

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

October 21, 2025

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Farmer announced that October is part of National Hispanic Heritage Month, and shared a favorite quote from Justice Sonia Sotomayer, "The Latina in me is an ember that blazes forever."

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Farmer 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, October 21, 2025, 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 19, 2024.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Perry, Santos and Mayor Farmer.
Absent: None.

Also in attendance was Tyler Newman, Esq., Acting Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Mr. Jeremy Ryan, member of the Growth and Redevelopment Committee, thanked Council for the opportunity to provide an update. Over the past eighteen months, he revealed that the Committee has been focused on their mission to understand how they can best serve both the Town Council and the Lawrence business community in the years ahead. He stated that the result is a focused plan built around four strategic priorities to better reflect their purpose, which are to 1.) Facilitate Local Business Networking and Support, 2.) Promote Local Spending, 3.) Advocate for Technology to Improve Our Business Environment, and 4.) Enhance Integration and Advisory Role in Planning and

Development. To that end, some of the ideas Mr. Ryan shared were to host annual networking events, implement awareness programs, introduce incentives, advocate for developing and maintaining digital platforms, make Township business resources more accessible, and strengthen the committee's advisory role by systematically reviewing and commenting on upcoming planning and zoning initiatives that impact local businesses and economic development. Finally, Mr. Ryan explained that the committee recommended their name be changed to the *Business and Economic Growth Committee*, as it better aligns with their new direction.

Councilman Bobbitt asked if Council could obtain a copy of Mr. Ryan's presentation, to which Mr. Ryan replied that he had copies available, along with the committee's research materials.

Mayor Farmer stated that the Growth and Redevelopment Committee has done incredible work in the last few years, and the name change will provide a more accurate representation of their work.

Councilwoman Perry stated she is pleased to report the Growth and Redevelopment team has been conducting outreach to partners in Mercer County, where the business group, under the leadership of Anthony Carrabelli, Director of Mercer County Economic Development, has delivered presentations to local businesses to inform them of available County grants and resources.

Public Participation

Mr. Jeffrey Vamos, Senior Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, stated that he had the honor and privilege of serving on the Mayor's Task Force, which he felt was a wonderful experience. He discussed the two major themes, which were continuing the center's legacy and providing a broad variety of services to the community. Mr. Vamos expressed that he feels governance is the key to making these results happen and meeting these two major needs. He feels that gathering smart community leaders who are representative of different constituencies and interests, and who will work with the Council and Township Manager, will help create a blueprint for governance and management of the Community Center. Finally, Mr. Vamos suggested that this is an incredible opportunity for the Township to do something creative and wonderful for the Town.

Mr. Gary Backinoff, representative of *Lawrence Nonprofit Housing Inc.*, explained that his nonprofit has provided quality housing for hundreds of Lawrence Township families for over fifty years. He remarked that the Mayor's Task Force suggestions regarding the Community Center represent a "win-win" for the Township and community organizations to develop strategic partnerships, and that different groups working together provide great programs that benefit the community. He explained that the Executive Committee for the Lawrence Nonprofit Housing Inc. supports the Township's

ongoing collaboration with the Task Force to create a model that allows for input from various organizations to energize the Community Center and make it something wonderful.

Ms. Valandra Riggins expressed that she is a proud Lawrence Township community member, and has been shaped by the types of programs that have been discussed as possible resources the Community Center can provide to the residents. She supports having nonprofit organizations and programs such as *Every Child Valued* being incorporated into the plans for the Community Center. She provided testimony of her experience as a youngster within the program, and how the support she received helped her to thrive academically. She believes it is a lifeline for families, and hopes that the Community Center will not be used solely for a place of recreation.

Mr. Phillip Dowdell stated that he met Mr. Fred Vereen years ago and has learned all about the great things that Lawrence Township has done for the community, and disclosed that he is a board member for *Every Child Valued* program. He shared how Lawrence Township Public Schools serve the community, and provide many programs without adding to the local tax burden. He feels that the Community Center would best serve the residents by partnering with the Lawrence Township School System to provide many services to the community.

