

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

March 3, 2026

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Bobbitt 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, March 3, 2026, 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 12, 2025.

The roll was then called as follows:

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

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager, Arthur Sypek, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Mayor Christopher Bobbitt announced that the 2026 Department Head Budget Presentations will be held tonight, and welcomed Health Officer, Keith Levine, to begin his presentation.

2026 Municipal Budget Presentation
Health Department – Keith Levine, Health Officer

Lawrence Township Health Officer, Mr. Keith Levine, greeted Council and began his presentation. He relayed that the Health Department's primary responsibility is to protect the health of the residents of Lawrence Township and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. To that end, he shared the three core public health functions

performed by the department, which are to: 1) Assess and monitor the health of the community and at-risk populations in order to identify health problems and priorities, 2) Formulate public policies with community and government leaders to address local and national public health problems and priorities, and 3) Provide populations with access to appropriate and cost-effective care, including health promotion, disease prevention and follow-up evaluation.

Mr. Levine then disclosed the Health Department's core responsibilities and detailed the duties involved as it relates to: Community and Environmental Health Activities, Emergency Preparedness, Health Education, Promotion and Advocacy, Adult Health Promotion and Adult Health Services, Air and Noise Pollution Control, Maternal and Child Health Promotion, Rabies and Animal Control, Water Quality Protection, Vital Statistics, Administrative Activities, Retail Food Establishments, Public Bathing Places, Youth Camps, Public Health Nuisances, Individual Water Supplies (Wells) and Sewage Disposal (Septic Systems), Tanning, Body Art and Massage Establishments, Childhood Lead Poisoning, Public Health Nursing Services, Child Health Conferences, Immunization Audits, Communicable & Reportable Diseases, Communicable Disease Prevention, and finally, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis Control.

Mr. Levine highlighted the Health Department's 2025 achievements, including receiving the *Top Honors Honor Roll Award* from the NJ Department of Health for their work in flu prevention and vaccination, an honor shared by only one other health department in the State that year. He shared that the Health Department completed a year-long *Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers* program within the Child Health Clinic in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to review vaccination rates, as well as to improve the efficiency of the clinics. Mr. Levine revealed that through County and Federal programs, the Health Department distributed approximately 3,500 free COVID-19 home test kits.

The Health Department Budget was then discussed, with Mr. Levine reporting a total annual Health Budget of \$39,550 for 2025, of which a total of \$25,627.41 was spent. In addition, he relayed a total annual Animal Control Budget of \$49,453.29, of which \$49,453.29 was spent. He then disclosed the various expenses each department incurred, as well the grant funding that was secured by the Health Department.

Mr. Levine next discussed the challenges facing the Health Department for the next five years, such as climate change, as it pertains to the issues of flooding, drought, heat, diseases from insects (mosquitos, ticks, etc.), as well as reemergent diseases (measles, tuberculosis, avian flu, etc.).

Mr. Levine concluded his presentation by stating that supporting one's local Health Department is the best way to stay prepared and adapt to any number of current and future threats our community may face.

Mayor Bobbitt relayed that he visited the Health Department to pick up Radon Testing Kits, which are available to Township residents at no cost, and asked Mr. Levine

if there are any other services like this for residents to take advantage of, to which Mr. Levine replied that there are free Covid-19 test kits available to Township residents, as well as free home visits for vaccinations to home-bound residents.

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**2026 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Construction Department**  
**James DeForte, Construction Official/Plumbing Sub-code Official**

Construction Official/Plumbing Sub-code Official, Mr. James DeForte, greeted Council and began his presentation. He stated that the Construction Department budget has remained the same, and relayed that his department currently has four (4) full-time clerical staff and one (1) part-time staff member, as well as four (4) sub-code inspectors with one (1) part-time inspector. He revealed that they have processed 2627 permit applications, 120 Certificate of Occupancies, and a total of 8,028 inspections during 2025.

