

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

February 15, 2022

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was then opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by the students of the Lawrence Intermediate School.

At the commencement of the meeting Councilman Powers 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, February 15, 2022, 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 Ledger on December 22, 2021.

The roll was then called as follows:

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

Absent: None.

Also, in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Municipal Manager, Esq., David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney, Peter Kiriakatis, Chief Financial Officer.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Lawrence Intermediate School Presentation

Mayor Ryan stated that the students from Lawrence Intermediate School (LIS) will be doing a presentation on the Grant they received from the Lawrence Township Education Foundation to purchase a new swing set. He then turned the floor over to the LIS students who discussed the \$50,000 grant they received from the Lawrence Township Education Foundation and the Petition they circulated that got 217 signatures in support of the swings. The students cited their names and discussed their desire for the swing set and the importance of recess to enjoy before they go to the Middle School and proceeded with an overview of a short video which was submitted to Karen Faiman, Executive Director of the Lawrence Township Education Foundation, as a way to sway

the Board to approve the grant for the swing set, basketball court renovations and repainting the blacktop for games and other activities. The students thanked the Council for listening and stated they hope the Council supports their mission of Swing Sets LIS Recess Reboot and provided some examples of the swing sets they are considering and the proposed location of the swings. In conclusion, they asked the Township Council's permission to put the swing set up on Township-owned property next to the school. Permission was granted by the Council.

Mayor Ryan, Council Kownacki and Councilman Powers praised the students for the great job they did in applying for the grant and for coming before the Council to request permission to put the swing set up on Township-owned land with old-school paper reports. Councilwoman Lewis stated the students originally asked her daughter to asked her for the swing set and she explained to them the grant process and commended the students on the wonderful job they did following through on that process and asking for the help they needed to get the job done, which many adults do not adhere to. Councilman Bobbitt echoed the sentiment of his colleagues with regards to the great presentation and the students following through on the process and actually acting to advance their idea to get things done that created a movement. He then thanked the School Representatives and Board of Education in the audience for helping the students get the job done as well as the Lawrence Township Education Foundation for the Grant Award.

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### **Presentation of Department 2022 Budget Requests**

Mayor Ryan stated that Michael Rodgers, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Oakley and Mr. Caloiaro will be presenting their 2022 Budget presentations this evening. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Rodgers.

### **2022 Municipal Budget Presentation** **Construction Code Official, Michael Rodgers**

Mr. Rodgers Mr. Rodgers greeted the Council and distributed copies of his 2022 Budget Report for Council, Municipal Manager and CFO consideration and proceeded to read the following statement into record:

Mr. Rodgers greeted members of Council and proceeded to read the following Budget presentation into record:

February 15, 2022

Once again, the Construction Department has made its budget with additional revenue. Funds collected for 2021 totaled 1,708,898 which is up 99,743 from 2020. We processed 4,825 subcode technical forms which is up 664 from 2020 and issued 2,513 permits which is up 417 from 2020.

The cost of construction worked for 2021 in the township had a total of 93, 079,319.

With projects like phase II of Lawrence School Dining and Athletic Complex. The Trail at Princeton, Texas Avenue development and the possibility of another housing development I do not anticipate any changes in 2022 from 2021 in construction activity.

The major change to our operations is bill A1145 which will require Electronic Permit Processing and Plan Review. Please see bill attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael T. Rodgers  
Construction Official

Building Subcode Official

Mr. Nerwinski noted that the Administration anticipated the passage of Bill A1145 and as previously discussed in the prior meeting the Township has engaged with a software company to meet the requirements of the State that will also streamline and assist their customer service abilities. They are in the process of entering into a contract with a vendor that the Council will be required to move on at the next meeting which will start the process of them integrating that software into their system and website. Mr. Rodgers noted it will be a challenge for his office; but a welcomed changed. He then opened the floor for questions.

Councilman Powers inquired about staffing levels as it relates to the Construction Department's request in past years. Mr. Rodgers advised that staffing is an issue all around the State as all the towns are looking for people. They did go through Civil Service to get a list for full-time Electrical, Plumbing and Building Officials with little success as some of the candidates were disqualified or there were not many candidates to choose from. However, he has been working with Debbie Monroe, Payroll Supervisor, about reposting the jobs being they only have one plumbing person who has been working by himself for quite a while. But, they are hoping to hire some people once they get the new list. They were fortunate enough to get a couple of retired part-time electrical people that come in three days a week which has helped a lot. A general discussion took place relative to downside of hiring provisionally as it relates the employee losing their job once the Civil Service List is certified and the national labor shortage impact to municipalities.

Mr. Nerwinski stated for the record that the Recommended Budget does include two positions and once the new software is in place and personnel is trained a lot of the detailed work will be removed and the Department will be more efficient. So, he would like to give the new software a go and assess the need for a part-time or full-time employee at a later date.

Councilman Bobbitt inquired about the trends in permits as it relates to renovations, new construction or remodels and how the new Electronic Permit System will affect the customer service aspect of Mr. Rodger's and his staff. Mr. Rodgers advised that there is more renovation work than anything and new construction is basically

residential. In the past few years they have had a good amount of commercial and new construction; but the steady is in commercial and residential and the permit numbers are up from 2020. And, he does not see that trend going down with some of the projects they have being they have well over 2000 permits which has been the norm since he started working for the Township. As for the customer service aspect, the process and workload for inspections will remain the same; it is just going to be a different way of how the inspectors do their work given plans will be electronically submitted instead of being submitted by paper and they will be outfitted with tablets to do their inspection reports on their tablet which will streamline the process as the Report will be available immediately for applicants to view. The new software will also allow applicants to electronically schedule, submit and review where their permit is in the process which will eliminate a lot of the telephone calls for the Clerical Staff.

