

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

November 4, 2021

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was then opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by the 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, November 4, 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, Municipal Manager, Esq., and David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Kelsey Schreibersdors

Mayor Kownacki advised that Kelsey could not be present this evening so they will reschedule the presentation.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk advised that a Closed Session is needed for the Township Attorney to discuss the renewal of the PILOT arrangement with Eggerts Crossing Village.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 21, 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

There was no award or rejection of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2404-21, THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ESTABLISHING A LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DIVISION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that Lawrence Township is a Civil Service community and the Township's ordinances and positions have to comply with civil service titles. And, as a result of Ordinance 2404-21 that established the Lawrence Township Fire and Emergency Medical Service under the Department of Public Safety they identified the need to change some of the titles within the Ordinance to reflect and be consistent with the Township's Civil Service obligation.

The Ordinance No. 2412-21 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, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND NO. 2329-19 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2408-21

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2329-19 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

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

Section 1:

- a. Section 1 (a) of Ordinance 2329-19, finally adopted May 7, 2019, amended by Ordinance 2348-19, finally adopted December 3, 2019, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Various Equipment: "Mobile, Portable, and Fixed Radios"

Section 2:

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

Section 3:

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

Adopted: November 4, 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						

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND NO. 2361-20 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2409-21

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2361-20
BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION
OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

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

Section 1:

- a. Section 1 (a) of Ordinance 2361-20, finally adopted May 5, 2020, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Acquisition of Various Computer and Office Equipment: "Police Computer Upgrades Software, Hardware, Licenses, and Mobile, Portable, and Fixed Radios"

Section 2:

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

Section 3:

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

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						

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2398-21 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2020-2021"

Ordinance No. 2410–21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. – 2398-21
SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT,
SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2020.-2021

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section I. Short Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be recited as "The Salary Ordinance of the Township of Lawrence – Unclassified and/or Exempt, Seasonal, Emergency (non-union) Employees for 2020-2021."

Section II. Salaried Employees

The attached list of salaried positions and job titles, Schedule A and Schedule B, are hereby authorized and assigned the appropriate salary ranges for 2020-2021 and are determined by date of hire as an employee of Lawrence Township.

This ordinance will continue the Township's consistent policy of providing comparable fringe benefits to exempt employees during their active service as that provided to Supervisors, CWA Local 1032, through their collective bargaining agreement. The Township will still maintain the flexibility of granting retiree benefits to exempt employees hired after January 1, 2011. Accordingly, employees covered by this ordinance that are eligible for health and/or prescription benefits shall contribute to the cost of the said health benefit premium for medical and prescription coverage as required by law, specifically Chapter 78, P.L. 2011. All employees hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall contribute based upon the year four rates specified by said law and to be made an Appendix to a successor Agreement.

Section III. Part-Time or Seasonal Employees

The following part-time or seasonal positions and job titles are hereby authorized and assigned the following pay maximums commencing January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021:

Position of Job Title	Basis	2020	2021
Armed Court Attendant	Hourly	\$26.05	\$26.57
Emergency Medical Technician	Hourly	\$23.05	\$23.51
Firefighter	Hourly	\$18.89	\$19.27
Laborer (Seasonal)	Hourly	\$12.75	\$13.01
Life Guard	Hourly	Federal Minimum Wage up to \$16.19	Federal Minimum Wage up to
Recreation Aid	Hourly	Federal Minimum Wage up to \$36.45	Federal Minimum Wage up to
Recycling Coordinator	Per Annum	\$8,576	\$8,748
[Municipal Alliance Grant Coordinator]	[Per Annum]	[\$2,550]	[\$2,601]
Fire Crew Coordinator	Per Annum	\$4,415	\$4,503
School Traffic Guard	Hourly	\$18.11	\$18.47
Secretary/Board & Committee	Per Annum*	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Tax Search Officer	Per Annum	\$12,024	\$12,264
Zoning Officer	Per Annum	\$5,594	\$5,706
Affordable Housing Liaison	Per Annum	5,000	\$6,000
Affordable Housing Resale	Per Showing	\$100	\$100
Fire Department Liaison	Hourly	\$25.00	\$25.00
Deputy Registrar Vital Statistics	Per Annum	\$2,500	\$2,500
Municipal Court Attendee	Hourly	\$23.37	\$23.84
SLEO Class III	Hourly	\$28.50	\$29.07
Park Attendant	Hourly	\$15.56	\$15.87
[Emergency Response Specialist	[Monthly]		[\$5,000]
Security Guard	Hourly		\$25.00
All Others	Hourly	Federal Minimum Wage up to Step1 In Applicable Job Title	Federal Minimum Wage up to Step1 In Applicable Job Title

* Denotes title paid monthly. All other titles bi-weekly.

