

REGULAR MEETING
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL MEETING IN LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM
AND BY TELE-CONFERENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, ET SEQ. AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 107

August 17, 2021

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Kownacki 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, August 17, 2021, 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 18, 2020.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.

Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager and David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

Councilman Ryan requested that Ordinance No. 2402-21 (10-A), An Ordinance to Repeal in its Entirety Ordinance No. 1691-02 Entitled 'An Ordinance Amending the Lawrence Township Code to Create a Human Relations Committee and Ordinance No. 2403-21 (10-B), Ordinance Creating the Lawrence Township Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, be removed from Agenda. (Councilman Lewis thanked Councilman Ryan for removing the Ordinances so that Council could continue to work on them.)

The Municipal Clerk further requested that the Agenda be amended to add Resolution No. 285-21 (18-E.1), Authorizing Recreation Fees: Resolution No. 286-21 (18-E.13), Authorizing PILOT Agreement with RPM Development, LLC; Introduction of Ordinance No. 2404-21 (10-C), An Ordinance Amending the Administrative Code of the Township of Lawrence to Create the Lawrence Township Fire and Emergency Medical Service Division Under the Department of Public Safety and Correct 8-A – July 20, 2021 Closed Session date.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, the Minutes of Closed Session Meetings of July 20, 2021 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding a Contract for the 2019-2020 Road Improvement Program Phase 2, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 276–21

WHEREAS, on Thursday, August 5, 2021 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Bid 21-11: 2019 / 2020 Road Improvement Program – Phase 2**; and

WHEREAS, eight (8) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Richard T. Barrett Paving Co., Inc.; 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-04-55-454-291	2328-19	Graf Avenue, Harmony Avenue, Hopewell Avenue, Slack Avenue, Carr Avenue	\$187,049.12
C-04-55-454-293	2328-19	Whitemarsh Drive, Lawnside Avenue, Hillsdale Road	\$130,434.95
C-04-55-456-242	2328-19	Concrete Program	\$10,222.83
C-04-55-468-242	2328-19	Concrete Program	\$7,550.43
C-04-55-466-247	2360-20	Princeton Pike	\$214,233.67

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 Co., Inc., 400 Prospect Street in the amount of \$549,491.00; 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, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE TO APPEAL IN ITS ENTIRETY ORDINANCE NO. 1692-02 ENTITLED,"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO CREATE A HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE"