Councilwoman Lewis stated there are various permits and some take a longer time than others; but, she would like to know if someone walked in with a Residential Permit request and another person walked in with a Commercial Permit request on average how much time does it take for the inspection. Mr. Rodgers stated it does not matter whether it is residential or commercial request they advise the customer that it might take two to three weeks. The timeframe for both is about the same; but, they do try to put residential first for inspections as they know they are on a time schedule in terms of work...so they tend to cater to them more. As for the Plan Review, it is done in the order in which it is time stamped for both commercial and residential; but, if somebody is in a bind they will try an accommodate them by pushing it ahead.

Mayor Ryan and Council stated they appreciate Mr. Rodger's and his staffs hard work and he thinks the new Electronic System will make it easier for applicants applying for permits. Mr. Rodgers noted one nice thing about the new system is that only complete applications can be submitted which was part of the delay with the paper applications.

In conclusion, Mr. Rodgers stated the Council would be happy to know that the Construction Department issued the Demolition Permits for the destruction of the Sleepy Hollow Motel. The Council thanked Mr. Rodgers for the update.

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2022 Municipal Budget Presentation
Gregory Whitehead – Director of Public Works

Public Works Director Gregory Whitehead greeted Council and indicated that there are no changes to the operation budget or new positions, just some Capital request for 2022 which falls under their replacement programs.

Mr. Whitehead proceeded with a general overview of the divisions within the Public Works Department, comprised of (34) thirty-four employees encompassing (6) six divisions – Administration (2 employees), Streets Division (14 employees), Parks Division (9 employees), Building and Grounds (4 employees), Vehicle Maintenance (5 employees)

and Ecological Facility (Staffed from the Streets Division). He then discussed at length the Public Works Department who services all municipal roadways, parks, municipal facilities, vehicle maintenance, and the Ecological Facility operations in conjunction with Princeton as well as the multitude of vendors and contracts the Department oversees related to trash removal, recycling, snow removal, capital improvements and general services. Mr. Whitehead noted that his staff has been taxed over the last year or so in terms of COVID-19 cases; but persevered and has done a great job working through the pandemic.

Mr. Whitehead provided a detailed review of the following Budget Report for Year ending 2021:

- **2021 Highlights** – Replacement split rail fence – Central Park and Veterans Park; New walkway lighting, playground walkway, new bottle filler station, drainage improvements - Veterans Park; Installation of 20 new park benches throughout park system; Replacement of accessible (ADA) ramp – Brearley House; Renovation of the Lawrence Road Firehouse crew breakroom (in progress); Continuing the renovations of dug-outs- Central Park and Restoration and painting of baseball/storage building – Central Park.
- **Street Paving** – Denow Road, Whitemarsh, Graf Avenue, Harmony, Slack Avenue, Lawnside Drive, Hillsdale Road, Carr Avenue, Hopewell Avenue, Harney's Corner Sidewalk and Drain a on Philips Avenue. Mr. Whitehead noted they will be doing a lot more paving work in the summer.
- **Ida Damage 2021 Public Works Facility** –Mr. Whitehead provided a detailed report and display of pictures regarding the damage and some of the challenges the Public Works Department faced from Hurricane Ida. He indicated that was the second time the building flooded since his tenure with the Township and what his department is doing to build back and prepare for the next event to make their losses less and to get back to business quicker.
- **Parks Division** – The Parks Division maintains 1000-acres of parks, athletic fields, nature preserves, trolley lines, historic homes, pauper and cemeteries. The Division daily maintenance includes over 100 trash and recycling cans being emptied, restrooms being cleaned and maintained and all grounds work being maintained by the Division. Parks Division Daily Activities includes grassing cutting, trimming, tree pruning, leaf removal, aerating and seeding, keeping the town free of litter, responding to vandalism, graffiti, resident complaints, etc. They also assist with all of the Township's events – Community Day, Easter, Fireworks, Holiday Tree Lighting, Colonial Lake Clean-up, Covid Clinic, Flu Clinics, etc.

- **2022 Budget Request - Park Maintenance** – Replacement of 3 pick-up trucks 4 x 4 with plows and one sander - \$180,000. Mr., Whitehead noted everything they replace is with snow in mind as snow is their top priority and proceeded to discuss some of the challenges they face with getting equipment and training personnel for snow removal.
- **Streets Division** – The Division maintains over 200-lane miles of streets throughout the Township. The Department responsibilities include: traffic maintenance, street signs, roadside mowing, snow and ice removal, crack sealing, drain repairs, street sweeping, etc. Mr. Whitehead proceeded to review the total cost, labor hours, materials and repairs associated with the following services: Leaf Collection Program, Brush Collection Program White Goods Collection, Street Sweeping Program, Roadside Mowing, Snow Removal, Drains & Sinkholes and the Road Division Daily Job Labor Hours Pie Chart for 2021 Projected Labor Hours for various tasks related to Basin Maintenance, Drain Repair, Drain Cleaning, Mason, Storm Readiness, Sign Work, Roadside Mowing, Sweeper, White Goods and Solid Waste Program Services performed by the Street Division.
- **Joseph H. Maher, Jr. Ecological Center** – 3,515 residents visited the sites in 2021. Free Mulch was delivered to residential driveways, and natural ground wood chips were made available to Township residents from April 19 thru May 14. A minimum order, in the amount of three cubic yards, was offered at a fee of \$33.00 - Mulch Delivery Program (293 deliveries made; 879 cubic yards of mulch delivered and \$9,669.00 in fees were collected.) Mr. Whitehead noted that they signed New Shared Service Agreement with Princeton and proceeds go back into the joint-account to help run and pay for things at the Ecological Center. They have thirty-nine (39) Landscaper Registrations which are running smoothly with a few issues in terms of landscapers registering; but, they are continuing to educate landscapers that are working out on the roads as well as the residents so they know the requirements to comply with the law.
- **Tree Removal** – 2021 Progress – Street trees removed (78), Trees trimmed (133), Total labor hours (664), Park trees removed (43), Trimmed (433), Labor hours (1,034), US Athletic & Tree Service - Tree removal (81) and Cost: \$127,000 and Tree Contractors - Tree removal – (48) - Cost: \$26, 805.56. Mr. Whitehead noted that they plan to plant 15 to 20 new trees in some of the parks this year from their in-house staff. He further noted that they hired a very talented young man from Hamilton Public Works Department who is really growing with the department and they are really getting a lot more tree work done in-house with his knowledge.
- **2022 Budget Request Street Division** – Skid Steer Unit Cold Planer for street repairs and 2022 Mini-dump with plow and sander – Replacement Units Totals \$ 205, 000.

