

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

April 1, 2025

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Farmer began the meeting with a quote by Benjamin Franklin, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Farmer 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, April 1, 2025, 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 19, 2024.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Perry and Mayor Farmer.
Absent: Councilman Ryan.

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Mayor Farmer read a proclamation declaring April 25, 2025 as "Arbor Day" in the Township of Lawrence.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our Township increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia Farmer, Mayor of the Township of Lawrence, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2025 as

Arbor Day

in the Township of Lawrence and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

Public Participation

Mr. David Spaulding thanked Council for the opportunity to provide an update on behalf of the Mayor's Task Force regarding Resolution number 346-24, and the future use of the Lawrence Community Center. He reported that the Task Force has planned a Community Engagement meeting on May 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., located in the cafeteria of the Lawrence Township High School. He stated that beginning at 6:30 p.m., there will be a presentation of the historical overview of the Community Center, followed by an open discussion at 7:00 p.m. for residents to share insights, concerns, and ideas regarding the Center's future. Additionally, he explained, the Task Force is working on current projects, such as distributing a community survey to collect data on preferred uses of the Center, creating multi-lingual materials, information-gathering to understand existing programs and community needs, and implementing an outreach strategy that will include school and Township communication channels, digital media via Lawrence Links, community news, print media and local radio. Mr. Spaulding shared that, in reviewing the Recreation Department's July 31, 2024 proposal for the Community Center that was given to the Township Manager, the Task Force saw significant alignment between the community

feedback and the Recreation Department's proposals, which reinforces the idea of integrating community input with community plans. Finally, Mr. Spaulding stated that future plans include analyzing survey responses, drafting a report based on community concerns, priorities and recommendations, creating a mission statement, and sharing a timeline for presenting their recommendations to Council. The next meeting, he informed Council, will be held on May 13, 2025.

Mayor Farmer thanked the Task Force for all of their hard work, and encouraged the community to attend the May 13th meeting.

Ms. Katie MacDuff, former Lawrence Township Councilmember and current Township Democratic Club President, as well as Township Democratic Municipal Committee Secretary, wished to express her disappointment in the fact that there is a Resolution to adopt the budget by title, rather than of line by line. She informed Council that club members had expressed a desire to see the budget reviewed line by line and not by title, and are disappointed to see that this is not coming to fruition. It is her hope that Council reconsiders this decision, if not for this year, then possibly for next year's budget adoption.

Mayor Farmer thanked Ms. MacDuff for her comments, and expressed that she and her fellow Councilmembers take their responsibilities seriously, and have reviewed the Budget line by line several times with various professionals prior to today's Council meeting. She expressed that she is aware that there is some public interest in reviewing the budget line by line, and suggested that this is something the Council may take into consideration for the 2026 budget review.

Mr. Walt Markulec stated that he is a lifelong resident of Lawrence Township, and is proposing that the Township erect a statue on the north side of the parking lot to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, as the war was won, he remarked, through battles that were fought between the area of Trenton and Princeton. He indicated that he will have a feasibility study performed, and report back to Council with the results in one month.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Ms. Perry, the Agenda was amended to **table** Ordinance No. 2491-25 – Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2084-11 Amending Chapter 15 Article I of the Lawrence Administrative Code Entitled “Growth and Redevelopment Committee” – Addition of Student Representative, and to include Tax Assessor Position to Resolution No. 160-25 (18-H.4) - Closed Session.

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Kownacki, Perry and Mayor Farmer.
 Absent: Councilman Ryan.
 Abstain: None.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2024 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

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

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On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2024 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

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

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### Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejection of bids.

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### Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

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## Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Farmer read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2427-22 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN – Acquisition of Fire/Rescue Equipment: "Ambulance and Equipment".

Mr. Nerwinski stated that this is a Capital Improvement Ordinance that, by law, requires a vote by the Governing Body to revise the purpose of the description to include the acquisition of Fire/Rescue equipment, specifically an ambulance and equipment to address a current need.

## Ordinance No. 2488-25

### ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2427-22 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 as follows:

#### Section 1:

- a. Section 1 (c) of Ordinance 2427-22, finally adopted May 17, 2022, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Acquisition of Fire/Rescue Equipment: "Ambulance and 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.

#### Section 3:

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

Adopted: April 1, 2025

The Ordinance No. 2488-25 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Farmer read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2449-23 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN – Acquisition of Fire/Rescue Equipment: "Ambulance and Equipment".

Mr. Nerwinski reported that this is a companion amendment to a separate funding Ordinance, and Council will be using both of these Ordinances to fund the acquisition of the ambulance and equipment.