Section IV. Eligibility

The ranges in Section II of this ordinance shall pertain to individuals employed by the Township of Lawrence on or after the effective date of this ordinance.

Section V. Longevity

- A. Each employee hired before January 1, 2013 and covered by this agreement shall in addition to his/her regular wages and benefits, be paid longevity based upon years of service as of December 31, 2013 with the Township in accordance with the following amounts. Said amounts to be paid to an employee shall not be adjusted beyond the longevity amount being received by an eligible employee as of December 31, 2013. Longevity shall be pensionable and included as part of the employee's regular pay. Any employee hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall not be eligible to receive longevity pay at any time in the future.

Length of Service

Beginning in year 8 through year 11	\$ 800
Beginning the 12 th year through year 15	\$1,100
Beginning the 16 th year through year 19	\$1,400
Beginning the 20 th year through year 23	\$1,700
Beginning the 24 th year through year 27	\$2,000
Beginning the 28 th year and beyond	\$2,300

Section VI. Other Personnel and Working Conditions

All other functions, responsibilities and rights not specifically enumerated in prior sections of this ordinance shall be judged to be within the province of management, subject only to the laws, rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Personnel, the provisions contained in applicable agreements (if any) or policy manuals, and by the issuance of Administrative Directives by the Municipal Manager.

Section VII. Repealer

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances adopted prior to the date of this ordinance that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed insofar as they relate to or concern the job classifications, salaries and benefits listed in this ordinance.

Section VIII. 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.

Section IX. Effective Date

- A. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final adoption as provided by law.
- B. All salary or compensation provided for and by this ordinance shall be effective the first day of January.

Adopted: November 4, 2021

Additions are underlined _____

Deletions are []

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						

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 40 ENTERPRISE AVENUE"

Ordinance No. 2411-21

ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ENTERPRISE AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq, as amended and supplemented (the "Act"), provides a process for municipalities to participate in the redevelopment and improvement of areas in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council, via Resolution 123-21, on March 16, 2021 authorized the Township Planning Board to conduct a Preliminary Investigation and to make a recommendation as to whether Block 601, Lots 1 through 8 (the "Study Area") should be designated as a Non-condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment;

WHEREAS, the Planning Board conducted a public hearing on August 16, 2021 and recommended, via Resolution 15-21, that the Study Area be designated as a Non-condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment;

WHEREAS, the Township Council on September 21, 2021, via Resolution 295-21, accepted the recommendation of the Planning Board and designated the Study Area as a Non-condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment;

WHEREAS, the Township Planning Board, acting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7f, has prepared a redevelopment plan for the redevelopment of the Study Area, entitled The Enterprise Avenue Redevelopment Plan, dated October 14, 2021 (the "Redevelopment Plan"), and has referred the Plan to Township Council for consideration for adoption;

WHEREAS, the Township Council seeks to encourage redevelopment of the dilapidated conditions of the Study Area in a manner that is compatible with the industrial nature of the site and surrounding lots, the remediation of existing environmental conditions at the Study Area, and to increase the value of the Study Area as a taxable ratable for the benefit of all the taxpayers in the Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, in the County of Mercer and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Plan is hereby adopted.

Section 2. In the event that any section, part or provision of the Ordinance shall be held to be unenforceable or invalid by any court, such holding shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so held unenforceable or invalid.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage, publication, and filing with the Office of the Clerk of Mercer County, all as required by law.