- **Vehicle Maintenance Division** – The Vehicle Maintenance Division comprised of (5) highly skilled individuals that are responsible for servicing and maintaining over 370 vehicles and pieces of equipment. The Division logged 950 work orders (services and repairs) and 2,000 labor hours associated with services and repairs for Public Works, Municipal Motor Pool, Police, Senior Center, Emergency Management, Fire, Ewing-Lawrence Sewage Authority and Lawrence Board of Education. Mr. Whitehead stated that he could go on and on about the Vehicle Maintenance Division and the great job Clyde D’Angelo does managing that area even with the COVID related supply chain issues they have been experiencing that has caused them to have to fabricate or send things out to get cleaned and rewelded due the shortage of some electronics and parts. He imparted that they are great group who does a great job with what is available to them.

- **Joseph H. Maher, Jr. Ecological Center** – 3,515 residents visited the sites in 2021. Free Mulch was delivered to residential driveways, of natural ground wood chips was made available to Township residents from April 19 thru May 14. A minimum order, in the amount of three cubic yards, was offered at a fee of \$33.00 - Mulch Delivery Program (293 Deliveries/879 cubic yards), Fee Collected: \$9,669.00. Mr. Whitehead noted that they signed a New Shared Service Agreement signed with Princeton and proceeds go back into the joint-account to run and pay for things at the Ecological Center. Landscaper Registrations (39) are running smoothly with some issues in terms of landscapers registering; but, they are continuing to educate landscapers that are working out on the roads and residents so they know the requirements to comply with the law.

- **Division of Buildings and Grounds** – The Division is very busy with a wide array of tasks and duties associated with various buildings, fire houses and municipal properties. Square feet of all properties maintained 145,470. They have no 2022 Capital budget request; but they do have plans for an upcoming Roof Replacement at Town Hall for 2023 in addition, to some upcoming goals as it relates to building improvements – painting, new floors, etc. for police and municipal building.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he has always appreciated the thoroughness of Mr. Whitehead’s report and it sounds like the Street Division is getting the brunt of Lawrence being a Tree City between taking care of the leaves and also brush removal. He further stated it is always great to see and talk to his staff during Community Day and at other events as he got to learn about how some of them prefer the new plows versus the old plows and it was just good to hear how much they all care about working for Lawrence Township. And, he really appreciates the team work his department shows in assisting other departments such as the Police and Recreation Departments. He then inquired about contractual agreement between the Township and Princeton as it relates to his budget request for a new grinder for the Ecological Center and the numbers in his report

showing the Township picking up half of the cost at the facility while Princeton's amount of grinding is substantially more than Lawrence Township. Mr. Whitehead explained the Ecological Center cannot handle both Lawrence and Princeton total wood waste. So, Lawrence contracts with Britton Industries to take their waste and Princeton pays half of that bill and everything balances out in the contract; because, without Britton Industries they would be overflowed with compost at the site and would have to close it down. Additional discussion took place relative to the usage of Britton as a release valve for the Ecological Center until they can figure out a regional approach to the problem.

Councilman Kownacki thanked Mr. Whitehead for everything that he and his employees do for Lawrence Township.

Councilwoman Lewis stated she would first like to thank Mr. Whitehead on the great job his department does; especially, with the snow as Lawrence is often the envy of every other place in Mercer County and surrounding towns. And, she knows it is a full team effort being she seen him out snowplowing over at the police station. Ms. Lewis stated over the last couple of years they had some complaints about the size requirements for brush piles and inquired if there had been more compliance with that situation. Mr. Whitehead replied 'yes' the problem has gotten much better and manageable as a lot of education has been done, and Elwood Dasher from his department has done a great job with his approach and how he speaks with the residents.

Ms. Lewis further inquired as to what percentage of white goods are not at the curb when they come to pick up. Mr. Whitehead stated approximately 20 percent as they have a lot of people that call and let them know when the goods have been taken away from the curb which they are very thankful for being it saves them a trip. She imparted that she likes the Mulch Delivery Program and asked if Princeton offered the same service. Mr. Whitehead advised that they inquired about the Mulch Program; but, he does not think they currently doing the Program. She further inquired about vehicle maintenance and repairs for the Electric Vehicles (EV). Mr. Whitehead stated that they have three (3) electric vehicles and two (2) more on order. They also have two hybrids in the fleet and they are all under warranty; but, they will still handle the maintenance of the brakes, tires, etc. in their shop. But, not having to do oil changes and things such as that is cost saving as well as time. So far, everything is working out great as they have had very little problems and he has received lots of compliments on how the EV's handle, look and drive. Mr. Whitehead noted that Brenda Kraemer, Assistant Engineer, has applied for another grant for additional charging station.

Ms. Lewis stated her last question is regarding the roadside mowing that needs to get done and the basin maintenance listed in his report and inquired if they are trying to do greener infrastructure to get rid of the mowing and some of those other pieces. Mr. Whitehead advised that they have been looking at some of the surrounding towns that have gone green and made rain gardens in their retention basins and it takes a lot of work to establish the green infrastructure. So, getting it started is a problem being it takes well over two years of labor.