Mr. DeForte disclosed his department's current and upcoming projects, including multi-family units located on Texas Avenue, several ventures along Spruce Street, projects at the Lawrenceville Preparatory School, and initiatives at the Bristol Meyers Squibb (BMS) campuses on Route 206 and Princeton Pike. He shared that D.R. Horton and Ryan Homes have completed their developments. He also noted that the Construction Department has been in discussions with officials regarding the 299 Princeton Pike project and is expected to submit demolition permit applications soon, allowing the project to move forward. There is currently a condominium project on hold at Spruce Street due to ground remediation issues, but he conveyed that they will contact the Construction Department to resume development once the problem has been resolved

Mr. DeForte reported that his department is implementing an electronic filing system via the *Eplan* software company. He noted that electronic submissions will not be taken until the clerical staff have completed their last round of training, and anticipates that the system will "go live" during the first or second week of May. Finally, Mr. DeForte revealed that the Construction Department currently has 630 boxes of old documents stored in the basement, and hopes to have the documents scanned and stored electronically in the near future.

Mayor Bobbitt asked if the new Eplan will lighten the Construction Office workload and help the Clerk's office with regard to OPRA requests, to which Mr. DeForte replied that this is their expectation. He said that it allows their office to go paperless, and will speed up the process.

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2026 Municipal Budget Presentation
Emergency Management Department
Jack Oakley, Emergency Management Coordinator

Lawrence Township Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Jack Oakley, thanked Council for allowing him the opportunity to speak at tonight's meeting. He first reviewed the department hierarchy and table of organization, briefly discussing their responsibilities. Mr. Oakley revealed that they have completed their Emergency Operations Plan at the FEMA level, and are prepared to mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of all hazards that may occur within Lawrence Township, as well as seek to promote safer, less vulnerable communities with the capacity to cope with hazards and disasters.

Mr. Oakley discussed the *Career Fire Staff*, stating that Lawrence Township has employed nine (9) career firefighters in 2025 who have been deployed as three three-man crews, operating Tower 20 from Slackwood firehouse, and Engine 202 (acting Engine 20) and Resue 20 from the Lawrenceville firehouse. With regard to the Volunteer Staff, he indicated that the Township has volunteer stations at Slackwood, Lawrence Road and Lawrenceville, with continued efforts to recruit potential members.

Mr. Oakley next discussed the *Emergency Medical Division*, stating that Lawrence Township has employed one (1) Supervising Chief, Ms. Christine Vincent, ten (10) full-time staff members and twenty (20) per-diem personnel who respond to emergencies twenty-four hours a day, three-hundred-sixty-five days a year.

Mr. Oakley reported the *Fire Division* and *EMS's* major accomplishments. He revealed that the Fire Division has been dispatched to over 1,440 emergency assignments, installed 32 car seats, and provided fire safety presentations to several hundred students. Next, he relayed that the EMS personnel have responded to 4,291 emergency dispatches, transported 2,569 patients to medical facilities, and have been involved with many community outreach programs. Finally, he reported that the Fire and EMS departments have acquired two (2) *Lucas* automated CPR devices via a grant through Bristol Myers Squibb.

Mr. Oakley then discussed the *Fire Marshal's Office* and the *Housing Department*, stating that Lawrence Township has employed one (1) Fire Marshal, Mr. Ed Tencza, two (2) full-time fire inspectors, one (1) housing inspector, and one (1) fire inspector/administrative assistant. He explained that they are responsible for enforcing the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code in all Lawrence Township businesses, conducting fire safety permit inspections, investigating all fires and explosions, inspecting all single and two-family dwellings (when properties are being sold or rented), inspecting all multiple dwellings annually, and verifying compliance with both smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers. In addition, he noted, they completed 3,430 multiple unit inspections in 2025.

Finally, Mr. Oakley reported that the *2026 Emergency Management Operating Budget* is in the amount of \$615,000, which will cover the Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Ambulance Services, Fire Services, Fire Inspections, OSHA, Volunteer Fire Stations, Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) and Utilities. He then discussed the *2026 Emergency Management Capital Budget*, which includes items that must be purchased for departmental use, such as Turnout Gear, SCBA's, Radios and Pagers, Fire Reporting System, three (3) Deputy Vehicles, a Ladder Truck, 4X4 Crew Cab, and Fire Truck Restoration.