Mr. Chris Woolley first wished to praise former Lawrence Township High School graduate and current Toronto Blue Jays Coach, John Schneider, for leading his team to the World Series. Next, he relayed that he has an appointment on the 27th with the Franklin Township Youth Services Director with regard to how school and Township collaborations can work, which speaks to the point that Mr. Dowdell made earlier, and extended an invitation to come with him to those who are interested. Lastly, he read a letter on behalf of former school board member and current *Every Child Valued* board member, Anne Casale, as she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Her letter relayed the many benefits her son received throughout the years from participating in various Community Center programs, and her support for having the Community Center partner with nonprofits to further benefit the Lawrence Township community.

Mr. Fred Vereen stated he wanted to make sure people understood that the Community Center is not just for the Black community, or the Eggerts Crossing community, but for the entire Lawrence Township Community. He also thanked Councilman Bobbitt and Councilwoman Santos for taking the time to walk through the Eggerts Crossing neighborhood to bring awareness to the Community Center. Finally, he asked Council to heed the Task Force recommendations regarding the Community Center and work together for the betterment of all Lawrence Township residents.

Ms. Sylwia Kobus stated that it is wonderful to hear from members of the community who have benefited from the Community Center. She revealed that, until recently, she did not know the Center existed, but has now learned of all the wonderful things it has done for the community and is asking Council to support the Task Force recommendations for the Center. In addition, she acknowledged that although a small

segment of people completed the survey, everyone had the same opportunity to respond, and for those who did take the time to reply to the survey, their voices should be heard. Finally, she asked that Council support the Community Center "as is," with the addition of nonprofits and the inclusion of public-school programs and activities.

Ms. Elizabeth Ferguson, Director of Community Service at the Lawrenceville School, stated that having their students—who come from all across the country and around the world—engage with the Lawrence Community Center has been a true gift to the students, as well as to the families who benefit from the Center. She relayed that her children have benefitted from Community Center resources as well, and her whole family has participated in programs provided by the Center in conjunction with interreligious and interfaith groups. She recommends Council think about the ways the space can be utilized for all community members to bring everyone together.

Mr. John Scott stated that he and his wife raised their children in Lawrence Township after first moving here in 1977, and five of his nine grandchildren also reside in Lawrence. He explained that he is a retired architect, and understands that it can be a complicated process to renovate or build new facilities, but after having read the Mayor's Task Force report, he believes it provides a good foundation for Council to make decisions regarding the Community Center building. In addition, he believes supporting the Task Force recommendations is an opportunity for the Township to improve its standards and invest in its citizens. Finally, he would like Council to approve Community Center partnerships with programs that promote education, lifetime learning, healthy habits and physical activity for the betterment of the residents.

Mr. Devon Goodman stated he has been a member of the Lawrence Township community for twenty years, and shared that his family has benefitted from the *Every Child Valued* program offered at the Community Center. He explained the Community Center was a safe space for his children, who developed bonds of friendship over the years that still exist today. He expressed that he is so proud to have been a part of the Community Center, as it means a lot to him, as it does to the Lawrence Township community.

Mayor Farmer thanked the members of the public for coming tonight to share their thoughts and show their support for the Mayor's Task Force, noting that their commitment and time is appreciated. She then recognized Mercer County Clerk, Paula Sollami Covello, and stated that she is here tonight to deliver a presentation regarding Italian American Heritage Month.

Ms. Paula Sollami Covello, Mercer County Clerk, stated that she appreciates Lawrence Township's yearly recognition of Italian American Heritage Month, as both a Lawrence Township resident and Clerk of Mercer County. She shared that she is of Italian American decent, and recounted the wonderful opportunities her parents and their family were given, and the goals and achievements they were able to realize, by coming to the United States of America. Ms. Sollami Covello reflected that in 2018, she and her daughters were able to travel to Italy to read a proclamation to the Mayor of her

grandfather's town, so she feels that this is a "full circle moment" and is very proud to present Council with a *Certificate of Recognition* for their acknowledgement of Italian American Heritage Month. After reading aloud the Certificate of Recognition, she handed the document to Council.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

Councilwoman Perry requested that Item 19 *Council Initiative & Liaison Reports*, with regard to the Growth and Redevelopment Committee report, be moved up on the agenda for discussion due to scheduling conflicts.

