

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

March 2, 2010

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

“Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, March, 2, 2010, 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: Councilmembers Bostock, Kownacki, Mount, Puliti, and Mayor Powers.

Absent: None.

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

Proclamations and Honors

There were proclamations or honors.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Public Participation

Mr. Mordechai Rozanski, President of Rider University, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak before them and indicated he would like to voice his concern and opposition to Resolution (8F), Authorizing Requesting the State to Establish Municipal Service Fees to be Paid by Students Attending Colleges, Boarding Schools, and Universities within the Township of Lawrence that is scheduled for approval on tonight's Agenda.

Mr. Rozanski stated that the Rider University understands the difficult times that is felt by the citizens, businesses, the government and educational institutions – both public and private due to the economic downturn, and that the University takes the hardship of the current economic state very seriously and that they are sensitive to the financial challenges that Lawrence Township and their fellow residents are facing. However, Rider University opposes the proposed resolution and respectfully requests that Council table the resolution so that they can meet and discuss their perspectives and reach a mutual understanding on the issues involved, as they have successfully done in the past.

Mr. Rozanski advised that there are two fundamental reasons why the University is asking that the proposed resolution be tabled until further discussion. The first is Rider is a significant financial contributor and economic asset for the Township. And, the second is the "taxing" of Rider students directly or the University indirectly by means of services fees will have a serious impact on both the students and the university as they are enduring the same financial hardships that the Township is due to the current economy.

Mr. Rozanski proceeded with an in-depth review of how public and private colleges and universities contribute economically to the local and regional economy and how Rider contributes substantially to the economics and general well being of the Lawrence community, to include the significant payments made to Lawrence every year in the form of taxes – such as fees for services and pass-through for services received by the police or sewer authority, donations in lieu of taxes to local agencies and foundations, hosting the July 4th Fireworks, employing 150 Township residents who, in turn, pay an estimated \$1 million in property taxes, awarding scholarships and grants to students in the community and direct and indirect purchases of goods and services that have made a positive impact on economy in Lawrence.

Mr. Rozanski stated that he empathizes with the difficulty and the many challenges the Council is now facing, as they are experiencing the same challenges with significant reduction of State aid, including a 21% cut to the third installment of direct aid allocation, totaling approximately \$150,000. But, placing the burden on the students will only cause an undesirable ripple affect without solving the fundamental challenges Lawrence Township face.

Mr. Rozanski continued to discuss the undesirable ripple affect and the inequitable appearance the passage of the resolution could possibly have with regards to clients of non-profit organizations – such as churches, schools and synagogues and university students and advised that all educational institutions add value to the society and that Rider University has a long and productive history of partnership with Lawrence Township, and they are proud contributors to the community. So, he hopes that the Council will look favorably on their request to table the proposed resolution until further discussion and deal with the issue in a professional and forthcoming manner, as they have done in the past. He then thanked is to Council for their time.

Mayor Powers explained that the intent of the Resolution is not to cause any hardship on the students that attend Rider, but to explore and spread fairness among the community and to look out for the best interest of Lawrence Township taxpayers. And, as previously discussed, Lawrence Township is truly facing unprecedented times economically in terms of the perfect storm with the budget crisis at the State level, trickling down to the municipal level and globally.

Mayor Powers indicated that Dr. Rozanski's presence at tonight's meeting speaks volumes in terms of the commitment Rider has to community and he feels the suggestion of have a sit-down with the Council to exchange dialogue on the matter is a great idea. Further, the Council will be having a Budget Summit after the meeting at 7:30 p.m. downstairs where he and Mr. Krawczun will be discussing the budget process and invited all to attend.

Ms. Lisa Burke, 278 Fountayne Lane, stated she as well would like to voice her opposition to Resolution (8F), and although she understands the spirit in which it was put forth she would like to see the resolution voted down and tabled at minimum. And, advised that her perspective is shaped as a taxpayer and years of experience in higher education (not Rider University), as well as, a Non-profit Administration and proceeded to share her views on the Economic Impact Study that Dr. Rozanski previously discussed, as it relates to non-profits and what they economically bring to the community and why the proposed resolution is dangerous and should not be approved by Council.

EMPLOYEE LAYOFF MATTER – The following individuals voiced their concerns and objections regarding the proposed layoffs of several employees in the Public Works Department. Some discussion took place between the people in the audience and the Council relative to employee layoffs, the economy and cost saving measures, to try and hold the line on taxes and avert layoffs.

1. Mr. David Hancock, Resident & President of AFSCME, Local #2476 Blue Collar Union
2. Mr. Andrew Lee, President of Lawrence Township Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 209

- 3. Mrs. Agnes Stefanelli, Wife of Michael Stefannelli (one of the employees scheduled for layoff)

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

Adoption of Minutes

There were no minutes for adoption.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Powers read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2045-10 PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$6,837.21 THEREFOR AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF."

Mr. Krawczun advised that the Ordinance simply amends a previously adopted ordinance which applied to individual property assessments for parcels that participated in the 2009 Concrete Program. In addition, the ordinance will correct the original pay back period from eight to five years.

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

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X						X
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X						
Mr. Puliti	X					X	
Mayor Powers	X						

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 115-10 (8A) thru 132-10 (8R)) were approved by the following roll call vote with the exception of Resolution (8F) that was **tabled**:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X						X
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Mrs. Mount	X					X	
Mr. Puliti	X						
Mayor Powers	X						

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

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Resolution Nos. 120-10 (8F) was **tabled** on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						X
Mrs. Mount	X					X	
Mr. Puliti	X						
Mayor Powers	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 or rejection of bids.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Powers read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A, OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINSTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER'"

Mayor Powers asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Powers asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed.

Ordinance No. 2047-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A, OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER'

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of new Jersey, that Chapter 6A of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code be and is hereby amended as follows:

1. Sec. 6A-11 Individual subsurface sewage disposal systems
 - (a) New construction (fee per system)
Fee for review of design and installation \$750.00
 - (b) Alterations to existing system
Fee for review of design and installation \$500.00
 - (c) Soil Testing \$60.00/hour

A minimum of \$360.00 per lot must be deposited in escrow for soil testing services.
 - (d) Minor repair to existing system \$100.00

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

3. Severability. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Additions underlined _____

The Ordinance 2047-10 was adopted on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVED	SECOND
Mr. Bostock	X					X	
Mr. Kownacki	X						X
Mrs. Mount	X						
Mr. Puliti	X						
Mayor Powers	X						

Manager’s Report –

There was no Manager’s report.

Attorney’s Report –

There was no Attorney’s report.

Clerk’s Report –

There was no Clerk’s report.

Written Communications –

There was no written communication.

Old Business –

A. Discussion of Green Team – Rescheduled for future date.

New Business –

There was no new business.

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

7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Michael S. Powers, Mayor