

REORGANIZATION MEETING – LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

Saturday, January 1, 2011 – 12 Noon

The Reorganization Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council was held on Saturday, January 1, 2011, at the Lawrence Township Municipal Building – Council Meeting Room at 12 Noon.

The Municipal Clerk read the following statement of proper notice:

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE: “Adequate notice of the January 1, 2011 Reorganization Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council was forwarded to The Times, The Trentonian and The Lawrence Ledger on December 14, 2010.”

The Municipal Clerk stated that Nicole Plett, President of Lawrence Township League of Women Voters, will now lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call for continuing Council members was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmen Bostock, Kownacki, Powers, Puliti and Councilwoman Mount.
Absent: None.

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

The Municipal Clerk called for nominations for Office of Mayor for the year 2011.

“Madam Chair if there are no other nominations, it is my pleasure to nominate Gregory Puliti as Mayor for 2011. Mr. Puliti brings a strong background in public safety to the Council and he is a life member of the Slackwood Fire Company. Having previously served as Mayor in 1998, 2000, 2003 and 2007, I am quite confident that he will do an outstanding job leading the Council once again. With a brief hiatus he is a 14-year veteran of the Council. Therefore, I move his nomination as Mayor for 2011.”

Mr. Powers nominated Gregory Puliti for Office of Mayor for the year 2011.

The Municipal Clerk thanked Mr. Powers and asked if there were any other nominations. There being no other nominations, the Municipal Clerk declared the nominations closed and proceeded with the following roll call vote for the nomination of Gregory J. Puliti as Mayor.

RECORD OF VOTE

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

Mercer County Freeholder, Pasquale Colavita, administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Puliti.

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Mayor Puliti welcomed and wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he would like to thank his lovely wife Pam, and sons Eric and Patrick for always being there for him and proceeded to give special recognition to the following attendees: *Mercer County Surrogate, Diane Gerofsky, Assemblyman and Township Prosecutor, Reed Gusciora, Mercer County Freeholder, Pasquale Colavita, Former Mayors/Councilmembers - Joseph Cermele, Harold Vereen, Doris Weisberg, Lawrence Chief of Police, Daniel Posluszny, County Transportation Supervisor, Sigmund Zegarski and Colonel Hand, William Agress.*

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Mayor Puliti Mayoral remarks:

Thank you all for coming!

“It is a pleasure to serve as Mayor - once again. I thank my colleagues from both parties for having the confidence in me to represent them in a collective voice on speaking on behalf of Council. Having had the pleasure of being in this position several times before, I look forward to using the network of elected public officials I have had the opportunity to work with in the past, to move Council's agenda forward.

In previous years when I would address the Township as Mayor, I had the opportunity to highlight major projects that the Council was able to accomplish – such as the construction of the new Police and Court facility, the rehabilitation efforts at Eggerts Crossing and the badly needed renovations that were made here at Town Hall – just to name a few.

But the reality is, times are different and the focus is now on what essential services we can save. We are all aware of the constraints that the State of New Jersey is putting on local municipalities...what I am referencing is the 2% percent cap on spending that we are restricted to. I could stand here and lecture on the State putting budget constraints on us that we cannot realistically meet without dismantling the core services of this town, and I could also talk at great length on the State holding back energy receipt taxes owed to the town under the guise of what the State call state aid. But, there will be plenty of time for those conversations as we review this year's budget.

While it is unfortunate that we cannot undertake any new monetary projects or initiatives, I can offer a couple of ideas for the New Year that I would like the Council to entertain. The first is, I would like to see the Council pass an Ordinance that would require all elected and appointed statutory Board members to take the Local Government Ethics class – once every two years that is offered by the Department of Community Affairs. I have taken this course in the past, and so have our Township Manager, Township Attorney and Municipal Clerk. While Lawrence Township has been fortunate enough not to have any type of ethical problems, this Ordinance will certainly help keep the public's trust in our actions here at Town Hall.

The second initiative I would like to put forth has actually already started in a Township Recreation Meeting during the past year, as it was my idea to resurrect the Fourth of July Fireworks celebration that was a casualty of last year's budget. At this meeting, the Township Superintendent of Recreation did a very frank commentary for the Committee after attending one of last year's staff meetings with the Manager. The Superintendent said "If we are to continue to offer quality recreation programs and keep the current ones we have, we need to do business differently, and not rely so heavy on the Township's general budget. In essence, we need to find other sources of funds and donations. And, unfortunately, we will be competing with every other non-profit group out there."