Discussion was had between Council and Mr. Oakley regarding the use of Lock Boxes for weapons that will be placed in this year's budget, the various fire houses operating as one fire service, and the functionality of mutual aid between Lawrence Township and neighboring townships.

2026 Municipal Budget Presentation
Police Department – Kevin Reading, Jr., Chief of Police

Lawrence Township Chief of Police, Kevin Reading, Jr., began his presentation by thanking Council and expressing his appreciation for allowing him the opportunity to present his budget.

Chief Reading reported that in 2025, the Lawrence Township Police Department was staffed with sixty three (63) full-time sworn Police Officers, one (1) full-time SLEO I/Mental Health Coordinator, five (5) full-time SLEO III School Resource Officers, three (3) full-time Records Clerks, one (1) full-time Secretary to the Chief of Police, one (1) part-time Secretary to the Investigation Division, one (1) part-time Clerk Firearms Backgrounds, two (2) part-time Property & Evidence Clerks (Digital Evidence/Physical Evidence), and nine (9) full-time Dispatchers.

Chief Reading next revealed the Police Department's purpose, which is to protect life and property, preserve the peace, and serve the community with integrity, professionalism, and accountability. He revealed that his organizational staffing structure is designed to support patrol operations, investigations, traffic safety, community engagement, and administrative oversight. Chief Reading indicated that every division works together toward one common goal, which is to deliver high-quality, responsive police services to the residents of Lawrence Township. He disclosed that officers responded to 28,019 calls for service in 2025, and listed accomplishments achieved, such as the successful transition to a new Enforsys Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, the completion of the departmental accreditation process, and the fulfillment of various community and safety investments.

Finally, Chief Reading announced that he was proud to report a zero-percent increase from the 2025 budget, with a 2026 capital expenditure focus on three primary areas: 1) Axon Body Worn Camera Technology and Storage, 2) Artificial Intelligence Tools for Officers, and 3) Community Engagement Initiatives.

Discussion was had between Council and Chief Reading regarding the fact that AI tools are not currently being used within the Police Department, questions pertaining to the Blue Voice AI Assistant tool for the officers, and a description of the new CAD system.

2026 Municipal Budget Presentation
Public Works Department – Gregory Whitehead, Director of Public Works

Lawrence Township Director of Public Works, Mr. Gregory Whitehead, thanked Council for allowing him to present his Budget at tonight's meeting. He began his presentation by giving a division summary of the number of personnel in each department, which is as follows: Director (1), Administration (2), Street Division (16), Buildings and Grounds (4), Parks Division (10), Vehicle Maintenance (4), and Ecological Facility (staffed from the Street Division). He reported that there were no new staffing requests for 2025, and then shared the efforts made toward employee reduction, such as implementing shared services, contracting service for janitorial and grass cutting, providing cross training, making strategic equipment purchases, computerizing the Public Works operation pertaining to the Work Order System and Complaint/Request Automation, and implementing division cross-over with regard to snow plowing, leaf collection and the ecological facility.

Mr. Whitehead revealed the 2025 Operating Budgets for the various departments, which include: \$125,000 for the *Parks Division*, \$356,000 for *Buildings and Grounds Division*, \$141,000 for the *Street Division*, \$474,000 for the *Vehicle Maintenance Division*, and declared that there was a zero-percent increase for each of these departments. He relayed that while the Public Works Department has not increased their budget over the past several years, their costs have increased between ten to twenty percent; therefore, his department must find better ways to do things, search for cheaper prices, hire better contractors, and find more efficient ways to get the work done.

Finally, Mr. Whitehead addressed the 2025 Capital Requests for the Public Works Department, which include: Central Park fencing, two (2) zero-turn mowers, one (1) compactor truck, one (1) HVAC replacement program, one (1) dump truck with plow and sander, one (1) four-post mobile vehicle lift, one (1) pneumatic tire changer with bead assist, and various police fueling equipment.

Discussion was had between Council and Mr. Whitehead regarding Public Works' exceptional snow removal efforts this winter season, the electric zero-turn mower currently in their fleet (and the feasibility of purchasing another), the possible PSE&G programs pertaining to the HVAC replacement program, the cleanliness of the Public Works garage, the automated recycling program process, and the fact that Lawrence Township has experienced leadership who care about the tax payer's money and search for ways to create savings.

