08558 in the amount of \$28,900.00; 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.

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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. Bobbitt, seconded by Ms. Lewis, Resolution (9-D), Authorizing Awarding of Bid for 2017 Road Repair Program to Richard T. Barrett, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 341-17

WHEREAS, on Thursday, September 7, 2017 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **2017 Road Repair Program**; and

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$64,875.00, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged are C-04-55-395-242 – Ordinance 2208-15 Various Roads (\$30,000.00); C-04-55-395-246 – Ordinance 2208-15 Various Roads (\$20,000.00) and C-04-55-395-243 – Ordinance 2208-15 Various Roads (\$14,875.00); 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 Municipal Engineer, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a contract with Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc., 400 Prospect Street, Trenton NJ 08618-2630 in the amount of \$64,875.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process and is subject to New Jersey Department of Transportation approval;

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.

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Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE, RELEASE AND EXTINGUISH ANY AND ALL DEDICATION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS IN OR TO CERTAIN PORTIONS OF UNNAMED STREET BETWEEN EAST COAST KAWASAKI AND KENNECTIONS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER NEW JERSEY STATE OF NEW JERSEY"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that this Ordinance is part of a process that has been ongoing for some time under the previous municipal manager and that Mercedes Benz purchased the lots on both sides of the paper street and is now seeking approval for the township to vacate the unnamed street between East Coast Kawasaki and Kennections.

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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Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,425,000, WHEREAS ANY TRANSPORTATION TRUST GRANT FUNDING TO BE USED TO OFFSET BONDS OR NOTES AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,325,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF"

Ordinance No. 2273-17 was opened for discussion but due to improper legal publication the Ordinance was re-introduced with the adoption postponed until the Council meeting of October 3, 2017, for the required Public Hearing prior to approval and adoption:

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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Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2274-17

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE  
 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION  
 OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

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

Section 1:

- a. Section 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance 2208-15, finally adopted March 3, 2015, amended by Ordinance 2268-17, finally adopted July 18, 2017 be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

"Pedestrian Activated Crossing – Various Locations..."

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Ordinance No. 2274-17 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						

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Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2275-17

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE  
 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION  
 OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

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

Section 1:

- a. Section 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance 2258-17, finally adopted April 4, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2270-17, finally adopted July 18, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2271-17, finally adopted July 18, 2017, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Purchase of Various Equipment consisting of “Single Axle Dump Truck with Plow, Sander, Wing Plow and Other Snow Removal Equipment...”

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Ordinance No. 2275-17 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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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Mayor Maffei read by title, an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED “TRAFFIC CONTROL STANDARDS; REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE”

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance was introduced at the August 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting but due to some comments and additional information that was received it is his recommendation that the ordinance to be removed indefinitely for further review and revisions.

Ms. Lewis moved to **table** Ordinance No. 2276-17. There was no second on the motion.

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

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**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski submitted invoice listings for the month of August 2017 in the amount of \$1,915,408.30.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Lawrence Township Police Department filled two positions by appointing Detective Joseph S. Lech, IV to Lieutenant and Detective Scott A. Caloiaro to Sergeant, both of whom are highly qualified and have provided long outstanding service to the Township and wished them good luck moving forward. Mayor Maffei also wished both officers the best of luck in their positions on behalf of the Council.

Mr. Nerwinski informed the Council that on October 11<sup>th</sup> the Administration has provided for a Customer Service seminar for some of the employees who deal directly with the public based upon feedback he has received since being appointed as the Municipal Manager. It is a full day seminar and 14 to 15 employees will be in attendance and the purpose of the seminar is to remind and reaffirm employees that when they are working with the public and residents of Lawrence that their customer service skills need to be top notch in terms of respect and how to handle difficult situations and he is looking forward to the results of that training.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that they previously discussed the properties on Pilla and Tulane Avenues being added to the Township's Open Space catalog in one way or another and that both properties have been investigated for concerns of environmental contamination and they both came back good and clean and the Township Engineer is now recommending they move forward with the next phase of getting the properties conveyed to the Township.

