

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

Sunday, January 1, 2012 – 12:00 Noon

The Reorganization Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council was held on Sunday, January 1, 2012, at the Lawrence Township Municipal Building – Council Meeting Room at 12:00 Noon.

The Municipal Clerk read the following statement of proper notice:

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE: “Adequate notice of the January 1, 2012 Reorganization Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council was forwarded to The Times, The Trentonian and The Lawrence Ledger on December 14, 2011.”

The Municipal Clerk stated that Reverend Kevin Kimtis from St. Ann’s Church will give the Invocation, and the Junior Girl Scouts will lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present: Councilmembers Kownacki and Puliti.  
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Richard S. Krawczun, Municipal Manager, and David M. Roskos, Esq.

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The Municipal Clerk stated, “It is my pleasure to announce the results of the November 8, 2011 General Election for the following members of Township Council for a four-year term:”

*Cathleen M. Lewis*  
*David C. Maffei*  
*Michael S. Powers*

The Municipal Clerk advised that the following individuals would be administering the Oath of Office to the (3) three elected officials.

- ❖ Freeholder John Cimino administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Lewis.
- ❖ Freeholder Pasquale Colavita administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Maffei.

❖ Judge Kevin P. Nerwinski administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Powers.

The Municipal Clerk called for nominations for Office of Mayor for a two-year term (2012-2013).

Mr. Puliti nominated James S. Kownacki for the Office of Mayor, seconded by Mr. Powers.

The Municipal Clerk asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, Ms. Norcia declared the nominations closed and asked Ms. Carter, Deputy Municipal Clerk, to call the roll for the nomination of James S. Kownacki as Mayor.

**RECORD OF VOTE**

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Lewis	x						
Dr. Maffei	x						
Mr. Powers	x						
Mr. Puliti	x					x	
Mayor Kownacki	x						

Assemblyman Reed Gusciora administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Kownacki.

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Mayor Kownacki welcomed and wished everyone a “Happy New Year”, after which he gave special recognition to the following dignitaries: *Mercer County Democratic Chair, Elizabeth Maher Muoio, Assemblyman and Township Prosecutor, Reed Gusciora, Mercer County Clerk, Paula Sollami-Covello, Mercer County Freeholders – Ann Cannon, Pasquale Colavita and Anthony Carabelli, Former Mayors/Councilmembers - Joseph Cermele, Harold Vereen, Frank Nerwinski and Doris Weisberg.*

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**Mayor Kownacki’s Mayoral remarks:**

Thank you all for coming!

“It is a great day for our community as we begin the tenure of a two-year Mayor. As a military veteran and a blue collar worker I greatly appreciate the faith and the confidence the Council has placed in me to represent them during this difficult but promising time ahead. I will be working with the Council individually, as needed and certainly as a team. Hopefully, this team concept will address responsibilities that this great Township has placed on us.

My first act of Mayor is to direct any monies for the next two years for the performance of marriage ceremonies to be deposited into the Township general fund and earmarked toward the purpose of our July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display. With my experience and background in the military and being a blue collar employee I will bring a strong sense of leadership to Lawrence Township. First and foremost is a review of the budget where our Council, as a team, will work diligently in an attempt to obtain a stable tax rate. Having that additional year will help me to guide our communities through this environmental period and promote Lawrence Township as a friendly business environment with employment opportunities and an outstanding place to raise a family.

As Mayor I am looking forward to working with all the communities in Lawrence, and because there are so many of them out there I am afraid to name them as I might miss one then they are going to think I am not here to support them; but everybody knows the communities in Lawrence Township.

Thank you.”

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

Chief Michael Oakley  
Chief Shaun Dlabik

Slackwood Fire Company  
Lawrence Road Fire Company

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Public Participation

There was no public participation.

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Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 1-12 thru 22-12 (A-V) with the exception of Resolution 8-12 (H) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Lewis	X						
Dr. Maffei	X						
Mr. Powers	X					X	
Mr. Puliti	X						X
Mayor Kownacki	X						

All adopted Resolutions are spread in their entirety in the 2012 Resolution Book.

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Resolution No. 8-12 (H) was approved by the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Dr. Maffei     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | x      |
| Mr. Powers     |     |     |         |        | x       |      |        |
| Mr. Puliti     | X   |     |         |        |         | x    |        |
| Mayor Kownacki | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

All adopted Resolution is spread in its entirety in the 2012 Resolution Book.