Councilman Powers stated that Councilwoman Lewis already gave his department kudos on the snow removal and park maintenance; but, the collaboration that his department does on community events and the assistance they provide to all the other the departments is commendable as well. He asked Mr. Whitehead to thank his staff and convey the Council's appreciation for their snow removal efforts and all that they do. He indicated aging infrastructure nation-wide is an issue and he know the Public Works Department outsources work to third-party vendors; but he would like to know if there was anything that they are not already outsourcing to another group that could provide his department with some relief in terms of help. Mr. Whitehead replied that there are some areas such as cutting grass, HVAC, electrical work, etc. that they currently do in-house...but they are starting to look at outsourcing some of work in the future that is starting to take over too much of their time.

Mr. Powers noted that the Hurricane IDA pictures were astonishing and the way his department was able to keep functioning during that time period was nothing short of amazing. He then asked if they had any issues with mold. Mr. Whitehead replied 'no', as they had a company come in and bleach down the entire building, cutout the sheetrock and clean and power wash everything which took about a month period of time and advised of procedures that they are putting in place to prepare for the next storm event. Further discussion took place relative to the Municipal Manager coordinating with Mr. Whitehead to help outsource the tree planting for Arbor Day.

Mayor Ryan thanked Mr. Whitehead for all that he and his staff does; especially, the Valentine's Day event at Colonial Lake Park that his department help set up along with the Recreation Department which was a 'big' hit. He then inquired about the future of the Ecological Center and the purchase of a grinder for the facility, which Mr. Whitehead indicated he would exhaust every avenue to save money and explore other options to help find either a rebuilt/demo unit or purchasing one from another town getting rid of one that was barely used. Additional discussion took place relative to the pros and cons of privatizing the facility and running it 'as is', which will be a long-term investment for both towns.

Mayor Ryan inquired if the tree service was still being subbed out. Mr. Whitehead replied that it is half and half as his department cannot get to the larger trees. He then inquired if the Township was being reimbursed for Ewing-Lawrence Sewage Authority repairs. Mr. Whitehead responded 'yes' the Township bills the Authority for anything that comes into their shop and they do same for the Board of Education which include the use of fuel.

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**2022 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Jack Oakley – Director of Emergency Management**

Mr. Oakley greeted the Council and thanked them for affording him the opportunity to speak before them regarding the Emergency Services budget for 2022. He then distributed a handout relative to his budget presentation and proceeded to discuss

the continuing battle of the everchanging faces of the COVID-19 pandemic and the variants that have posed challenges to the first responders when servicing those clients that require emergency medical attention such as transports to the hospitals that at times are overcrowded. He further discussed the first responders having to decontaminate their equipment and personnel while also dealing with their own members of service that fall victim to the virus that presents unprecedented levels of work and commitment. But, thanks to the continued support of the Township Council, Municipal Manager and CFO they can continue to offer a first-rate emergency medical response to their customers.

Mr. Oakley proceeded to highlight the following: Emergency Services responding to 3,460 calls for service of which 75 percent were transportable; billing rates and revenues down due to people suspected of COVID having to triage at home instead of being transported to the emergency room; the continuation of the Fire Service Reorganization moving towards a more robust combination department of career and volunteer members; the establishment of a committee to overhaul and recruit more volunteer firefighters; the hiring of two (2) new staff members bringing their staff total to six employees; reassignment of apparatus to the Slackwood and Lawrenceville fire stations that will allow them to get to emergency incidents more quickly; cross-training of EMS and Fire Divisions to allow for a seamless transition as it relates to support at the scenes, scheduling and the benefit of cross training to help combat the challenges of staff shortages due to lack of funding.

Mr. Oakley advised that the Fire Marshal's Office was transferred under the Emergency Services Division during the Reorganization of the supervisory staff and the fire service with their staff remaining the same. He further discussed the Fire Marshal's Office completing 3600 inspections generating over \$260,000 in revenue; a daunting task for a limited staff and a great example of a team work accomplished goal that other agencies with double the staff cannot. He stated the Capital funding appropriated monies will go towards the installment to replace a brush truck and purchase self-contained breathing apparatus that replaces unserviceable ones pulled from their stockpile. He advised that the two projects are very important as they address firefighter safety and the ability to respond to emergency incidents.

In conclusion, Mr. Oakley thanked the men and women comprised of the Emergency Services Department and indicated when they speak of pride, honor, dedication and everyday soldiers at heart they are describing those people that risk their lives every day to protect them and continue to place themselves in harms way making sacrifices most people will consider unimaginable and whose bravery is not the absence of fear...but, the actions taken in the face of fear... they truly are heroes.

Councilman Powers imparted that the First Responders are truly lifesavers and advised of two incidents in which his family was involved. One of which his father-in-law fell and in minutes the EMS was there and did a fantastic job, and another incident where his mother had a collapsed ceiling and the Fire Department was there in minutes and did an excellent job. He stated kudos to them for their professionalism that is not just shown to his family... but to everybody that lives in Lawrence Township. He then requested that

Mr. Oakley again convey Council's thanks and appreciation for the lifesaving work that they do for the community.

Councilwoman Lewis opened by thanking Mr. Oakley for all the work his whole team does and inquiring as to how many other CPS Techs they have besides the one in EMS. Mr. Oakley replied 'one' which gives them a total of two. But, they do plan to train one more person to give them three techs as they loss one person who transferred. He noted Chrissie Vincent and Mike Radcliff are the CPS Techs and they do a great job at educating the parents on the proper way of installing the car seats as it a liability for the Township if the car seats are not installed properly. Mr. Oakley noted that the parents are very thankful and it is a great service.