Ordinance No. 2489-25

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2449-23 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 as follows:

Section 1:

- a. Section 1 (c) of Ordinance 2449-23, finally adopted May 16, 2023, Ordinance 2453-23, finally adopted July 18, 2023, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Acquisition of Fire/Rescue Equipment: "Ambulance and 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: April 1, 2025

The Ordinance No. 2489-25 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Farmer read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE REGULATION OF INVASIVE BAMBOO."

Mr. Nerwinski reported that this is amending the Ordinance to include invasive bamboo as a species that can be regulated. He explained that the Township receives many calls throughout the year regarding residents whose neighbors have bamboo on their property, but due to the fast-growing nature of the plant, it begins to encroach and invade their own property. This amendment will allow the Township to resolve these matters in a way where this can be regulated, as well as provide guidance on how to remove the encroachment.

#### Ordinance No. 2490-25

#### ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE REGULATION OF INVASIVE BAMBOO

WHEREAS, bamboo is considered an invasive species, is difficult to control, and can cause significant property damage; and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Ordinance prohibits planting of invasive species under section 525.A.7; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council, seeks to regulate planting of new bamboo and potential spread of invasive bamboo plants; and

WHEREAS, existing bamboo may remain but shall be located, trimmed and maintained so that no part of the plant is closer than ten (10) feet to any property line or right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, bamboo shall be considered a nuisance and shall be regulated under Chapter 265 “Nuisances”;

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, that Chapter 265 of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code be hereby amended as follows:

Section 1.

§265-3. Nuisances defined and prohibited

A (4). The growth, presence or existence of poison ivy within twenty (20) feet or **bamboo within ten (10) feet** of any property line.

Section 2. Repealer

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

Section 3. 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 4. Effective Date

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

Adopted: April 1, 2025

The Ordinance No. 2490-25 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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**Manager’s Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski stated that this is the time for a public hearing on the adoption of the 2025 Budget. The New Jersey Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, requires the Municipal

Body to read the Budget by its title; therefore, a Resolution must be named, seconded and voted on by Council to fulfill the required conditions of the law.

**A. Authorizing the Budget to be Read by Title Only**

Resolution No. 147-25

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the approved budget as advertised has been posted in the Municipal Building and copies have been made available by the Clerk to persons requiring them; and

WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the budget shall be read by title only.

Resolution Nos. 147-25 (12-A) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Mr. Nerwinski also explained, on behalf of the members of the public, that what transpired is something that has taken place within Township for the past 30 years, as it is simply a function of the adoption process. He stated that Council has indicated that they may wish to change this process to have a public reading of the Budget line by line, which they can consider for the 2026 Budget process.

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B. Authorizing the Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget

Resolution No. 148-25

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the attached document be and hereby is the Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget.

Resolution Nos. 148-25 (12-B) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Mr. Nerwinski stated that the 2025 Municipal Budget of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, for the fiscal year 2025 is a budget that was approved by Resolution of the Governing Body on the fourth day of March 2025. He reported that they have complied with the Local Budget Law N.J.S.A 40A:4-1 et seq., and the total Budget is for \$60,445,007.25. Mr. Nerwinski then reviewed the Local Tax for Municipal Purposes, which is in the amount of \$31,000,179.39, and the Tax Rate remains stable from last year at \$0.652.

Councilwoman Perry wished to highlight key areas of the Budget that could possibly affect the Township in the future. She explained that, due to the recent political climate and changes taking place in the government, the Township may possibly lose aid in the amount of four million dollars; however, she shared that the Manager and CFO have accounted for that possibility, enabling the Township to move forward without interruption to the Budget. She was pleased to disclose that the Township has collected more in Sewer Taxes this year, and noted that there was a flat increase to the Alcoholic licenses as well as other licenses. She reviewed the budget funding related to new hires for police and firefighter personnel, as well as the Community Center repairs. Lastly, she was happy to report that Lawrence Township will be debt-free by year 2027.

Mayor Farmer shared that she believes this to be a very good Budget, and relayed that taxes will not be raised this year. She expressed her thanks to Manager Nerwinski, CFO Peter Kiriakatis, and all of the staff who have helped to prepare this Budget, and stated that they did an outstanding job in preparing the Township for the future, making sure that they are in a good position for when a "rainy day" comes. She relayed exciting events and new growth taking place within Lawrence Township, noting the new businesses that are coming to the Township, new housing stock being built, the current revitalization of existing properties, and the addition of professional fire and police staff being added to the rosters. She reported that capital improvements to parks, real estate and infrastructure are being made, all the while providing exceptional public service to Township residents. In conclusion, Mayor Farmer stated that she wholeheartedly supports this Budget.