On a motion by Ms. Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Santos, the Agenda was amended to include the report under *Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations*, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Perry, Santos and Mayor Farmer.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

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Councilman Bobbitt requested that Ordinance No. 2501-25 (11.B) AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE, RELEASE AND EXTINGUISH ANY AND ALL DEDICATION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS IN OR TO CERTAIN PORTIONS OF HAVESON AVENUE ADJACENT TO BLOCK 302, LOT 2 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY be tabled, as he has questions and would like the Manager to be present so that he can speak to his concerns.

On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Santos, Adoption of Ordinance No. 2501-25 (11.B) was moved to table on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Perry, Santos and Mayor Farmer.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.  
Abstain: None.

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## Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Santos, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 26, 2025 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL      | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt  | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Perry    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Santos   | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mayor Farmer | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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On a motion by Councilwoman Santos, seconded by Councilman Kownacki, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 15, 2025 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt					X		
Mr. Kownacki	X						X
Ms. Perry	X						
Ms. Santos	X					X	
Mayor Farmer	X						

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On a motion by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Santos, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 21, 2025 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL      | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt  | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Perry    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Santos   | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mayor Farmer | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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## Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Ms. Santos, Resolution (9-A) Authorizing Award of Bid 25-02: Richard T. Barrett Paving for NJDOT Trust Fund Improvements – Glenn Avenue and Stonicker Drive was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 329-25

WHEREAS, on Thursday, October 9, 2025 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Bid 25-02: NJDOT Trust Fund Improvements Glenn Avenue and Stonicker Drive**; and

WHEREAS, five (5) 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 \$653,545.60; 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;

| Acct.           | Ord. No. | Name                                      | Amount       |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| C-04-55-516-244 | 2493-25  | Glenn Avenue & Stonicker Drive            | \$174,835.60 |
| G-02-41-235-299 | ----     | 2024 NJDOT Glenn Avenue & Stonicker Drive | \$478,710.00 |

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 in the amount of \$653,545.60; 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.

Adopted: October 21, 2025

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Perry, Santos and Mayor Farmer.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.  
Abstain: None.

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On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Ms. Santos, Resolution (9.B) Authorizing Award of Bid 25-14: Pro Bros Management, LLC for Municipal Roads and Drainage Improvements was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 330-25

WHEREAS, on Thursday, October 9, 2025 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Bid 25-14: Municipal Roads and Drainage Improvements**; and

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

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Pro Bros. Management, LLC., who submitted a bid in the amount of \$108,700.00; 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;

Acct.	Ord. No.	Name	Amount
C-04-55-501-242	2468-24	Various Road Projects	\$108,700.00

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 Pro Bros Management, LLC., 99 Betts Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648., in the amount of \$108,700.00; 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.

Adopted: October 21, 2025

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Perry, Santos and Mayor Farmer.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Farmer read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$29,588.85, THEREFORE, AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF."

Ordinance No. 2500-25

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$29,588.85, THEREFORE, AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF

WHEREAS, at the request of certain owners of properties identified herein, the Township of Lawrence has previously authorized and undertaken certain sidewalk improvements; and

WHEREAS, the understanding between the property owners and the Township was that these improvements would be specially assessed against the properties; and

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to authorize the special assessment of the cost of such improvements;

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

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3 of this ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Lawrence, New Jersey as a local improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$29,588.85.

Section 2. (a) The improvement hereby authorized is the improvement of the sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons along the streets listed below. The affected properties, listed by name of record owner, street address, block, lot and assessment amounts are as follows:

BLOCK	LOT	OWNER OF RECORD	PROPERTY ADDRESS	TOTAL COST
407	53,54	Thomas Morris	730 Pilgrim Avenue	\$373.36
1501	15	Mark T. Manning & Dana M. Jasinski	105 Graf Avenue	\$1306.76
1502	29	Richard & Eleanor W. Edling	134 Graf Avenue	\$746.72
1607	18	John C Odalen	711 Nathan Hale Avenue	\$1,913.47
1705	7	Dariusz Zajchowski	147 Lakedale Drive	\$3,266.90
1903	19,20	Marc Whitman	102 Roxboro Road	\$933.40
1906	18	Suzanne Hatley	106 Gedney Road	\$583.38
1907	18	Robert Freeman	2 Gedney Road	\$2,053.48
2101	30	Lawrence Stevens	70 Hopatcong	\$1493.44
2402	141	Emily R B Eischen	7 Rydal Drive	\$1493.44
2501	32.08	Hai-An Hsu & Kuan-Lin Ko	14 Mink Court	\$186.68
2701.01	62.30	Mark Rudnick & Robin Holowatch	20 Karena Lane	\$560.04
4201	67	Michelle Pheiff	72 Fountayne Lane	\$746.72
4201.03	102	Balakumar & Savitha Nallathambi	231 Fountayne Lane	\$373.36
5201.02	7	William & Mary Teresa Rodgers	21 Vaccaro Road	\$1,166.81
5201.05	53	Asim & Nishat Azfar	7 Canal View Drive	\$186.68
5201.06	17	Bharat & Ramanjit Bhushan	7 Richards Road	\$350.03
5201.07	9	Sanjay C & Dimple S Jagani	24 Richards Road	\$186.68
5201.07	25	Cesar C. Lopez & Alzoray A. Rojas	18 Marchesi Drive	\$700.05
BLOCK	LOT	OWNER OF RECORD	PROPERTY ADDRESS	TOTAL COST
5201.07	32	Peter & Amanda Jayne Schofield	4 Marchesi Drive	\$746.72
5201.08	3	Chia-Yi Tseng & Chih-Wen Chen	115 Canal View Drive	\$373.36
5201.09	8	Sougato, Sharmistha & Shuvan Mitra	110 Canal View Drive	\$186.68
5201.09	30	Bernard J Jr. & Jennifer E Critelli	78 Canal View Drive	\$2,100.15
5703	177	Lisa M Manus & Andrew R Schanck	12 Valerie Lane	\$746.72
5901	6.01	Mark A & Kathryn A Andrew	2 Poinsett Drive	\$746.72
6201	28	Tiffany H & Bruce I Willner	4 Wilk Court	\$560.04
6201.01	42	Thomas S. Tesuaro Sr Lvg Trust	3 Glenbrook Court	\$1,353.43
6201.01	43	Gregory & Susanne Adamsky	1 Glenbrook Court	\$2,613.52
6201.03	7.01	Wael H. & Sanna & Jenna Quasmieh	1 Overlook Way	\$1,540.11

(b) The estimated cost of the improvement or purpose is equal to the amount of the appropriation herein made therefore.

Section 3. The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance shall be undertaken as a sidewalk improvement and the cost thereof shall be assessed in the following manner. An accurate account of the cost of construction of the sidewalks shall be kept, and such cost shall be assessed upon the several properties fronting on the improvement in proportion to their respective frontage or square yardage thereon pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:65-1 et seq.

Section 4. The owner of any land upon which any assessment for the local improvement shall have been made may pay such assessment in the number of equal yearly installments herein determined, with legal interest, currently six-percent (6%) on the unpaid balance of the assessment. The first of the installments shall be due and payable two months after the confirmation of the assessment, and each subsequent annual installment and interest shall be payable in each successive year thereafter at such time as the governing body shall by resolution determine, provided that any owner of land so assessed shall have the privilege of paying the whole of any assessment or of any balance of installments with accrued interest thereon at any time. Whenever any such installment shall remain unpaid for thirty (30) days from and after the time it shall become due and payable, the whole assessment or balance thereof shall become and be immediately due and payable and shall draw interest at the rate imposed upon the arrearage of taxes in the Township and shall be collected in the same manner as provided by law for other past due assessments. Such assessment shall remain a lien upon the land described herein until the assessment with all installments and accrued interest thereon shall be paid and satisfied. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Township shall have the right to waive default as may be permitted by law.

Section 5. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of this ordinance is not a current expense. It is an improvement or purpose that the Township may lawfully undertake as a local improvement the cost of which shall be specially assessed in the manner provided herein.

(b) The number of annual installments within which the special assessments are to be levied on the lots and parcels of real estate affected by the improvement is five (5).

(c) The Township will not contribute to the payment of any part of the cost of the improvement.

(d) The estimated maximum aggregate amount of the special assessments is \$29,588.85.

Adopted: October 21, 2025

The Ordinance No. 2500-25 was approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X					X	
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Perry	X						
Mr. Santos	X						X
Mayor Farmer	X						

Manager's Report –

There was no manager's report.

Attorney's Report –

There was no attorney's report.

Clerk's Report –

Ms. Carter reported that sample ballots will be mailed on October 22, 2025, early voting will take place from October 25th through November 2nd, the deadline to apply for mail-in ballots will be on October 28th, and Election Day will be held on November 4th.

Ms. Carter shared that the *Younity* "24th Annual Communities of Light" event will take place on October 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building.

Due to Election Day, Ms. Carter reported that the next Council meeting will take place on Thursday, November 6th.

Ms. Carter relayed that she is continuing to work on the new OPRA program, and hopes to have it up and running by the beginning of November.

Unfinished Business –

Mayor Farmer stated that Council will continue to have discussions with regard to the Community Center, and she will share updates with the public as they become available.

Old Business/New Business –

There was no old/new business.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

Mr. Ken Kiernan stated that during the last Council meeting, it was mentioned the Township may lose the \$725,000 Fire Study grant, and suggested that this is a huge error on the part of Council, under the leadership of then-Mayor John Ryan. He emphasized that this issue continues to be "kicked down the road" and may cost the Township significant grant money toward the Fire and EMS departments, and suggested Council needs to address this issue and stop pushing decisions down the road.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 331-25 (18-D.1) though 339-25 (18-H.6) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X					X	
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Perry	X						
Ms. Santos	X						X
Mayor Farmer	X						

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Councilwoman Perry stated that there seems to be confusion regarding Lawrence Township's form of government, because prior to any decisions being made, the day to day operations of the Township are based upon the recommendations of the Municipal Manager. She wished to clarify that Mr. Nerwinski is making every effort to ensure that there is no loss of grant money, and stressed that Council will not rush, because a wrong decision is a bad decision.

Councilman Kownacki reported that there is no new information regarding the Ewing Lawrence Sewage Authority (ELSA) other than waiting for the final approval from the DEP, who are extremely slow. He also reported that the Lawrence Township

Veterans' Day event will be held on November 11th, at 11:00 a.m. in front of Town Hall. He relayed that they will have speakers from the United States military, as well as a singer who will perform at the ceremony.

Mayor Farmer announced that she attended the Mercer County Italian American Heritage event with Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello yesterday, and stated that the day was beautiful, and the event was very well put together. She revealed that she also had the opportunity to attend a Diwali Celebration at the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham temple in Robbinsville, and felt that it was a tremendous opportunity to attend as a representative of Lawrence Township, as our Township has a strong and diverse south Asian community.

Mayor Farmer reported that, as October is Hispanic Heritage Month, Governor Murphy signed into law legislation that will include Latino American curriculum from grades K-12 in the State of New Jersey.

Mayor Farmer shared that Lawrence Township native and coach of the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team, John Schneider, will be going to the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on October 24th. She stated that the Township is proud of him and wished him congratulations.

Mayor Farmer relayed that Lawrence Middle School teacher, Jeanette Caputi, was presented with a \$25,000 award on Friday from the Secretary of Education, a statewide honor that she received in the presence of her students and faculty in the middle school gym.

Mayor Farmer wished to thank Senator Shirley Turner for her Anchor Program that took place last week at the Mercer County Library, and indicated that it was a very successful event, as well as an opportunity for helping residents of the community "put a little money in their pockets." She relayed that Mercer County Clerk, Paula Sollami Covello, held a similar event through the *Mercer County Connection* in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Mayor Farmer next recognized Councilman Bobbitt for all of his good works in the community, and efforts being carried out across the Township.

Written Communications –

There were no written communications.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tonya D. Carter, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Patricia Farmer, Mayor