

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

May 3, 2022

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE: “Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Council being held on Tuesday, May 3, 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 meeting was opened with the Inspiration led by the Municipal Clerk and the Pledge of Allegiance led by The Girl Scouts.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Council Members Bobbitt, Kownacki, Lewis and Mayor Ryan

Absent: Councilman Powers

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations.

Councilwoman Lewis stated that over the last several years there have been people who do something great and can we recognize them. We have volunteers who have been doing great things in the Community through organized groups or who wanted to help their community. So last year, it was presented to do a Volunteer Award which are broken into several categories and will be done on a quarterly basis. Councilwoman Lewis wanted to thank the Township Manager, who supported the request, to Nancy Bergen in the Recreation Department who started the program and Craig Dinwoodie who has moved in and gotten the ball running.

Councilman Lewis provided a brief background history of each of the recipients, congratulated the honorees and presented the following designated Volunteer Awards:

Victor Gutierrez – Adult Category

William Agress – Lifetime Achievement Award

Lawrence Township Recreation Advisory Committee – Large Group

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

Mr. Fred Vereen, 26 Fred Vereen Road, stated he was representing the Lawrence Township Reparation Task Force and the purpose is to have Council affirm and establish a task force for reparation. The Reparation Task Force will prepare a study and a development reparation proposal for African Americans in New Jersey. The Task Force will consist of 11 members (4 Legislatures and 7 public members). There will be six public meetings; a report will be issued no later than 6 months with a final report to the Governor and Legislature. Lawrence Township would be the first Municipality to confirm this legislation. Therefore, Mr. Vereen asked the Council to pass a resolution in support the Reparation Task Force.

Mr. Samuel Frisby, Mercer County Commissioner of 10 Belmont Circle, Trenton, New Jersey, stated he supports the Reparation Task Force. There have been struggles for African Americans as it relates to their skin color, youth incarceration and housing opportunities. He further discussed segregated school districts in the nation, which relates back to economic disparity.

Ms. Nicole Platt, 32 Pine Knoll Drive, stated she is the Co-chair of League of Women Voters and they support the New Jersey Reparations Task Force, which is designed to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans over a two-year period.

Review and Revision of the Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to remove Resolution 178-22 (18.H.1), Authorizing an Appointment to the Public Safety Committee, so the credentials of the applicant can be reviewed.

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

Same was carried in the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding and/or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejection of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (MILL AND OVERLAY INCLUDING ALL WORK AND MATERIALS) IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,697,462.28 IN STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS (SLFRF) TRANCHE 1 REVENUE REPLACEMENT AND APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$460,000 IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,157,462.28".

Mr. Nerwinski advised that this ordinance provides for various road improvements relating to the 2022 Road Improvement Program.

The Ordinance No. 2426-22 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			
Mayor Ryan	X						

Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,150,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY".

Mr. Nerwinski advised that this ordinance appropriates \$2,150,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for various capital projects.

The Ordinance No. 2427-22 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			
Mayor Ryan	X						

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2228-22 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN".

Ordinance No. 2423-22

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2228-16 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 2228-16, finally adopted April 5, 2016, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Improvements to Municipal Buildings: "Public Works Equipment Storage Facility, including but not limited to Snow Removal/Storm Recovery, Parks and Recreational Equipment"

Various Park and Recreational Facility Improvements: "Public Works Equipment Storage Facility, including but not limited to Snow Removal/Storm Recovery, Parks and Recreational Equipment"

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: May 3, 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						

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Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2258-17 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN".

Ordinance No. 2424-22

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 2258-17 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 3 (a) of Bond Ordinance 2258-17, finally adopted April 4, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2270-17, finally adopted July 18, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2271-17, finally adopted July 18, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2275-17, finally adopted September 19, 2017, amended by Ordinance 2290-18, finally adopted February 20, 2018, amended by Ordinance 2342-19, finally adopted October 1, 2019, amended by Ordinance 2346-19 be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Improvements to Municipal Buildings consisting of: "Municipal Building Furnishings"

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

Adopted: May 3, 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      |         |      |        |
| Mayor Ryan   | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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Mayor Ryan read by title, an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2416-22 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2022-2023".