Councilwoman Lewis inquired if any of the firefighters have taken the Electric Vehicle (EV) Training Course as to how to control a fire in an electric vehicle. And, if so, how many have taken the course. Mr. Oakley replied 'no'; but, they do have online training that has the electric vehicle training in it and is available to both the volunteer and career staff to take which they can assess at any given time. Ms. Lewis stated he mentioned how helpful the Command Staff has been in helping to move the transition forward and inquired as to how the rest of the staff and volunteers approached the transition since the Reorganization. Mr. Oakley imparted it is a learning experience for everybody concerned as far as the Reorganization goes; because, to take three separate entities with a long-time historic tradition and bring them under one umbrella is difficult to say the least. However, the commitment of the Command Staff, the three Deputy Chiefs, that were elected by the organizations still have that connection with the different stations which has made the transition a little easier.

Councilman Kownacki asked Mr. Oakley to thanked Chrissy Vincent for everything that she does for Lawrence Township. He also thanked Mr. Oakley for all that he and the rest of the Staff does as well.

Councilman Bobbitt thanked Mr. Oakley for all that he does, the Career and Volunteer Staff; especially, the volunteers and continuing the traditions of each of three separate firehouses he feels is important for the character of the town. So, he is glad to hear that he is trying the navigate the situation in trying to keep all parties happy. He then asked if the volunteer members help in recruiting new membership. Mr. Oakley replied the Volunteer Firefighters are the ones responsible for the recruitment process and in that recruitment process they are getting more and more out-of-town volunteers; because most of the towns are going to full-time staff. He advised that the Volunteer Incentive Program is also working well.

Councilman Bobbitt further inquired about the Fire Hydrant situation in Lawrence Township and whether it is improving. Mr. Oakley stated it has improved a lot...communication wise. The communication has definitely gotten better, as he receives regular emails from a liaison with the Trenton Water Works about hydrants that are out-of-service and an immediate email when the hydrants are put back in service. And, the timeline has gotten somewhat better as well.

Mr. Nerwinski stated it is always a pleasure working with Mr. Oakley and they have a big job that they have been trying to work through in terms of trying to keep as many people happy as possible. He indicated when faced with change there is always a lot of pushback when a change is in the air; but, it is clear that Mr. Oakley respects the volunteers, the career firefighters and what Lawrence Township needs to do to produce and provide the community with the best firefighting safety organization possible which they are working towards. And, he appreciates his efforts.

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2022 Municipal Budget Presentation
Brian Caloiaro – Chief of Police

Prior to Chief Caloiaro presentation, Mr. Nerwinski noted for record that Lawrence Township Council are the elected officials, the Governing Body, who will ultimately vote for and approve the Municipal Budget that has been prepared and recommended to them by him and Peter Kiriakatis, CFO. As part of that process, they have the Department Heads come before them to provide them with information concerning what they have gone through in the past year and discuss their present and future needs so the Council will have the ability to understand when they vote yes or no what they are voting for in the budget. So, there is forecasting involved and he wants to make it clear to members of Council if there is any discussion at all about revenue that is generated this is so they will have the ability to properly forecast and vote with knowledge on the budget that they are putting forward without any confusion.

Chief Caloiaro greeted the Council, Municipal Manager and Municipal Clerk and began his presentation by discussion the Mission of the Lawrence Township Police Department, which is to protect the people they serve as well as their commitment to partnerships and working with their community to solve problems in a proactive manner as well as improving the quality of life for the residents they served in Lawrence Township.

Chief Caloiaro began his presentation with a detailed overview relative to the Police Department day-to day operations dealing with COVID-19 and keeping up with safety protocols; police officers following their regular schedules with no change during COVID-19, the police profession facing criticism from the media due to the portrayal of racial bias, police reform and the challenges associated with the reform, hiring a new Clerk or recruiting a volunteer to input data as part of the new Federal Crime Reporting System (NIBRS), calls for service occurrences, crime statistics, mortarium on evictions causing an increase in crime and stress on police department, position vacancies, existing employees, retiring Officers, staffing issues due to future retirements, training process for a new officer and the new recruit process as it relates to the Senate Bill S-3220 that allow the Police Department to hire outside of the Civil Service requirements; issuance of gun permits down, motor vehicle crashes up, the Records Bureau inundated

with OPRA requests, reinvention of the bicycle patrol unit and his 2022 Budget requests for Council's consideration.

Chief Caloiaro stated overall the men and women of the police department have been more than dedicated and he commends them for their hard work over the time that COVID-19 has been involved. They come to work, as they should, and they are committed to the people of Lawrence Township. And, they continue to try and do community events and take an active part in their community with the Bunny Event, National Night Out, Halloween Truck or Treat Event, and participation in the Tree Lighting ceremony. They also have their two motorcycles that participate in events and they have Volunteers of America stationed in the Police Department to answer any quality of life calls that the police need them to respond to.

Chief Caloiaro thanked the Township Council for all of support and advised that he attends meeting for County, State and the Chiefs' Association and he hears some horror stories of towns around the State...troubles and problems every step they take in terms of their police department; but, Lawrence Council supports them every step of the way and they thank them for doing that as it makes their job a lot easier and makes them want to go out and work harder because of the help and support they receive. Further, he would like to give credit to Mr. Nerwinski with regards to how well the Division and Department Heads work together to get the job done.

A general comment, question and answer period ensued relative to Chief Caloiaro presentation regarding the shortage of officers, future retirements, recruitment for hiring of more officers, uptick in motor vehicle thefts, 171% jump in mischievous children, the pros and cons of privatizing crossing guards, bus changes as it relates to the crossing guards and the budget, increase in violations of municipal ordinance and motor vehicle crashes and proactive traffic enforcement.

Councilman Powers thanked the Chief Caloiaro for his out-reach efforts such as Coffee with a Cop; especially, in light of all the negative National media. He then inquired as to how many different languages they have covered in the Police Department. Chief Caloiaro stated they have several Polish and Spanish speaking officers which is great being they have a large polish population on the south end of Lawrence and the they are striving to improve on the Diversity of the Police Department.