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Mayor Kownacki asked Council for their remarks:

**Councilmember Maffei’s remarks:**

“It is both a privilege and honor to be here today representing the residents of Lawrence who put their faith and trust in me to come up with ideas that would make our community a thriving work place with an exceptional family environment. Long business sense and family values made this community what it is...made this community people...people wanting to live here in this community. So, as our children grow so must our ideas and commitments to our community.

In meetings with our Municipal Manager, Mr. Krawczun, he not only brought up what had to be done...but emphasized our immediate concerns. This is a challenging time for Lawrence as it is for the whole State of New Jersey, this economic situation has not been seen for generations, and it will be up to the Council to decide the future of our residents. From the budget, to the restoration of Route 1 in south Lawrence, the endeavors of Eldridge Park, our seniors, the completion of the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail and continued sustainability I will bring my willingness and time. I know the choices will be difficult... but I am here as a commitment to my public service.

Thank you.”

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**Councilmember Puliti’s remarks:**

“I would like to welcome the new Council and old Councilmembers back on the dais, and welcome the new Mayor, and I look forward to 2012.”

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**Councilmember Lewis's remarks:**

"First, I want to thank all of you who are here today and wish you all a Happy New Year. And, second, I want to thank the voters who have put their faith and trust in me; but, most importantly, I would like to thank my husband and my daughter, not just for their support during the election but for their future patience as I take on this endeavor, and thank you to all my friends and family who are here for your love and support.

I think that having this event here today...here at my New Year's Day is appropriate, because today is really a new start for me and for Lawrence Township. In starting a two-year Mayor it creates a new future of continued continuity in this Township and clearly there are new faces here on the dais today. And, I hope that as we start this new endeavor I hope to bring you new ideas, new energy and new voices to this body.

My colleagues who have served on this dais before me and with me today have made Lawrence the great town that it is and I hope to continue in that tradition. I think the greatest responsibility I have here is to be your advocate, to make sure that the town is serving you well and to ensure that your tax dollars are spent wisely and with great restraint. I look forward to hearing from you whether it is by phone, email, on Face Book, Twitter or by stopping me on the street. I hope and need to hear about what needs fixing, what is not working and your new ideas. And, hopefully, a few times you will stop to tell me that something has gone right.

But, at the end of the day, it is my hope that together we can continue to grow and build our community and that we can encourage businesses to come to Lawrence, to stay in the Township and to invest in our community. I hope together we can encourage our friends and our family to invest in our local businesses and utilize all the great programs our Township has to offer...whether it is a hike on the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail, a day at the Nature Center, an afternoon at the Senior Center or Saturdays at one of our youth sports programs. We know Lawrence is a great place to live and raise a family that is why we are here today. Now, it is our responsibility to make sure it stays that way by encouraging our friends and our neighbors to be a larger part of our community. I invite you to join me in helping me to build this, and I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year."

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**Councilmember Powers' remarks:**

"I would like to congratulate Mayor Kownacki. I know Jim will do a great job as Mayor, but we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge Councilman Puliti. Greg was the Mayor in 2011... let's give Greg a round of applause. I would like to acknowledge my family that is here, my wife, Nancy, my twin boys, Christopher and Hunter, my daughter, Lauren, my mom, Lois, my father-in-law, Al and my sister-in-law, Karen. They

are here... let's give the family a welcome, they put up with a lot of nonsense and they really keep the support going for us, and we appreciate it.

Just to echo what has been talked about for 2012. Economic development will be a top priority, good things will be happening in terms of the short-term improvements with the Quaker Bridge Mall, eyesores such as the Kraft Cleaners building will be removed and knocked down as part of our continued redevelopment efforts for Brunswick Avenue and the plans for the commercial boulevard will continue to move forward. So... we have a lot of things to be excited about and I wish everybody a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Thank you.”

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**Mayor Kownacki's closing comments:**

Mayor Kownacki stated he would again like to thank everybody for coming out this New Year's Day and that today is a great day for Lawrence Township, as it is a new beginning for them. He then thanked his mother, brothers and sisters, his daughter and granddaughter, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law for coming out to support him, as well as, his friends, co-workers and fellow union brothers and sisters. In closing, he stated he is looking forward to serving Lawrence Township as Mayor... and it will be a good year for the Township.

Mayor Kownacki advised that that the Colonel Hand March is scheduled to take place tomorrow (January 2) at 10:00 a.m. here at Town Hall, and that after the meeting is adjourned everybody is invited downstairs for refreshments sponsored by the Lawrence Township Democratic Club.

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

12:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathleen S. Norcia  
Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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James S. Kownacki, Mayor