Ordinance No. 2425–22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. – 2416-22  
SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR  
EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2022-2023

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 2022-2023.”

## 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 2022-2023 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, 2022 and January 1, 2023:

| Position of Job Title             | Basis  | 2022                               | 2023                                        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Armed Court Attendant             | Hourly | \$27.14                            | \$27.75                                     |
| Emergency Medical Technician      | Hourly | \$24.02                            | \$24.56                                     |
| Firefighter                       | Hourly | \$19.68                            | \$20.13                                     |
| Laborer (Seasonal)                | Hourly | \$13.29                            | 14.00                                       |
| Life Guard                        | Hourly | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$16.86 | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$17.24          |
| Recycling Coordinator             | Per    | \$8.936                            | \$9.137                                     |
| School Traffic Guard              | Hourly | \$18.87                            | \$19.29                                     |
| Secretary/Board & Committee       | Per    | \$1,800.00                         | \$1,800.00                                  |
| Tax Search Officer                | Per    | \$12.528                           | \$12.810                                    |
| Zoning Officer                    | Per    | \$5.828                            | \$5.959                                     |
| Affordable Housing Liaison        | Per    | \$6.129                            | \$6.267                                     |
| Affordable Housing Resale         | Per    | \$100                              | \$100                                       |
| Fire Department Liaison           | Hourly | \$25.00                            | \$25.00                                     |
| Deputy Registrar Vital Statistics | Per    | \$2.500                            | \$2.500                                     |
| Municipal Court Attendee          | Hourly | \$24.35                            | \$24.90                                     |
| SLEO Class III                    | Hourly | \$29.70                            | \$30.36                                     |
| Park Attendant                    | Hourly | \$16.21                            | \$16.58                                     |
| Security Guard                    | Hourly | \$25.00                            | \$25.00                                     |
| Emergency Response Specialist     | Hourly |                                    | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$50.00 per hour |

|            |        |                                                                 |                                                                 |
|------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| All Others | Hourly | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to Step 1 In<br>Applicable Job Title | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to Step 1 In<br>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 <sup>th</sup> year through year 15 | \$1,100 |
| Beginning the 16 <sup>th</sup> year through year 19 | \$1,400 |
| Beginning the 20 <sup>th</sup> year through year 23 | \$1,700 |
| Beginning the 24 <sup>th</sup> year through year 27 | \$2,000 |
| Beginning the 28 <sup>th</sup> 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: May 3, 2022

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

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**Manager's Report**

Mr. Nerwinski stated he had nothing to report tonight.

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**Attorney's Report**

Mr. Roskos stated all his comments are for the executive session.

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**Clerk's Report**

There was no Clerk's report.

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**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

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**New Business**

There was no new business.

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**Public Participation**

Martha Friend, 976 Lawrence Road, stated she is not clear on the back and forth with Council and saw the draft resolution prepared; is it something we can hear thoughts on or know the next steps. Ms. Friend also wanted to know why a committee this new was given the opportunity to review. Councilman Lewis responded that the Committee made a request through an e-mail to review it and Council does not want to take that away from them. Ms. Friend continued that the Committee would make recommendations to Council and questioned how it gets voted on. Councilwoman Lewis gave an explanation.

Greg Johnson, 282 Glenn Avenue, stated he was very proud of the presentation by the Reparation Committee and glad a request was made to Council. Rider University wrote a great article on Slavery in Lawrence and Hunterdon Counties, and wrote a well written article from a historical perspective, entitled "American Paradox" and encourages everyone should read it.

**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 175-22 (18-B.1) through 187-22 (18-H.6) 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.

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**Council Initiatives & Liaison Reports**

Councilman Bobbitt stated a resolution in support of allowing the municipalities have a stronger say in stormwater. Also, a small business package was prepared by Craig Dinwoodie.

Councilwoman Lewis stated she sent an e-mail about OEI recommendations as well as social media regarding various issues and events.

**Written Communications**

There was no written communication.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John T. Ryan, Mayor