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 November 2021.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that Lawrence Township received a grant for \$500,000 from NJDOT to continue with their road improvement, which is really great. They completed the work at Veterans Park in terms of the drainage improvements as the drainage and the pathway lighting are now working and people are utilizing the path. And

for purpose of clarification, the park closes at 9:00 PM. So, there is timeframe between 5:00PM to 9:00PM where the lights are illuminated on the path and people are encouraged to use that as a means of exercise being there are not a lot of sidewalks in the park. As for the work done to the drainage, he did not see much improvement so he asked for an explanation and was informed by the Township Engineer that it could be a lot of factors; one, being the leaves falling down causing the drains to clog and sediment issues that will take place over the next 12 months to resolve.

Attorney's Report –

There was no Attorney's report.

Clerk's Report –

Ms. Norcia advised that there were Countywide issues with the General Election and the one thing that she would like to mention is the problems her office experienced with the transmittal of the cartridges that came out of the voting machines, as did Hightstown Borough and Hamilton Township. She indicated her deputy, Tonya Carter, was on the telephone with the County for almost one (1) hour trying to reprogram the Shared Disk File which they thought was going to work after reprogramming; but, failed due to an internal error. Nonetheless, she remained calm (until she got off the phone) and patient under the circumstances and did a magnificent job trying to resolve the issue. Also, her office clerk, Donna McLaughlin, came in early and did some great work in getting some things established in the morning. She delivered the PPE supplies to the Lawrenceville Fire Company at 5:00 AM that was accidentally given to Lawrence Road Fire Company. They also had a problem with the Electronic Voting Tablets that were delivered to a wrong polling location that was resolved as well.

Councilwoman Lewis inquired if all the Provisional Ballots have been counted and whether she has received the Mail-in Ballots. Ms. Norcia advised that a lot of provisional ballots were used this election so she does not think they are all counted as of yet. As for the Mail-in Ballots, they take a while to be counted due to the extended deadline. Councilwoman Lewis and members of Council thanked Ms. Norcia and asked that she thank her staff (Tonya and Donna) and the Poll Workers, most who were new, that worked this past election with brand new technology that nobody understood.

Ms. Norcia stated she would like to commend the men in the Public Works Department on the amazing job they did in helping the Clerk's Office on election day. She stated she cannot say enough about how pleasant it was to work with the Public Works crew who went over and above what they needed to do to assist her office this year. She indicated that they had to go to the new site on Johnston Avenue to pick up the election

supplies; a total of 21 heavy black bags which they picked up an hour before the scheduled pickup time of 10:00 AM, as the supplies were delivered to her office a little after 9:00 AM. They showed up in a shiny dump truck that you could see your reflection in. They unloaded all of the supplies and checked in on the Clerk's Office throughout the day and thanked them again for the wonderful job they did on election day.

Mr. Nerwinski concurred and noted that the group of men they have now in Public Works thrives on doing good work, they take pride in their work and it shows. They like to shine. Mr. Ryan echoed the same sentiments and stated they are also getting wonderful praises on Facebook for the great job they are doing removing a big tree that fell today on Colonial Lake by the Dam.

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. 336-21 (18-D.1) through 354-21 (18-H.10) 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.

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Mayor Kownacki reminded everyone about the Veteran Day Service 11-11-11 that will be taking place in front of Town Hall this year. He indicated Captain Paul's is generously providing the hotdogs for the Veterans right after the service. The line will be open for the Veterans to do a drive-thru. In addition to the hotdogs and water, the Superintendent of Recreation, Nancy Bergen, will be distributing mask to veterans with the Township's logo on it.

Mayor Kownacki also reminded everyone about the new Museum that opened on October 22 at the National Guard Armory located on Eggert Crossing Road. He indicated that they had a good turnout and encouraged everyone to go down and visit the Museum, which is open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Or, they can read the article written by Lea Kahn in the Princeton Packet (Lawrence Ledger), which is great. He proceeded to discuss people at the event who put things on their webpages and one gentleman who recorded the entire program and put it on YouTube. In conclusion, he stated the overall project took over six (6) years to complete and they now have a great exhibit with more displays now that they have the proper room.

Councilman Ryan inquired if Greg Whitehead, Director of Public Works, could put up bunting again this year. Mr. Nerwinski replied 'yes'.

Written Communications –

There was no written communication.

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

6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

James S. Kownacki, Mayor