Councilman Bobbitt relayed that he often stops into the Manager's and CFO's office to find out how things are going, so he was aware that the Township was in a very good position. He was impressed that they were in a position to hire as many people as

they have without raising taxes, and based on smart growth throughout the Township, the valuation of the Municipality has grown. Mr. Bobbitt believes this is in relation to both wise development and redevelopment, as well as having a strong Tax Assessor who taxes properties fairly. Additionally, he suggested that the smart use of surplus has fueled this growth, and taxpayers are being saved money by having the Township make wise decisions about how they use this money. He recognized the Township department heads who have given thorough presentations to Council and have come to tonight's meeting to support of the Budget, noting the love they have in working for the residents of Lawrence Township, working in partnership with other departments, and for their shared sense of community. Finally, Mr. Bobbitt thanked the Lawrence Township staff, stating that they "make us up here look good!"

Councilman Kownacki thanked Council for their work in passing the Budget, the department heads for their contributions toward the creation of the Budget, and the Police and Fire Departments for all of their excellent work. He stated that he has been very happy being on Council for the past 16 years, and of those years, this is one of the best Budgets that he is very proud to support.

Greg Puliti stated that he has a few questions regarding the Budget. He clarified that last year's Budget was \$60,720,000.00 and this year's Budget is \$60,445,000.00, and asked if the Township was using a million dollars more this year from the surplus. Mr. Nerwinski responded that one million dollars is being moved over for improvements to the Community Center, as it has been identified by experts of being in need of improvement. Mr. Puliti next asked for clarification on fire hydrant services, as it had previously been billed at \$310,000.00, but for the past two years, including this year, it has been budgeted at \$414,000.00. Mr. Nerwinski responded that it has to do with the fact that the Township does not have the final total for water charges; however, should the money not be expended, it will go into the fund to be used for the Lawrence Township community. Councilman Bobbitt wished to add that for the past ten years, the budget number for fire hydrant services has remained at \$414,000.00, from 2015 until 2025.

Mr. Nerwinski wished to thank Lawrence Township CFO, Peter Kiriakatis, all of the department heads, Police command staff and officers, EMT and Fire personnel for attending tonight's meeting, as he believes it is a display of dedication and caring, and he expressed that Lawrence is very fortunate to have people who work for this municipal government who are dedicated and care about this Township. He noted that this Budget reflects all of their work, as it is built from the ground up in cooperation with the all of the department heads and their staff, and stated that the Township benefits from their experience and dedication, and he wishes to publicly thank them all.

Ms. Katie MacDuff reiterated that she knows this Budget was not "thrown together last minute;" that it takes months of planning and dedication from CFO Peter Kiriakatis, who she believes does a great job. However, she believes there may be some people who have questions or are confused, and the opportunity to go over the Budget line by line would be to their benefit. She suggested that there is a great deal of frustration, and

residents would like to be a part of the conversation and have the Budget explained to them so that they understand where their tax dollars are going.

Further discussion ensued between Mayor Farmer, Mr. Nerwinski, Mr. Bobbitt and Ms. Perry, with regard to the possibility of having a public Budget information session versus having an open door policy for people to ask the Manager and CFO questions, as has been done throughout the years.

Resolution No. 148-25

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the attached document be and hereby is the Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget.

Resolution Nos. 148-25 (12-B) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Attorney's Report –

There was no attorney report.

Clerk's Report –

Ms. Carter stated that Financial Disclosure Statements have been distributed to Council, with a cutoff date of April 30th. She has certified Councilman Kownacki and Bobbitt, as they have reached their vote totals, and will be on the Primary Election Day ballot.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

There was no new business.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

Mr. Eric Puliti stated that he would like insight on the RPM Development, LLC, as it has been going on for over five years, and there are many environmental and conflict of interest concerns regarding the project.

Mr. Nerwinski stated that RPM Development, LLC is ready to move forward, so this Resolution is in preparation of the company starting this process, as they have already spoken to the Zoning Board and have fulfilled all of their obligations. Mr. Nerwinski further explained that RPM is an affordable housing development that is occurring on Texas Avenue, in the rear of the Lawrence Shopping Center.

Further discussion ensued between Mayor Farmer, Councilwoman Perry, and Mr. Sypek with regard to the Municipal Land Use Act and the standard nature of the Bond pertaining to the performance by the developer for certain things as outlined in the Resolution by the Planning Board. Ms. Tonya Carter informed Mr. Puliti that a copy of the Bond is available in her office for him to review at his convenience.