(REMOVED FROM AGENDA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

~~~

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO CREATE THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE"

**(REMOVED FROM AGENDA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)**

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ESTABLISHING A LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DIVISION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Mr. Nerwinski advised at the last Council Meeting they had a presentation discussing the creation of a new Fire Division that came from the November 20<sup>th</sup> Operational Audit of Lawrence Fire Department, a combination of some long hard work by Jack Oakley, Director of Emergency Management, and the consent of the Volunteer Fire Companies. So, the proposed Ordinance amends Lawrence Township Administrative Code establishing the Lawrence Township Fire and Emergency Medical Service Division under the Department of Public Safety.

The Ordinance No. 2404-21 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

---

### Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 409, THE APARTMENT AND TOWNHOUSE DISTRICT, ARTICLE IV ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS"

### Ordinance No. 2401-21

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 409, THE APARTMENT AND TOWNHOUSE DISTRICT, ARTICLE IV ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence ("Township Council"), a municipal corporation in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, finds that the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community shall be promoted by the revision and amendment of the Land Use Ordinance ("LUO") of the Township to implement the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board of the Township of Lawrence has adopted a Master Plan that comprehensively provides a foundation for the appropriate use, regulation and development of lands for affordable housing in the Township in a manner which will promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, these amendments to the LUO are necessary to reduce barriers to inclusionary development by correcting minimum lot size and lot designations; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Land Use Law at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-62a requires substantial consistency of the provisions regulating zoning and land use with the adopted Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board has determined that the revisions and amendments to the Land Use Ordinance set forth herein are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan and more specifically the Housing Element to complete the necessary steps to obtain an amended Judgment of Repose from the Court and therefore favorably recommends to the Township Council that Section 409 of the LUO be so amended; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence that the Land Use Ordinance be hereby amended as follows:

**Section 1. Article IV Zoning District Regulations, Section 409 Apartment and Townhouse District is amended and supplemented as follows (additions are shown as thus; deletions are shown as ~~thus~~);**

.....

F. General District Regulation. In the Apartment and Townhouse district, the following general regulations shall apply:

1. Minimum gross acreage of tract: **4.5 acres**

.....

**Section 2.** §301, Zoning Map, shall be modified by designating the AT-3 Overlay to Block 4201.01, Lot 32.02.

Repealer:

All ordinances or parts of same inconsistent with any provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Severability:

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date:

This ordinance shall take effect twenty days (20) days after adoption thereof.

Adopted: August 17, 2021

The Ordinance was adopted after the public hearing thereon, on the following roll call vote:

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

---

### **Manager's Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski submitted invoice listings for the month of August 2021 in the amount of \$2,077,426.10.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Township is advancing their inquiry into including an additional platform for the website that will improve the services that they provide to the residents and businesses, primarily, with the Construction Department to streamline the application process and have it done online by creating a portal for businesses and residents to see the progress of their application as it works through the various departments and the information will be instantaneous as opposed to making or waiting for responding telephone calls.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that they met with a couple of vendors and they have seen a couple of presentations and they are now focusing on one vendor who will do different departmental presentations. One of the things that proved apparent from the presentations is a reduction of time in doing OPRA requests as this particular platform provides a lot information online and other municipalities have seen a significant drop in OPRA requests given the information is readily available as it relates to properties and things that people tend to be interested in on a consistent basis such as real estate agents. Hopefully, this will be a nice situation in reducing OPRA requests for the Municipal Clerk, and he will have more information for the Council at the next meeting.

---

### **Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos reported that they are going to file a Motion to amend the Township's Complaint against Trenton Water Works, and advised that Mr. Oakley informed him today that the study of fire hydrants was expanded and none of the hydrants in the other water franchise areas are deficient... they all work. The only deficient hydrants they

have are in the Trenton Water Works franchise area. Therefore, they are going to bring that to the Court's attention in the form of an Amended Complaint next week. Mr. Nerwinski noted even the hydrants in other areas that did not work, the Utilities response times were much faster than Trenton Water Works.

---

**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) –**

Ms. Martha Friend, 976 Lawrence Road, stated as it pertains to Resolution No. 284-21, Authorizing the Services with Tri-Shield Security for Municipal Court Security Services, was that something the Township always needed to have. Mr. Nerwinski advised that it is a requirement by the Administrative Office of the Courts and has always been the case. This particular matter arose because of a manpower shortage and they needed to contract with a vendor comprised of all former police officers that are well trained that will be hired on an as-needed basis.

Ms. Robin Bridges-Johnson, 292 Glenn Avenue, greeted everyone and commented on the wonderful event that took place on Saturday honoring Harold Vereen, and indicated it was such a memorable moment and she is so proud of her town as well as her community as the dedication warmed he heart and she would like to say thank you. Further, she is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Town Council as they address the issues of the Human Relations Committee and any forward movement in that regard. In the spirit of the Vereen Family, and their rich history in the Township, they owe a responsibility to ensure that all people and citizens feel included, valued and recognized by this august body.

---



## Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 264-21 (18-A.1) through 287-21 (18-H.13) with the exception of Resolution No. 270-21 (18-A.2) and Resolution No. 276-21 (9.A Bid) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

~~~

Resolution No. 270-21 (18-A.2), Authorizing Acceptance of Safety/Stabilization Bond for PSE& G, SP-04/20, was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Cited Resolution is spread in its entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Councilman Ryan reminded everyone about the International Overdose Awareness Day taking place on Tuesday, August 31st from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Central Park on Eggert Crossing Road. He stated the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office asked Lawrence Township to host the event and with honor they accepted the invitation. The event will have speakers who will be speaking about loved ones they have lost to drugs. Also, the awareness color is purple and information is posted on the Township website for people to post and share with others and encouraged everyone to come out and support this heartening event.

Mayor Kownacki reported that Lawrence Township Recreation and the Patriotic Committee will have the 911 Memorial Service (20th Anniversary) on Saturday, September 11th, at the Memorial Park on Pilla Avenue, right across from the EMT Squad Building, where a piece of steel was put up. The service will start at 8:30 A.M., and they will be covering The Pentagon, The Twin Towers, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, with their wreaths.

Written Communications –

There was no written communication.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned.

6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

James S. Kownacki, Mayor