

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

January 3, 2017

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, January 3, 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 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, January 3, 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, Powers and Mayor Maffei.
Absent: None.

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

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

Chief Ryan Dlabik	Lawrence Road Fire Company
Chief Michael Filandro	Lawrenceville Fire Company

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

Ms. Patricia Johnson, 2111 Princeton Pike, spoke about her house being burglarized last year and the vandalism that took place and people not understanding the importance of the police force when something of that magnitude happens; an incident that made her realize how great the Lawrence police force is and proceeded to discuss some of the negative media regarding police and police officers not always getting the special recognition they deserve. She further discussed the extensive vandalism and damage that took place at her home, how terrified she was to enter her home after the burglary and what the Police Officers did to protect and console her after the incident and how appreciative and thankful she is to the Lawrence Township Police Department and suggested that the Council in their decision-making process make no cuts to the men and women in the police division who protect the citizens of Lawrence. Mayor Maffei thanked Ms. Johnson for her comments and advised that her comments would be passed on to Chief Ubry.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk asked that Resolution (18GG) - Authorizing the Appointment of a Municipal Court Public Defender for 2017 and Resolution (18-QQ) – Authorizing Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Boards, be added to agenda.

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.

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

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 Awarding Construction Contract for Storage Facility at Central Park to Roofing & Siding by Bill Riches, LLC, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 37- 17

WHEREAS, on Thursday, December 8, 2016 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Central Park Maintenance Facility Re-bid**; and

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

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Roofing & Siding by Bill Riches who submitted a base bid in the amount of \$237,000.00, 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-04-55-415-221 (Ordinance No. 2228-16 – Various Capital Improvements - \$75,000.00) and 7-16-56-843-299 (Open Space - \$162,000.00); 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 Roofing & Siding by Bill Riches, 210 Elmtowne Boulevard, Hammonton NJ 08037 in the amount of \$237,000.00 (Base Bid only); 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.
Nays: None.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun imparted that he has no matters to report this evening.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Roskos advised that the Affordable Housing Trial is scheduled to begin on January 9th, and there are still some arguments about what should or should not be part of the record before Judge Jacobson. At this point there are only five towns remaining that are pursuing litigation (Princeton, Hopewell, East Windsor, West Windsor and Lawrence Township) and it is his understanding Hamilton and Robbinsville have agreed to settle although their settlements have not been finalized. It is also rumored that Robbinsville's settlement may be subject to further changes given it has not been adopted as of yet and indicated Lawrence is essentially one of the five towns dealing with the methodology issue that will affect the entire State of New Jersey.

Mr. Roskos further advised that he wrote a letter to Trial Counsel on the matter and copied Council as well, as he wanted them to understand what Lawrence's unique situation is, it was information that was gathered by the Andy Link, Township Planner, that made him reach out to Jeffrey Surenian and the town's expert Dr. Peter Angelides about a chart essentially showing that Lawrence Township has developed more affordable housing than any other town in Mercer County and they are not even the largest municipality in the county.

Mr. Roskos went on to discuss the data that showed Lawrence being in the forefront of affordable housing for three decades and the huge numbers being proposed by the Fair Share Housing expert and his lack of understanding as to how other communities numbers are going down when those communities have not produced anything close to what Lawrence Township has produced in affordable housing over the last three decades.

Mr. Roskos further discussed the matter being very complex and the experts proposed numbers not being fundamentally fair to Mercer County and him wanting to bring this matter to the attention of the experts as well as Judge Jacobson. Additional dialogue took place relative to Lawrence not being appreciated for their contributions of affordable housing over the last 30 years, the Trial by the Court being long and drawn out based on a number of issues in hopes of a possible settlement, the Court waiting for the Supreme Court decision on the “gap” issue and Phil Caton, Planning Board Consultant, coming to the next meeting to further explain the litigation in Executive Session. General discussion ensued relative each expert’s proposed numbers, the methodology and settlement numbers defying logic.

Clerk’s Report –

There was no Clerk’s report.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

There was no new business.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 1-17 (18-A) through 46-17(18-SS) was 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.

Appointment to Boards and Committee

Mayor Maffei advised that the Liaisons will be casting their nominations for the nominees appointed to the following Boards:

PLANNING BOARD – (Edward Wiznitzer, Class IV - 4 year term ending 12/31/20; Stephanie Pangaldi, Alternate #2 - 2 year term ending 12/31/18)

Resolution No. 47-17 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – (Peter Kremer, Regular - 4 year term ending 12/31/20; Sheila Grant, Regular - 4 year term ending 12/31/20; William Holmes, Alternate #1 - 2 year term ending 12/31/18)

Resolution No. 47-17 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

David C. Maffei, Mayor