

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

October 20, 2009

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was opened with a Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, led by Municipal Clerk. Mayor Mount then welcomed the students from Rider University to the meeting.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Mount read the following statement of proper notice:

“Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 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”.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmen Bostock, Miller, Puliti, Mayor Mount.
Absent: Councilman Powers (The Municipal Clerk advised that Mr. Powers is out of State on business).

Also, in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, and Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Proclamations and Honors

Mayor Mount presented the following Proclamation to a representative from Womanspace which designated December 13, 2009 as “Communities of Light Day” and commended Womanspace for their great support in providing support to victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Afterwards, the representative provided a brief presentation relative to her organizations mission and invited everyone to attend an event they have scheduled for next Wednesday, October 28th at 5:30 p.m. at the Governor’s Mansion (Drumthwacket). She then thanked the Mayor and Council for the wonderful honor.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Township of Lawrence to recognize organizations that have contributed to the overall benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, Womanspace, founded in 1977, has demonstrated a unique ability to provide comfort, support services, crisis intervention and safety to women who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Womanspace, in the belief that 'peace begins at home', has asked the Mercer County Community to join them in their struggle against violence toward women by participating in their annual Communities of Light project; and

WHEREAS, Womanspace has provided emergency shelter in secure locations and comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence since 1977 and sexual assault since 2002, for more than 39,169 women, 5,383 children and 1,016 men; and has assisted more than 204,015 callers over the last 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Township applauds the efforts of Womanspace to bring an end to the circle of abuse imposed on women; and

WHEREAS, as Mayor of Lawrence Township, I urge that each and every household demonstrate their support of the concept that 'peace begins at home' by placing luminaries along their driveways and sidewalks on Sunday, December 13, 2009, as a visible symbol of that support; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from Communities of Light 2009 will be used to fund vital services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pamela H. Mount, Mayor of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, on behalf of the Lawrence Township Council do hereby Proclaim December 13, 2009 as:

COMMUNITIES OF LIGHT DAY

and hereby commend Womanspace on its many accomplishments and wish them continued success with Communities of Light in the years to come.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Public Participation

Mrs. Linda Dlabik, 1358 Lawrence Road, advised that they are going to have their annual Halloween event and she would like to request police presence for the Open House to help those who attend cross the street safely.

Mayor Mount thanked Ms. Dlabik for coming before Council and proceeded to give a brief history relative to the traditional event that takes place at Mrs. Dlabik's home each year, and Mr. Krawczun advised of the procedure with respect to a timeline for making the request. There was no opposition to the request.

There being no one else who wished to address the Council, Mayor Mount closed Public Participation.

Adoption of Minutes

There were no minutes for adoption.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Mount read by title an ordinance entitled, "REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF ALL OR A PORTION OF THE OUTSTANDING CALLABLE IMPROVEMENT BONDS OF THE TOWNSHIP, DATED OCTOBER 1, 2001 ISSUED IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000 APPROPRIATING \$6,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING THE COST THEREOF"

Mr. Krawczun advised that in 2001 Lawrence Township combined some outstanding bonds into a single federal obligation bond for about \$10,000,000, and at that time the issuance had variable interest rates that were higher than the current interest rates and based on the current analysis if the Township was to refinance the outstanding balance it could create a savings in the amount of

\$200,000 over the last ten years of the debt issue which is above the cost of the new debt, interest and the cost of issuance. He then proceeded to elaborate in detail on the process and the authorization required by the Local Finance Board for the refunding bond ordinance.

Ordinance was introduced and approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X						X
Mr. Miller	X						
Mr. Powers				X			
Mr. Puliti	X					X	
Mayor Mount	X						

Resolutions

An at length discussion took place relative to Resolutions 8A, 8E and 8F; resolutions authorizing the final one-year renewal contracts for the following services – roll-off container disposal service, curbside and container garbage collection and on-line data processing for tax assessment/collection and the possibility of extending those contracts, negotiating more favorable rates and possibly switching to an in-house garbage collection program after the contract with Waste Management expires.

Resolution Nos. 382-09 (8A) thru 395-09 (8N) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X					X	
Mr. Miller				X			
Mr. Powers	X						
Mr. Puliti	X						X
Mayor Mount	X						

Cited Resolutions are spread in their entirety in Resolution Book Volume No. 2 of the Township of Lawrence.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award of bids.

Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun submitted an invoice listing for the month of September 2009 in the amount of \$1,753,969.80.

Mr. Krawczun provided the Council with a general overview of some of the preparation and activities that the Administration has done with the regards to administering the seasonal flu vaccine, as well as, future plans for administering the H1N1 vaccination. A brief discussion followed concerning current data reports on the H1N1 virus.

Mr. Krawczun advised that the transfer of operations that took place in September between the Lawrence Neighborhood Service Center and HomeFront appears to be going quite smoothly. Further, they had a meeting yesterday morning to discuss some of the programs they have planned for the future, and they will forward a comprehensive list of those programs to him that he will in turn share with the Council.