2026 Municipal Budget Presentation
Recreation Department – Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation

Superintendent of Recreation, Ms. Nancy Bergen, greeted Council and stated that she will begin her presentation by discussing the three different divisions that fall under the umbrella of the Recreation Department, which are: 1) Recreation, 2) Senior Center/Office on Aging, and 3) Special Events.

Ms. Bergen began with *Recreation*, reporting that there are three (3) staff members, which include herself, Mr. Jeffrey Radice and Ms. Emily Suydam, both of whom are Recreation Leaders, with an Operating Budget of \$133,000. She highlighted the Recreation Department's key services and community impact, which include delivering year-round programs, hosting community events, and promoting facility support that strengthens Lawrence Township. She explained that her budget request sustains core services, supports Township traditions, and keeps pace with continued community demand. She relayed that over two thousand residents are served through the Recreation programs, reflecting high demand and continued growth.

Next, Ms. Bergen discussed the *Senior Center/Office on Aging*, reporting that there are three (3) staff members, which include Ms. Lillian LaSalle, Executive Director, Ms. Natasha Pacera, Recreation Leader, and Mr. Kevin O'Shea, Senior Van Transportation Driver/Clerk, with an Operating Budget of \$30,000. She explained that the Senior Center serves residents ages 60-years-old and older with a plethora of programs, activities and social events that support wellness and community connection. She relayed that transportation is provided for trips to the Center, as well as to shopping and medical appointments when available. Ms. Bergen explained that hot lunches are offered to registered seniors through the Mercer County Nutrition Program.

Finally, Ms. Bergen reviewed the *Special Events*, explaining that the Recreation Department plans, coordinates and delivers special events that attract thousands of residents, strengthen community pride, and preserve the Township traditions that bring neighbors together, with an Operating Budget of \$22,000. Planning successful events, she noted, requires significant planning and coordinating many months in advance, which entails scheduling and site planning, obtaining permits and insurance requirements, managing vendors and contractors, contracting rentals and equipment, booking entertainment, strategizing layout and logistics, providing public communication and promotion, and maintaining on-site supervision before, during and after each event.

Discussion was had between Council and Ms. Bergen regarding the amazing job the Recreation Department does with both their staff members and the Recreation Advisory Committee, emphasizing their phenomenal community engagement and behind-the-scenes work, as well as the Recreation Committee's growth since the pandemic.

Mayor Bobbitt thanked all of the department heads for their presentations, and emphasized that the Township is fortunate to have so many dedicated and experienced

people working for the community, which makes Council's job much easier. He then commented that everyone will retire at some point, and for this reason, asked that they think about how to pass on the "Lawrence way" of doing things to the next generation of departmental leadership. Lastly, he commended the department heads for their use of technology to improve their delivery of services.

Mayor Bobbitt then called for a five-minute recess, after which the Public Participation portion of the meeting began.

Public Participation

Mr. David Mizenko greeted Council and asked if they had any questions for him, now that they've had the opportunity to speak with Councilwoman Farmer, who is the Trails, Open Space, and Stewardship Advisory Committee liaison, and digest the information given to them from his presentation at the January 20th Council meeting. He reiterated that the Committee's focus for 2026 was organized into three top priorities: *Saturn Chemical*, *Shabakunk US1B Bridge at Colonial Lake Park*, and *Greenways*. He asked if Council found these objectives achievable, and inquired whether the Township would undertake these initiatives.

Mayor Bobbitt thanked Mr. Mizenko for coming tonight and for his enthusiasm in reviewing the Trails, Open Space, and Stewardship Advisory Committee's three main objectives. He then asked Councilwoman Farmer—as the committee liaison—if she had spoken with Manager Kevin Nerwinski regarding these issues, to which Ms. Farmer stated that she intends to share this information with Mr. Nerwinski as well as Council.