Councilwoman Lewis stated in terms of his Budget request for the clerical position. If they hire a Clerk is there other work the person could be doing besides the NIBRS numbers to help out in the Police Department. Chief Caloiaro replied 'yes' filing and expungements which is another enormous project they just received related to the new marijuana legislation that is a huge undertaking. She further inquired if the police officers being hired under the new Civil Service requirement still have to follow all of the civil service rules. Chief Caloiaro replied 'yes' they are required to have the basic Police Officer Certification and when they are hired they will become a Civil Service employee who has to follow the same rules of civil service.

Councilman Kownacki thanked Chief Caloiaro and his Command Staff and stated that he has always said Lawrence Township Police Department is second to none and nothing has changed. He then congratulated Chief Caloiaro for his Department's exemplary work in protecting and serving the community.

Councilman Bobbitt thanked Chief Caloiaro for always presenting a thorough Budget Report and everyone in the Police Department for all that they do, and indicated he knows it has been challenging times with the times they live in and the things they have to deal with on a daily basis. But, he wants the Police Department to understand that they have his support because of the Department's track record and what he and his staff has done over the years in terms of really caring about Lawrence Township.

Councilman Bobbitt stated with COVID-19 they do not get to see everyone as often; but on National Night Out he remembers walking their Congresswoman around and her being so impressed at how the community showed up and how many officers were their serving and interacting with the residents. And he thinks that community spirit really goes a long way as to how Lawrence Police Department polices the Township which reflects how his department approaches the challenges and accomplish the goals they need to reach as police officers in this day and age. He commended the Police Department for implementing the ABLE Training, Volunteers of American and for almost achieving the goals of the Principles of Good Policing which he learned they were doing in the aftermath of the George Floyd matter.

Councilman Bobbitt inquired as to how many new police officers the Chief would need this year to start to address the impending retirements. After a short discussion, Chief Caloiaro replied that they need around six (6) new police officers; but, they do not want to hire to many at a time so that they are able to provide quality training. He then asked if the Police Chief, Municipal Clerk or Municipal Manager have thought about cross training personnel to help with OPRA Request and some of the additional work with NIBRS or other reporting.

Mr. Nerwinski explained to hire an OPRA Clerk would do nothing in terms of the retrieval of the documents by the departments and the people who know where the documents are who pull the documents and control the documents. So, that would not address the issue, one thing that will address the issue is the new program they are implementing through the Construction Department that will eliminate a lot of OPRA request related to the permit history of properties requested by the listing agents. He further explained that OPRA requests are just labor intense and it is a drain on every municipality with request from people who most of the time do not even look at the documents; but, they still have to produce them to avoid litigation which is the world they live in right now and there is not solution at the present time.

Ms. Norcia noted it is very important for the public to understand that it is not the work of OPRA Request the Clerk's do not want to do... it is the reasoning behind it and proceeded to explain the OPRA Request she receives from Requestors for the Police

Department from 'ambulance chasers' that the Chief and his Staff has to spend time retrieving and redacting (employees that are paid by taxpayer dollars) to give to the Ambulance Chasers who in turn will go out and make money off of the work the taxpayers have paid for. She stated if there is a legitimate request from a newspaper or someone who is selling or purchasing a home and needs a permit history that is okay. She further explained after all that work they still cannot charge for any documents that are faxed or emailed no matter the size of the request. So, for all of that work that might take hours, days or weeks to put together the Township is not being reimbursed by the Requestor who in turn is going to use the information to make a profit which is not the intent of OPRA. Chief Caloiaro noted that they are now up to ten (10) regular requesters per week and all those records needs to redacted which is extremely time consuming.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the amount of time, usage of paper, copy machine maintenance and legal fees spent on OPRA as well it tying up a lot of municipal time. Both, Mr. Roskos and Ms. Norcia noted in theory the OPRA Statute was a great idea...but in practice it needing to be amended as it ties up a lot of people time on a municipal level and waste a lot taxpayers' money.

Mr. Nerwinski noted for the record that the Township hired the School Crossing Guards directly and advised that they were having a problem with the Guards calling out sick and having to use police officers to fill those spots. So, by privatizing they were trying to address the issue of putting police officers out to do School Crossing Guard work. Further, the people they hired through was offered equivalent pay through the private company and the private company was going to offer them extra guards in case one calls out sick. But, because of the pandemic he thinks that company is having manpower issues as well. So, the issue is not fully address as of yet and a fair assessment is not going to happen for a while.

Mr. Nerwinski further noted for the record with regards to bypassing Civil Service hiring requirements. The Council is going to have to adopt a Township Anti-Nepotism Conflict of Interest Policy in order for them to be able create a police force that better reflects their community. As for the manpower issue of 47 officers, the matter cannot be discussed publicly... however, he can say if everybody came to work and did what they were supposed to do they would have the police force they need, and the hiring of two officers each time is a very difficult thing to achieve and be fiscally responsible. And, with regards to retirements, police officers do not have to signal when they are going to retire. And, because, it takes 6 months to a year to train one officer the matter is challenging and a very complicated situation.

In closing, Mr. Nerwinski stated overwhelmingly they have hardworking, professional, moral and ethical police officers in the Police Department and he wants the Police Chief and the Command Staff to know; especially, the 10 officers in the audience that they have his support 100-percent; because, he believes in his heart that they are all professional hardworking people, and it helps him to keep focus and motivated to work with the Chief to try and always come up with the best police department they can have despite the challenges that continue to plague them.

Mayor Ryan expressed his sincere appreciation to Chief Caloiaro and his Staff and thanked them for all of their hard work.