So, the first fundraising idea that the Recreation Department took on was to solicit sponsorships for recreational events, to bring back the Fourth of July fireworks celebration. As a result, the first annual Red White and Bang Kid's Triathlon was held on Labor Day weekend of last year. This event combined physical recreation for our youth while fundraising for our recreation program that everyone could enjoy. This program was a big success, with local businesses and organizations donating \$1500 toward the fireworks. Since then we have received other donations to the fund; but we still have a long way to go.

So, having said that, I would like to make a public appeal today if there are any corporations out there looking for a little free publicity, we could create a night to have a sit-down and talk about a sponsorship. And, since I was always taught to lead by example, I would like to make my personal commitment to the fireworks today by offering any income that would normally be directed to me, as Mayor, for performing wedding ceremonies bypass me altogether and go directly into the Township's general fund, to be used toward

the purchase of the Fourth of July fireworks display. I know in my past experience at the average of a couple of weddings a month we should raise well over a thousand dollars (\$1000) toward the fireworks.

So...once gain, I would like to thank my Council colleagues for their trust in me this year, and I wish everyone a Safe, Happy, and Healthy New Year!

Thank you.”

Mayor Puliti administered the Oaths of Office of the Chiefs of the Fire Companies as follows:

Chief Michael Oakley	Slackwood Fire Company
Chief Shaun Dlabik	Lawrence Road Fire Company
Chief Ray Nagy	Lawrenceville Fire Company

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 1-11 thru 23-11 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

All adopted Resolutions are spread in their entirety in 2011 Resolution Book.

Mayor Puliti asked Council for their remarks:

Councilman Bostock

Mr. Bostock congratulated Mr. Puliti on his nomination as Mayor and stated he is looking forward to working with him this year. He then wished everybody a “Happy New Year” and indicated that he is looking forward to a very productive year ahead.

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Councilman Powers

Mr. Powers stated Mr. Puliti is a veteran of the job and congratulated him on his nomination as Mayor. He then wished everybody a “Happy New Year” and gave special recognition to his nephews, Kyle, Zachary, Trevor and his two boys, Christopher and Hunter, and the rest of his family.”

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Councilman Kownacki

Mr. Kownacki thanked everybody for coming out on New Year’s Day and wished everybody a “Happy New Year!”

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Councilwoman Mount

Mrs. Mount stated the meeting today is short and sweet which is a refreshing experience and proceeded to discuss what a fabulous town Lawrence Township is and expressed her and the Town Council’s appreciation for all the hard work and the thousands of hours people have spent volunteering to help pick up the slack, including all the non-profits and the Recreation Department, who help the children in athletics, recreational and park activities, as well as, those who have helped to build the trails that make Lawrence Township the beautiful and wonderful place they all know it is.

Mrs. Mount advised that the coming year will be very challenging; but she knows that everyone will continue to do their part even more than before because they know it will make a difference to everyone who lives, works and plays in Lawrence. Further, Lawrence Township and its residents are famous for various kinds of accomplishments – such as their certification in sustainability, affordable housing, recreational parks and the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail – the list could go on and on – and so can their history.

In closing, Mrs. Mount indicated she just wanted to take the opportunity again to thank everybody, including those in leadership positions and those who volunteer unselfishly to make the Township what it is today. She then wished everyone a "Happy New Year."

Mayor Puliti's closing comments:

Mayor Puliti stated no one was present for the last Council Meeting of the year and he would like to give the former Mayor Michael Powers a public thank you. He further advised that the Colonel Hand March is tomorrow at 11:30 a.m., and asked Colonel Hand (Bill Agress) if he had any comments about the march.

Mr. Agress advised this year the Colonel Hand March is scheduled for the date on which it should be - January 2nd, as in January 2, 1777 - and it will take place on Sunday instead of the usual Saturday. He further advised that they have three choices with regards to participation, as they can come to the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and learn a little something about history; they can march as far as Notre Dame High School - about a mile and a half - where they will fire-off the cannon or they can go the entire six miles... all the way to Trenton. But, whatever they decide he hopes to see them there tomorrow.

Mayor Puliti thanked Mr. Agress for the update and everybody for coming out and advised after the meeting is adjourned everybody is invited downstairs for refreshments sponsored by the Lawrence Township Democratic Club.

On motion Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Bostock, the meeting was adjourned.

12:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Norcia
Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Gregory J. Puliti, Mayor