Mr. Jim Hooker, Founding Executive Board Member of Friends of Colonial Lake Park, stated that Council had previously voted to adopt a Resolution to support an appeal from the Friends of Colonial Lake Park that would require the Ewing Lawrence Sewage Authority (ELSA) to move their pipeline away from an extremely environmentally sensitive area. He inquired as to the status of this Resolution.

Mr. Sypek stated that they are not prepared to adopt any such Resolution this evening; however, there will be a formal Resolution forthcoming.

Mr. Nerwinski clarified that the Resolution was already passed at the last meeting, but now needs to be approved by Council with authorization to Mr. Sypek, and then forwarded to the appropriate entities.

Ms. Slywia Kobus stated that she is happy to hear that Colonial Park is continuing to be protected for the Colonial Lakelands neighborhood. She asked that Block 503, Lots 15-26 be included in Green Acres. She appreciates that Colonial Lakelands has been saved from having a motel be built within their vicinity, and she would like the same protection for her Colonial Heights neighborhood. She explained that this protection was asked of the previous Council, but they were not receptive to the idea.

Ms. Katie MacDuff stated that she is disheartened that time and time again the solution to having questions and concerns is to just meet with the manager privately. She explained that her schedule does not afford her time to get away for such meetings.

Additionally, she disclosed that there is a two-foot high concrete wall off of Zoar St. that was previously hit by a car many years ago, and is currently crumbling, and has not been repaired by the Township. Because it is half destroyed, children are able to move past what remains of the wall to play in the creek beyond, which is a dangerous situation, and she wanted to make Council aware of this problem.

Mr. Nerwinski informed Council and the public that if anyone has a question that they know they will be asking at a Council meeting, they are welcome to email him directly and he will be prepared to answer to their question at the meeting. Addressing Mr. Eric Puliti, Mr. Nerwinski suggested that, in the spirit of transparency, if he has a question he would like answered, he can ask via e-mail and Mr. Nerwinski will provide him with that information.

Mayor Farmer shared that she and Councilwoman Perry have been discussing the possibility of having an "open house" as a way to engage with the public beyond the Council meeting. She noted that this would be an opportunity for Council to sit down with the public and receive feedback regarding their concerns on neighborhood-related issues.

Mr. Eric Puliti stated that his original question was based on information found on the agenda relating to a deeply controversial project within the community, and he finds it disconcerting that Mr. Nerwinski addressed him by name and gave, what he considers to be, the impression that he is purposely looking at the agenda in search of discrepancies.

Mr. Nerwinski apologized if he made Mr. Puliti feel uncomfortable, and explained that he was simply trying to offer a solution.

Mr. Jim Hooker stated that he had the honor of serving on the Trails and Open Space Stewardship Committee for ten years, and would like to make note that he had advocated on behalf of the Green Space Ms. Kolbus was referring to in her previous statement. He believes this makes sense, as this is land the Township does not have to buy because they already own it. Also, it is continuous to the Delaware State Park, which, he stated, is a beautiful and critical environmental habitat, and he supports Ms. Kolbus' request.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 149-25 (18-A.1) though 160-25 (18-H.4) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Ms. Perry reminded Council and the public that the Growth and Redevelopment Committee will host a small business fair on April 30th at the library beginning at 5:30 p.m. She relayed that all who would like to participate may reach out via the Township website. Ms. Perry also stated that a report on the Fire Survey will be given at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Farmer reported that last Tuesday was the unveiling of the Lewisville Marker, which was also attended and supported by Councilman Bobbitt. She thanked Manager Nerwinski and his staff for helping to control traffic, and Lawrence Township Engineer, James Parvesse, for helping with the sign to make sure the work followed Township regulations. She also wished to thank the public for their attendance at the event. She explained that the marker was a designation representing the location of the first free African Americans who settled in Lawrence Township, and was made in partnership with the Lawrence Township Public Schools, The Lawrenceville School, the Township of Lawrence, the Lawrence Historical Society, Lawrence Neighbors Together, and the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church.

Written Communications –

Mayor Farmer read a letter from the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association which proclaimed that she is the senior elected official of a Victory Town of the American Revolution. She read that the letter invites the Township of Lawrence to partner with this association in celebrating the semi-quincentennial. The letter explains that as a "Victory Town," Lawrence has witnessed the passage of victorious troops to and from Yorktown, along a trail that involves many stories of heroism. The anniversary plans include educational curricula to be used in schools, road signs and markers announcing Lawrence is a "Victory Town" of the Revolution, banners, flags, merchandise, and access to speakers, reenactors and various programs to be used in a celebration.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tonya D. Carter, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Patricia Farmer, Mayor