Public Participation

Mr. James Hooker, 713 Bunker Hill Avenue, advised that he is the President of Friends of Colonial Lake Park and Tom Ritter, who resides on Lake Drive, is the Vice-President of the group, and the rest of their neighbors and the Executive Board is here in spirit. He then spoke about the great turnout of the Valentine Day Walk at Colonial Lake even with the cold weather and the beautiful display of lights and food trucks and asked who was responsible for the event. He went on to discuss him taking a bunch of pictures that he will display on Facebook. He then complimented Mr. Whitehead and his public works crew, the Police Department, Engineering Department, Recreation Department and other staff for all the great work that they do. (Mr. Nerwinski noted it was the Recreation Department with the help of the Public Works Department and some volunteers.)

Mr. Hooker advised of the Friends of Colonial Lake Annual Cleanup event that will be scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 19, which he in the past was well attended. And, this year they plan to couple the Cleanup Event with a Can Food/ Clothing Drive for Trenton area Soup Kitchen and the credit goes to Mayor Ryan. He then reported fantastic news with regards to the Grant they received a grant in the amount of \$75,000 to complete the Trail at Colonial Lake Park which he indicated was another cherry on top to help complete the park and one day they hope to get to the Forest Station where the parking lot is located and receive a grant for that as well. Thereafter he distributed complimentary Friends of Colonial Lake Calendars as a thank you to the Council, Municipal Manager and the Municipal Clerk and proceeded with an overview of some of the beautiful pictures of the wildlife at Colonial Lake Park displayed in the calendar.

Mayor Ryan thanked Mr. Hooker and Mr. Ritter and asked that they keep up the good work, and urged everyone come out and bring can goods or socks to support this great cause.

Ms. Linda Dlabik, 1358 Lawrence Road, opened by thanking Mr. Nerwinski for hand-delivering the documents pertaining to the Fire Ordinance and asked where to find the new Fire Ordinance on the website so she can be fully prepared when they meet again. She then inquired about a Facebook post she heard about relative to Councilwoman Lewis being on thread about the Lawrence High School Food Service Program which is her job. She invited Ms. Lewis to come see what they do instead of hearing what is being portrayed. Ms. Lewis stated her only comments on Facebook was that the Federal Government was paying for the Food Service Program.

Ms. Gregory Johnson, 282 Glenn Avenue, stated he is member of the School Board and congratulated Mayor Ryan on his appointment as Mayor. He indicated that they are looking forward to working with him to make Lawrence Township Schools the best they can be. However, they have a lot of challenges as at relates to COVID, LIS and the Crossing Guards. But, he is quite sure they will be able to work together on those issues as they move forward to ensure the safety of the students.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to add Ordinance (10-B), Ordinance Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Financial Agreement with Eggerts Crossing Housing Urban Renewal, LLC regarding the Subsidized Affordable Housing Project Known as Eggerts Crossing Village.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejection of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2413-21 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE-UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2020-2021"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that Ordinance updates the various Salary Schedules and Grades for positions within municipal operations.

The Ordinance No. 2416-22 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH EGGERTS CROSSING HOUSING URBAN RENEWAL, LLC REGARDING THE SUBSIDIZED AFFORDALE HOUSING PROJECT KNOWN AS EGGERTS CROSSING VILLAGE"

Mr. Roskos advised that the Ordinance is required under the law and that Eggerts Crossing Village New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency is coming up, and they are refinancing. They made a commitment to the town to maintain the low and moderate status of residents and Lawrence Township which Lawrence is receiving no credit for in the Fourth Round unless Fair Share Housing recognizes the rehabilitation of the facility. So, for Council's understanding they are agreeing to support Eggerts Crossing Apartments for the payment in lieu of taxes agreement even though they might not receive credit for this good deed under the Mt. Laurel Doctrine.

The Ordinance No. 2417-22 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2400-21 AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE IN MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY RESTRICTING THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES TO CERTAIN DESIGNATED AREAS AND ZONES"

Ordinance No. 2415-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2400-21 AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE IN MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY RESTRICTING THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES TO CERTAIN DESIGNATED AREAS AND ZONES

WHEREAS, in 2020, New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called "cannabis" for adults at least 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the "*New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act*" (the "Act"), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult-use) cannabis operations, use and possession; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes six marketplace classes of licensed businesses, including:

- Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license, for facilities involved in growing and cultivating cannabis;
- Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license, for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation, and packaging of cannabis items;
- Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license, for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale by other licensees;
- Class 4 Cannabis Distributor license, for businesses involved in transporting cannabis plants in bulk from one licensed cultivator to another licensed cultivator, or cannabis items in bulk from any licensed cannabis business to another;

- Class 5 Cannabis Retailer license for locations at which cannabis items and related supplies are sold to consumers; and
- Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license, for businesses providing courier services for consumer purchases that are fulfilled by a licensed cannabis retailer to make deliveries of the purchased items to a consumer, and which service would include the ability of a consumer to make a purchase directly through the cannabis delivery service which would be presented by the delivery service for fulfillment by a retailer and then delivered to a consumer.

WHEREAS, section 31a of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to adopt regulations governing the number of cannabis establishments (defined in section 3 of the Act as “a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, a cannabis wholesaler, or a cannabis retailer”), cannabis distributors or cannabis delivery services allowed to operate within their boundaries, as well as the location manner and times operation of such establishments, distributors or delivery services, and establishing civil penalties for the violation of any such regulations; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to permit, regulate or prohibit the operation of any one or more classes of cannabis establishments, distributors, or delivery services anywhere in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, section 31b of the Act also stipulates that any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date of the Act (*i.e.*, by August 22, 2021); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 31b of the Act, the failure to do so shall mean that for five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling, and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones; and