Mr. Nerwinski stated Mr. Parvesse also requested the consensus of Council regarding the traffic signal at the intersection of Darrah Lane and Business Route 1. The Township Engineer requested NJDOT do an investigation of that area in an effort to provide higher pedestrian safety at that location and based on the investigation it is their recommendation that the town take action along that area. The recommended improvements total \$100,000 and based on NJDOT Program the Township would be required to contribute 25-percent of the cost. Mr. Parvesse advised that they do have excess funds available from the 2015/2016 road improvement budgets that could be utilized for the work which will include pedestrian safety crosswalks, push button activation for crossing pedestrians, indicated lights as well as more enhanced lighting in the area to make it safer for pedestrians to navigate through. He then asked the consensus of the Council with regards to responding back to DOT. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to revisit the matter after they have had time to review the reports from DOT which will, in turn, allow them time to incorporate some of their ideas as well as the residents' suggestions of how to make that intersection more pedestrian friendly.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Administration is starting to rollout the Social Media aspect for the Township and that Lawrence is now on Twitter. The Twitter account is twitter@lawrencetwpnj and Steve Groeger, former Superintendent of Recreation, was hired as a part-time employee to manage the account and their plan is to take a slow and conservative approach to the rollout. Councilwoman Lewis questioned how many posts are going out per day. Mr. Nerwinski replied approximately four to six posts.

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### **Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos reported there was no need for a Closed Session this evening which should be very pleasing to the Municipal Clerk. Further, a Lease Amendment with Hopewell Township was drafted some time ago but they are still waiting for Hopewell's input as they cannot move forward given the property is jointly owned and SBA is pushing them as the initial proposal was unusable and violated state law. Hopefully, by the next meeting he will have something to report and bring the matter to closure.

Mr. Roskos further advised that the Township needs to move on the re-zoning issue for the Brandywine property and he believes Clark Caton is already working on that matter but he just wanted to update the Council because the Judge has the town on a schedule to complete the settlement, and indicated just about every other town in the county has asked for an extension; but, he would like to avoid that option and try and get the re-zoning done as soon as possible.

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### **Clerk's Report –**

Ms. Norcia imparted she sent out an email about attendance at the League of Municipalities this year and asked the wishes of the Council with regards to attending the conference. Three members of Council confirmed their plans to attend.

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### **Unfinished Business –**

- A. Meeting with Board of Education on October 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room** - Mayor Maffei asked if everyone was okay with the Board of Education meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Powers and Councilwoman Lewis both advised that they would be out of town on business that day but should be back in time for the meeting. The Municipal Clerk asked if there were any objections to the Council remaining downstairs after the joint session for their regular session and letting the Homeowner's

Association who normally meet in the lower level meet in Council Chambers.  
There were no objections from members of Council.

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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**Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –**

There was no public participation.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 327-17 18 –A.1 through 357-17 18-H.15 was approved by 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						

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

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Ms. Lewis reminded everyone that Community Day is on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and this year they will have community yoga in the park and she suspects the flier for this event as well as additional information would be posted on the towns new twitter account.

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Mr. Bobbitt reported that the Growth & Redevelopment Committee is having their upcoming Annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Brio Grill in the Quakerbridge Mall and the keynote speaker will be Kevin Nerwinski, Lawrence Township Manager. The Committee further discussed Assembly Bill A-2452 which is a Bill to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages in smaller restaurants through a yearly permit program to be issued by the municipality and that

the Committee thought it would be a great idea because it would help various businesses in the Main Street area and the redevelopment that might take place at the Lawrence Shopping Center. He then distributed a sample resolution for Council's consideration.

Bobbitt stated another item of discussion was membership regarding the Growth & Redevelopment Committee who meets early in the month and usually misses out on their first meeting in January because they do not have enough members appointed by the Town Council; so, they were wondering if the meeting start date could be changed to February. Also, the Environmental Resources and Sustainability Green Advisory Committee would like to thank the Council for including the Environmental Inventory on the Master Plan.

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Mr. Powers advised that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee is looking for a new member as Doris Weisberg is relinquishing her position on the Shade Tree Committee but remaining on the Planning Board and asked the Council to look out for anyone with tree expertise that might be interested in filling the position.

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Mayor Maffei further advised that people are needed for the Historic Preservation Committee, preferably, somebody who has architectural, building or contracting experience. The Municipal Clerk further advised that they have a vacancy on the Zoning Board and asked if the Council would like to hold off until they make appointments in January. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to hold off since there is nothing urgent on the agenda.

There were no additional Liaison Reports.

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**Written Communications –**

There was no written communication.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7.35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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David C. Maffei, Mayor