Mr. Charlie Micciche stated that he is a resident of Colonial Lakes, and would like to inform Council that there is a health crisis at the Lawrenceville Shopping Center. He explained that there are over twenty dead deer carcasses that have been dumped on the property, as well as 20 bags of construction debris, along with oil spills and a foul odor emanating from the site. He revealed that the creek located on this property has been clogged with trash, which is affecting a family of beaver who live in the creek. He asked if a specialist could visit the site and test the water and soil for contamination, as well as install a "trash trap" to help resolve this issue.

Mayor Bobbitt thanked Mr. Micciche for his passion, and relayed that this property is private, which makes the situation complicated, but assured Mr. Micciche that everyone on Council appreciates nature and understands the importance of the beaver, so they intend to get to the bottom of the situation.

Mr. Mark Gruber thanked Council for the opportunity to speak, and acknowledged all that Council does for the community. He stated that he is a sociologist who has recently moved to Lawrence Township, and explained that he is here tonight to speak about the art on display in the Township building, suggesting that it presents dangerous

subliminal messages to the community. In particular, Mr. Gruber takes issue with the picture of a man jumping over a chasm, with the tagline, "Take a Risk," as he believes this promotes risky behavior. In addition, he discussed what he considers to be an enormous breakthrough "on the female mind." He explained that this discovery reveals what is most important to every woman on earth, which is the need to be herself.

Mr. Greg Puliti greeted Council and explained that at the February 17th Council meeting, he brought the three-million-dollar "whistleblower lawsuit" to their attention and asked each member of Council to read the deposition and then contact him to discuss the unprofessional and unethical tactics he believes were involved; however, he received no response. He purported that each Councilmember has sought his endorsement in the past, but explained that when he has legitimate concerns about political corruption, they have remained silent.

Mayor Bobbitt responded to Mr. Puliti, explaining that three of the five members of Council have no firsthand-knowledge of that time period. Additionally, he relayed that Mr. Puliti gave them no questions to answer, just numbered sections of a partial copy of the deposition. For this reason, under the advisement of Counsel, Mayor Bobbitt reported that Council decided not to respond.

Municipal Attorney, Arthur Sypek, stated that he appreciates Mr. Puliti's questions, and after doing research, he is issuing a memorandum that will be made public through the Clerk's office with regard to the Township's legal position.

Mr. Nerwinski stated that he continues to be outraged and disappointed by Mr. Puliti's disingenuous statements. He remarked that Mr. Puliti's statements completely and purposefully eliminated the nature of what truly transpired. He shared that there is a bigger story of what happened, the truth of which is known by Council and Mr. Puliti himself. He expressed that he continues to try his best to do the work asked of him by Council.

Mayor Bobbitt publicly stated that he appreciates the work that Mr. Nerwinski does for Lawrence Township.

Councilwoman Giglio reported, for point of clarity, that she has never asked Mr. Puliti for his endorsement.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

Mr. Sypek and Mr. Nerwinski agreed that there will be a need for a closed session, but with the removal of *OPRA Actions and Litigation*, and with the addition of *Potential Acquisitions*.

On a motion by Councilwoman Santos, seconded by Councilwoman Farmer, Resolution No. 122-26 (18-H.7) was amended to: *Authorizing a Closed Session of Council Immediately Following the Regular Meeting to Discuss the Matters Dealing with Labor Negotiations and Potential Acquisitions.*

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

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, Resolution (9-A) Authorizing Awarding of Bid 26-01: 2025 Road Improvement Program – Phase 2 (Meco, Inc.) was presented for adoption.

Mr. Nerwinski stated that this is part of Lawrence Township's Road Improvement Program, Phase 2 for 2025.

Resolution No. 109–26

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as Bid 26-01: 2025 Road Improvement Program – Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, nine (9) bid were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Meco Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,330,083.50; 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-04-55-511-232	2493-25	Senior Ctr - Retaining Wall	\$50,000.00

C-04-55-516-241	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Cold Soil)	\$265,083.50
C-04-55-516-242	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Bergen)	\$250,000.00
C-04-55-516-243	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Mill)	\$35,000.00
C-04-55-516-247	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Forrest & Rossa)	\$150,000.00
C-04-55-516-248	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Lawn Park)	\$150,000.00
C-04-55-516-249	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Point)	\$250,000.00
C-04-55-516-251	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Tartan)	\$60,000.00
C-04-55-516-252	2493-25	Various Road Improvements (Hughes)	\$120,000.00

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 Mecor Inc., P.O. Box 536 Clarksburg, New Jersey 08510 in the amount of \$1,330,083.50; 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: March 3, 2026

Ayes: Councilmembers Farmer, Giglio, Kownacki, Santos and Mayor Bobbitt.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES" ORDINANCE NO. 2084-11 TO

RENAME THE GROWTH AND REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AS THE "BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE."