WHEREAS, after the initial and any subsequent five-year period following a failure to enact local regulations or prohibitions, the municipality shall again have 180 days to adopt an ordinance regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses, but any such ordinance would be prospective only and would not apply to any cannabis business already operating within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE (hereafter, the “TOWNSHIP”) has determined that, due to present uncertainties regarding the potential future impacts that allowing one or more classes of cannabis business might have on New Jersey municipalities in general, and on the TOWNSHIP in particular, it is at this time necessary and appropriate, and in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the TOWNSHIP’s residents and members of the public who visit, travel or conduct business in the TOWNSHIP, to designate certain areas and land use zones within the TOWNSHIP in which the six marketplace classes of licensed cannabis-related businesses may operate within the geographic boundaries of the TOWNSHIP; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the governing body of the TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Pursuant to section 31b of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16), all cannabis establishments, cannabis distributors, or cannabis delivery services are hereby designated to operate within the boundaries of the TOWNSHIP as follows:

2. Mixed Use 2 (MX-2) District: the following marketplace classes of licensed cannabis businesses shall be permitted uses:

- a. Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator
- b. Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer
- c. Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler
- d. Class 4 Cannabis Distributor

3. Mixed Use 3 (MX-3) District: the following marketplace classes of licensed cannabis businesses shall be permitted uses:

- a. Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator
- b. Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer
- c. Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler
- d. Class 4 Cannabis Distributor

4. Limited Industry (LI-1) District: the following marketplace classes of licensed cannabis businesses shall be permitted uses:

- a. Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator
- b. Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer
- c. Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler
- d. Class 4 Cannabis Distributor

5. Regional Commercial (R.C.) District: the following marketplace classes of licensed cannabis businesses shall be permitted uses:

- a. Class 5 Cannabis Retailer
- b. Class 6 Cannabis Delivery

6. Highway Commercial (H.C.) District where the property has frontage on U.S. Highway Route 1 between Franklin Corner Road and Quakerbridge Road: the following marketplace classes of licensed cannabis businesses shall be permitted uses:

- a. Class 5 Cannabis Retailer
- b. Class 6 Cannabis Delivery

7. The number of Class 5 Cannabis Retailers shall not exceed two (2) in the Township at any time. Any currently licensed medicinal marijuana operator in the Township may not be denied under this provision to operate hereafter as a licensed Class 5 Cannabis Retailer or Class 6 Cannabis Delivery Service.

8. Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent a Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator, Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer, Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler, or Class 4 Cannabis Distributor from operating in a commercial zone or commercial district if it is consistent with the building's existing structure and use at the time the Township adopted Ordinance 2400-21.

9. The Township shall impose a municipal transfer tax pursuant to the Act for the maximum amount allowable for: (a) receipts from the sale of cannabis by a cannabis cultivator to another cultivator; (b) receipts from the sale of cannabis by one cannabis establishment to another cannabis establishment ("Cannabis establishment" is defined as a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer); (c) receipts from the retail sales of cannabis by a cannabis retailer to consumers.

10. Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Lawrence Township Municipal Code inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

11. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the

section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

12. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication and filing with the County of Mercer Planning Board, and as otherwise provided for by law.

Adopted: February 15, 2022

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 | | | | | | |
| Mr. Kownacki | X | | | | | | |
| Ms. Lewis | X | | | | | X | |
| Mr. Powers | X | | | | | | X |
| Mayor Ryan | X | | | | | | |

Manager's Report –

Mr. Nerwinski reported that he previous sent via email communication of the proposed Anti-Nepotism and Conflict of Interest Policy to Council that has already been approved by DCA for another town which is one of the mandatory things they need to do in order to take advantage of the opportunity to hire police officers outside of Civil Service regulations. He indicated that the proposed Anti-Nepotism Policy does not have to signal the end of anymore refined Anti-Nepotism polices that the Council might want to work on in the future. The Anti-Nepotism document he is proposing is short, concise and accomplishes what they want to accomplish with regards to hiring police officers more quickly. Mr. Roskos concurred with Mr. Nerwinski's remarks.

Mr. Nerwinski then asked the consensus of the Council for the Resolution to be put on the next meeting. A brief question and answer period took place. There was no objection of Council.

Attorney's Report –

There was no Attorney's report.

Clerk's Report –

There was no Clerk's report.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

Mayor Ryan stated he thought Senator Turner had put out something stating if any large developments were being built the municipality was to notify neighboring towns, and asked Mr. Nerwinski to reach out to Mr. Parvesse, Lawrence Township Engineer, about the 5.5 million square feet of warehousing West Windsor is planning to build on the intersection of Quakerbridge and Clarksville Road instead of the proposed condos which could possibly have a significant impact on traffic for Lawrence Township.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that Lawrence Township has been provided information in compliance with the law from West Windsor and he can certainly share with him the Concept Plans with their intent regarding the warehousing they plan to build. It involves a significant Warehousing Complex which may prove to be less of a traffic creator than the four-hundred houses originally planned for that area. He indicated that is one positive thing and he guests warehousing is the thing at this point and time.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 91-22 (18-A.1) through 110-22 (18-H.110) with the exception of Resolution No. 94-22 and Resolution No. 95-22 were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Resolution No. 94-22 (18-D.2) and Resolution No. 95-22 (18-D.3) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Councilman Bobbitt reported in reviewing the Growth and Redevelopment Ordinance he did a count of the number of members and they have 20 members at full capacity which is too many. So, he will start that conversation with the Committee as to how to best address that number of members. Additional discussion ensued relative to the reason for the growth of the Committee as it relates to the merger of the Brunswick Pike Redevelopment Group.

Mayor Ryan reported that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is having their first meeting in the Council Meeting Room instead of the Lower Level Conference Room; because, the Zoning Board Meeting is meeting in the Lower Level Room tomorrow. So, he is going to speak to the members of the DEI Committee about changing their meetings day to Thursday instead of Wednesday to avoid the conflict with the Zoning Board meetings.

Councilman Powers stated they heard from Mr. Whitehead during his Budget presentation about the DEP Audit of the Ecological Facility, and indicated it is also the time for the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee to be audited by DEP. So, they will be sending presentative to the March meeting.

Written Communications –

There was no written communication.

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

8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

John T. Ryan, Mayor