Mr. Krawczun stated as a requirement for County funding he was asked to serve on the tripartite board as it is a requirement of the County to have an elected or government official that participates in the program provide feedback and do an operations review of the programs that will be connected to that funding.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Nerwinski reported that they completed the purchase of the Wilk property in combination of funds provided by the Lawrence Township Conservation Foundation and the D & R Greenways; that the closing took place last Friday and Mayor Mount was in attendance for the acquisition of 5-acres of open space. A brief discussion followed relative to the resources available for land that was acquired.

Clerk's Report –

Mrs. Norcia indicated that the last meeting in November is usually canceled due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and she would like to know the Council's wishes with regards to canceling the November 24th meeting, so that the departments can plan accordingly.

Mr. Krawczun suggested the Council wait until the first meeting of November which would give the Administration a better of idea regarding transfers; because if there is a need for budget transfers they must act within that month as they cannot be carried over into the next month. And, since the transfers are still being worked on it is too hard to make a prediction as to the need of the transfers at this time. So, based on Mr. Krawczun's concern, it was consensus of Council to wait until the next meeting to make a decision.

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Councilman Miller's report:

Mr. Miller stated he has nothing to report at the present time.

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Councilman Powers' report:

No report due to Mr. Powers' absence.

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Councilman Puliti's report:

Mr. Puliti reported on the Public Safety Committee that the construction on the lighted crosswalk has begun which has been a long awaited project - approximately 6-years; and Community Day was a huge success for the Recreation Advisory Committee.

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Councilman Bostock's report:

Mr. Bostock reported that the Environmental Resources Committee had a table set up at Community Day for the first time which was a nice presence for them. Also, the Cable Telecommunications Advisory Committee met earlier in the month and they are concluding their review of the policy governing the government access channel.

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Mayor's Mount report:

Mayor Mount distributed her flier "What's the Mayor Been Up to" for the months of September- October and proceeded to discuss the following items:

- 1) Discussed the various Boards and Committees that Lawrence Township has including the Business Task Force and Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census and the importance and responsibilities of the liaisons and volunteers that reside on those boards and committees.
- 2) Reported that Lawrence Township started a Green Team back in the spring as a effort to take part in becoming a sustainable community which has now paid off as they have achieved their Sustainable New Jersey Certification along with 45 other municipalities from the State, and in November at the League of Municipalities Conference there will be a celebration for those municipalities that participated in program and achieved the certification.
- 3) Discussed the Pedestrian/Bike Task Force Committee and the "Walk This Way Program", a program designed to teach students how to walk to and from school safely and how the use the pedestrian islands to cross the streets. She also advised of a walk they had last week with the 4th graders at the Lawrence Intermediate School that included 325 students and was very successful.
- 4) Advised that they are working on the Master Plan, a guide that governs the plans and development of the Township, and that every 6 years the plan has to be revised. They also have a subcommittee of the Planning Board working on the Sustainable Element for the Master Plan for anyone who would like to do any kind of sustainable building or developing in Lawrence Township. A brief discussion took place relative to the Grant that was received for \$10,000 to undertake that study.
- 5) Advised that tomorrow there is a Clean Energy Conference in Atlantic City that she will be attending as she is on the panel and under Sustainable Jersey she is also on the Mayors Task Force for New Jersey Futures. They are also organizing the "Relay for Life Days" event which is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society scheduled to take place on May 21st and May 22nd, 2010.

Written Communications –

- A. Letter of Resignation from Henry Hoffman for the Shade Tree Advisory Committee – No Discussion took place relative to the matter.
- B. Letter from Mercer County Improvement Authority Relative to the Mercer County Curbside Recycling Program – No discussion took place relative to the matter.

Old Business –

Mr. Miller stated that the construction taking place on Eggert Crossing Road is starting to look unsightly and he would like to know when the signs will be put up and when disposal of the barrels will take place.

Mr. Krawczun stated he is unsure of the timeline, however, he will find out from Jim Parvesse, Township Engineer. But, he thinks it is because of the rain that the construction schedule was pushed back. A short discussion followed relative to a timeline for the project.

Mr. Miller further inquired about the last time the storm drains were cleaned out on Alternate Route 1, and if Mr. Krawczun could contact DOT to clean them out, because there have been complaints about them backing up from all the rainstorms.

Mr. Krawczun advised that Lawrence Township is responsible for cleaning all the storm drain on municipal roads.

Mayor Mount advised that NJDOT has been very active in Lawrence Township, and that they have been very fortunate that DOT has been able to fund numerous projects in the Township including the latest project on Baker's Basin Road off of Route 1. And, out of curiosity she asked the Township Engineer approximately how much funding he thinks Lawrence Township received this year with all the scheduled projects and his estimation was over \$4 million in funding.

Mayor Mount indicated that was a significant amount of money given to fund some of the projects on their list and they are very grateful and happy that the State recognized Lawrence Township and granted them that funding.

New Business –

There was no new business.

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

7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Pamela H. Mount, Mayor