Ms. Santos explained that last year, the Growth and Redevelopment Committee evaluated their mission and devised a focused plan that was built upon four strategic priorities: 1) Facilitate Local Business Networking and Support, 2) Promote Local Spending, 3) Advocate for Technology to Improve Their Business Environment, and 4) Enhance Integration and Advisory and Planning and Development. They recommended a new name that reflects these four pillars and their new mission, which is *The Business and Economic Growth Committee*.

The Ordinance No. 2506-26 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 435 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" – Designation of One-Way Traffic Pattern for Public Alley."

Mr. Nerwinski stated that this designates a one-way traffic pattern for a public alley between Pear Street and Strawberry Street. This action arises from a request from nearby property owners, and was investigated, considered, and recommended by the Municipal Engineer.

Ordinance No. 2505-26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 435 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Chapter 435 of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1.

Section 435-47 "One-way Streets" is amended as follows:

Unnamed, Public Alley Westbound From Pear Street to City of Trenton

Section 2.

Section 435-51 "Turn prohibitions" is amended as follows:

Unnamed, Public Alley Left turn Moving south onto Strawberry Street

Section 3.

This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after adoption and / or upon installation of proper signage.

Section 4.

All ordinances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Adopted: March 3, 2026

The Ordinance No. 2505-26 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

Manager's Report –

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Township has been in extended communication and negotiation with Rider University to acquire a significant piece of open space—the woodlands behind the campus—for more than two years. He explained that although they have a deal in place, circumstances have required Rider to engage Mercer County, who have now taken the lead. He revealed that a public meeting and a vote have taken place on this and other issues relating to the "teaming up" of Mercer County and Rider, which represents very good news for the University. Mr. Nerwinski relayed that he and Mr. Sypek are working with the County to partner up and share in the acquisition of this open space because Rider University is important to the Lawrence Township community, and he would like both the community and Rider University to know that Lawrence Township is here to support their continued success in getting through this difficult time and returning back to a successful private institution. He believes that what has recently transpired is very good news, and Mercer County has come through in a massive way. Much of the work that has already been completed, he explained, was not done in vain, as they used much of the previously-compiled information to allow the County to act

swiftly to resolve this issue for Rider. Finally, Mr. Nerwinski offered his congratulations to both Rider University and to Mercer County.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Sypek wished to clarify that the meeting Mr. Nerwinski referred to was a formal meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, who have passed multiple resolutions with regard to Rider University. He relayed that the Township has had discussions with both the County Commissioners and County Executives, and observed that there is a concerted effort on the part of the County—through available funds—to help this great university survive. Mr. Sypek believes that the Township's participation, coupled with Mr. Nerwinski's efforts at organizing countless meetings with Rider University, have been very fruitful. He reflected that one can only imagine the problems that would befall Lawrence Township if Rider University ceased to exist.

Mayor Bobbitt shared that he had a meeting today with the County Executive, and they also discussed this issue. He expressed just how important Rider University is to Lawrence Township, and the County Executive was clear about how important Rider University is to Mercer County as well. Mr. Bobbitt noted that the preservation of the "Big Woods" is very special and important for the Lawrence Township community today, as well as for those who have attended the Lawrenceville School in the past.

Mr. Nerwinski stated that the Lawrence Hopewell Trail (LHT) segment that was envisioned to go through the Rider Campus was able to be redirected in a meaningful way, and Rider, the County, and Lawrence Township are all happy with further extending the LHT trail.

Clerk's Report –

Municipal Clerk, Tonya Carter, reported that Nominating Petitions for both County Committee and the Lawrence Township Council vacancy are due on March 23rd at 4:00 p.m. in the Lawrence Township Clerk's office for those who are running as *Democrat* or *Republican*. However, those who are running as *Independent* have up until 4:00 p.m. on Primary Day, and must file their petitions with the Mercer County Clerk's office.

Ms. Carter explained that a new law relating to Public Notices went into effect on March 1, 2026. This law requires that Township public documents be posted on the Lawrence Township website, as well as the Secretary of State website, under "Legal Notices."

Finally, Ms. Carter relayed that the new OPRA program is up and running efficiently, and is popular with the other Township departments. She reported that the Clerk's office has received over 300 OPRA requests since January 2026.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business/Old Business –

Mayor Bobbitt stated that, at the request of Councilman Kownacki, they postpone appointments to the Boards and Committees to afford newly-elected Councilwoman Giglio time to review the information.

Ms. Carter informed Council that she received two new applications for the Environmental and Green Advisory Committee, which she sent to Council for their review. In addition, positions for the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustment Committee have already been filled. Finally, Ms. Carter stated that she has given Council the most current roster for the Boards and Committees.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

Mr. Mark Gruber declared that "something very serious is going on," and explained that this is in relation to a breakthrough he has had in his research that pertains to a "parenting practice" for mothers to guide their daughters in enabling them to experience less painful monthly cycles. He claimed to be sent from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton to report child abuse if this information is not given by mothers to their daughters.

Councilman Kownacki addressed Mayor Bobbitt, and asked what this has to do with Lawrence Township. He expressed that this is a personal topic and he does not wish to hear any more from Mr. Gruber about this issue.

Mr. Sypek asked Mr. Gruber for clarification, inquiring if he is present tonight at the direction of the Diocese of Trenton, as Mr. Gruber previously stated, to which he replied "no," but the Diocese gave him "the thumbs up." Upon further questioning by Mr. Sypek, who asked if he has official recognition from the Diocese of Trenton, Mr. Gruber admitted that he did not actually have "the thumbs up" from the Diocese to speak at tonight's Council meeting. Mr. Sypek replied that if this is true, then Mr. Gruber cannot

make representations involving the Diocese of Trenton in a public meeting if he is not an official representative, and asked Mr. Gruber to refrain from doing that again. In addition, Mr. Sypek stated that this governmental entity has no jurisdiction over the criminal laws involving child abuse.

Mr. Charlie Micciche disclosed that he is not experienced in speaking with government officials, but wished to once again relay his concerns pertaining to the pollution problem at the Lawrence Shopping Center, and asked Council for their help.

Mayor Bobbitt stated that he appreciates Mr. Micciche's passion, and understands that public speaking is not easy, but strongly suggested that he stop going into the woods to pull out debris as it is unknown what hazardous items he may encounter. In addition, Mayor Bobbitt asked Mr. Micciche to send him an email of exactly where this area is located.

Mr. Nerwinski affirmed that Mr. Micciche's message has been received, and thanked him for coming tonight. He stated he reported this problem to the Health Department, who will begin an investigation, as well as to the Lawrence Township Chief of Police. Mr. Nerwinski indicated that the Director of Public Safety is present tonight and aware of the situation, and together, they will research how to engage the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), as it involves the negative impacting of the waterways. He disclosed that he will inform Senator Shirley Turner about this issue as well.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 110-26 (18-C.1) through Nos. 123-26 (18-H-8) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Ms. Farmer reported that Council has already heard from the Trails, Open Space, and Stewardship Advisory Committee with regard to Mr. Mizenko's commentary during Public Participation.

Ms. Farmer relayed that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee discussed their events for the year. She stated that they are interested in having Mayor Bobbitt attend an upcoming meeting in order to have a conversation with the committee, and they will prepare him ahead of time with regard to the topic of the discussion. She also noted that the Committee is seeking to fill positions for a student representative as well as a Police Officer.

Ms. Farmer shared that on Saturday, the Lawrence Historical Society honored former Mayor and Terhune Orchards co-owner, Ms. Pam Mount, as well Mr. Dan Haggerty, who has done much for the Lawrence Township Community.

Written Communications –

There were no written communications.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tonya D. Carter, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor