

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

January 22, 2013

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Kownacki 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, January 22, 2013 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 Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.
Absent: None.

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

Interview of Individuals to Fill Council Vacancy

Mayor Kownacki stated the Township Council received three names of nominees to fill the vacancy on Council from the Chair of the Municipal Committee - Stephen Brame, Ian Dember and Edward Wiznitzer and each of the three nominees will be presented with three quick questions regarding their profession and the most important thing they would like to do if appointed to Council. He then turned the floor over to the candidates who provided a brief profile of their life, professional experience and why they would be a valuable member on Council.

Mayor Kownacki asked the Municipal Attorney if deliberation of the candidates needed to be done in Executive or Open Session and was advised by Mr. Roskos that the appointment is that of an elected official therefore the appointment can be made in open session.

Mayor Kownacki and members of Council thanked all three of the candidates for showing interest in serving on Council as well as participating in the interview process and advised that the decision they have to make this evening will be difficult as all three candidates are well qualified, diverse individuals who have served on various Boards and Committees and are local business owners in the community; but, they can only select one to fill the vacancy. Mr. Powers nominated Stephen C. Brame to fill the vacancy as Councilmember, seconded by Ms. Lewis.

Mayor Kownacki asked if there were any other nominations from Council. There being none, Mayor Kownacki declared the nominations closed and asked Ms. Norcia, the Municipal Clerk, to call the roll for the nomination of Stephen C. Brame to fill the vacancy as Councilmember.

RECORD OF VOTE

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

Senator Shirley Turner administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Stephen Brame.

Proclamations and Honors

There were no proclamations or honors.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

Councilmember Lewis requested that the Agenda be amended to remove Resolution 8-C - Authorizing the Appointment to the Growth and Redevelopment Committee and add Resolution 8-Z - Authorizing the Appointment to the Human Relations Committee to fill an unexpired 3-year term ending 12/31/13.

Mr. Krawczun further advised that they have two items dealing with litigation under the Closed Session – Caloiaro, et al v Lawrence Township and Paff v Lawrence Township.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Agenda was amended to include the above revisions.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brame, Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Abstain.

General Public Participation – 5-Minute Limitation

Mr. Joseph Mislán, 4 Sunset Road, stated that he has been a resident of Lawrence for 42 years and he would like to discuss his observations of the Township's finances and the budget as it relates to the Township complying with the State law; but the law not regulating the format in which the Council presents the financial condition of the community to the taxpayers and advised that the \$55 million disbursement per year, which as a taxpayer includes his tax dollars, is one of the Council's major responsibilities, as well as, to improve the economics of the community. He then proceeded to discuss cost control, cost reduction, spread sheet accounting as it relates to the Township's accounts to give the residents an easy way of seeing where their money is being spent.

Mr. Mislán further discussed the matter of gun control laws and as it relates to Second Amendment being repealed which gives people the right to keep and bear arms and not be infringed upon and the Army who protects the citizens of the United States handling gun orders and coming up with a licensing test for a person to have a gun.

Mr. Edward Wizinitzer, 118 Darrah Lane, congratulated Mr. Brame on his appointment to Council and stated it just occurred to him that with Mr. Brame being appointed to Council creates a vacancy and an open Chair position on the Zoning Board and was advised by Mayor Kownacki that the matter will be addressed later in the meeting.

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

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 41-13 (8-A) thru 68-13 (8-Z) with the exception of (8-C – (Pulled), 8-J and 8-X – Conflict of Interest) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

~~~

Resolutions Nos. 50-13 (8-J) and 64-13 (8-X) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

---

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

**Decision to Award or Reject the Bid Submission for the Providing of Police Emergency Dispatching Services**

Mr. Krawczun provided a recap of what was discussed at the last Council meeting and what has since taken place with regards to privatization of police emergency dispatch services to include his meeting with the Dispatchers. He indicated at the last meeting they had the opportunity to discuss the privatization of dispatch services and review an analysis that showed primarily three things; the cost of the contract proposed by iXP, the one bidder, over a 5 year period was just over the cost of providing the service in-house over that same period of time by approximately \$17,000 and two variables that made the proposal by iXP much stronger. The first variable being the schedule change by the Dispatchers from their current schedule to the new police schedule (12 hour shift) that created one out of every two weeks during a pay period a week where the employees would work 48 hours requiring a mandatory overtime pay that drove up the cost of the contract over the iXP Corp. proposal; and, the second was by going to the private service there would be a reduction and/or elimination of backfill time, primarily, by police officers because for whatever reason during the absence of a Dispatcher there would still be a need to backfill with police personnel.

Mr. Krawczun advised when they did the analysis they looked at it as if the paid Dispatchers were fully staffed at a complement of nine so that they could do a comparison between the iXP proposal and the cost and function of operating their own staff and at that time he recommended to the Council a two week delay until this meeting so they would have an opportunity to meet with members of the employees' union who represent the Dispatchers and advised last Thursday he, Chief Posluszny and Lieutenant Ritter had an opportunity to meet with the Dispatchers and based on their conversation which was quite productive, as the need to have built-in overtime by creating a built-in schedule was eliminated, which was a positive. Additionally, there was a proposal for 10 hour shifts which was analyzed in detail by the Police Command Staff, particularly, Lt. Ritter along with Chief Posluszny, after which they met again on Monday to discuss a new proposal that was brought forward for 11 hour shifts and after some comparison of cost between the Township projections and the projections that were assembled by the Police Dispatchers they discovered that the proposal accommodated the removal of the need for mandatory overtime; however, it did not completely eliminate the backfill of personnel for vacant time by the Dispatchers that would have to be backfilled with overtime by either the dispatchers or police officers time.

In addition, Lt. Ritter during his analysis came up with two ways to look at the proposal. The first being the number of hours whether they be looked at by way of how many hours employees were able to take for justification time, not taking into account sick time, compensatory or personal time earned and after

looking at that schedule under a 10 day proposal they found pragmatic problems with the scheduling and a spread cost somewhere between \$70,000 to \$140,000 more per year just in vacation time multiplied over the 5-year period.

Mr. Krawczun advised that the second proposal presented by Lt. Ritter in his documentation included the current Dispatchers with four new ones at the minimum vacation of having 16,664 hours of work time available to them for one year after they take their allotted vacation time - not including compensatory, personal or sick time, and the hours needed to cover the Dispatch Center being somewhere between 17,520 to 20,440 depending on how the schedule is created presenting the same need for backfill as the Dispatch Center is a 24/7 operation and proceeded to discuss the Dispatchers' time versus the number of hours needed creating a wide discrepancy of hours that have to be covered by backfilling, paying overtime or by police time and the scenarios depicting a low annual difference of \$44,000 or a high cost of \$90,000 depending on how they break it out.

Mr. Krawczun concluded his report by commending the Dispatchers on their efforts to resolve the problem but indicated their proposal did not completely eliminate the backfill problem or overtime. Therefore, it is his recommendation that a contract be awarded to iXP Corporation for providing of dispatch services for the initial period of two years. A short comment, question and answer period took place between Mr. Krawczun and the Council regarding the 2013 budget, police staffing/additional duties, police officers being put back on the streets and cost/operational efficiencies as it relates to the backfill problem and more efficient use of manpower in the Police Department.

Mayor Kownacki asked for comments from the public.

The following individuals voiced their concerns and strong objections to the privatization of Police Emergency Dispatching Services and outsourcing the services the iXP Corporation.

Mr. David Hancock, President of AFSCME #2476, Blue Collar Union, stated his union's support of the Township retaining the services of the current Dispatchers as their services are comforting and familiar to the Public Works employees during emergencies, police officers who patrol the streets and the residents who call for assistance.

Ms. Crystal Simicsak, Lawrence Township Senior Dispatcher, discussed the negative impact on the lives and careers of the dispatchers, errors and inconsistencies in the Township's projected cost to retain the dispatchers, the outsourcing of dispatch services being an experiment with public safety and the welfare of the citizens and police with no real economic benefit.

Ms. Ellen-Marie McGinley, Lawrence Township Dispatcher, discussed the three different schedules she prepared each keeping the Dispatchers under 40 hours a week and each of them having their strong and weak points, mainly, due to holiday and vacation time and advised one of the schedules she prepared included per diem personnel that she was told she could use and after her proposal was done and when presented to management she was vehemently told that she could not use per diem time and the reason given was their unreliability that might cause patrol to have to be on the desk and advised that she worked as a per diem for many years and she was always ready and available to work whenever she was called to work. Further, the solid schedule she put together with two dispatchers, all the requirements and negative use of patrol on the desk was rejected by management for being too high although it was not high based on the proposed savings and proceeded to discuss an additional proposal she prepared today with a cost savings difference of \$200,000 from iXP's proposal and how their services affects the entire town including the internal offices - such as the Public Works Department not just dispatch or police.

Mr. Frank Herrick, AFSCME Union Staff Representative, Council #73, stated that the Dispatchers and Management did have very productive meetings and that the Dispatchers worked very hard in coming up with numbers to meet the iXP proposal and they believe they have met the mark and they are continuing to work on numbers comparable to iXP; but, for some reason it is never good enough; because, when they are told something is not good in their proposal they make the necessary correction and it is still not good enough and it is their belief that if an independent group came in and compared their numbers to iXP numbers they would be on the mark and able to provide the service without costing the Township any money and proceeded to discuss his feelings with regards to Township making a horrible decision in privatizing anything dealing with public safety and questioned their decision to do away with the town's professional dispatchers and outsource it to a company looking to make a profit as opposed to looking elsewhere for shared services and continued to elaborate on the private company cost eventually being more than the cost for the current dispatchers and the services not being performed professionally and urged the Council to reconsider their proposal to privatize emergency dispatch services and give the Dispatchers a chance.

Ms. Robin Williams, 34 Pin Oak Drive, stated that she never thought she would have to come before an all Democratic Council and speak against privatization of vital public services... values that the Democratic party stands for and proceeded to discuss President Obama sticking to his values although he knows it goes against the ideas of the Republican Congress and was advised by Mayor Kownacki that the Council make decisions based on what is in the best interest of all citizens of Lawrence regardless of their party affiliation and that she should address the Council accordingly and not about politics. Subsequently, an exchange of dialogue took place between Ms. Williams and Mayor Kownacki

regarding the matter. Additionally, Ms. Williams discussed municipalities feeling the financial crisis exacerbated by the Governor's actions at the State level with cutting state funding to municipalities and imposing a tax cap and suggested that the Council reexamine how to close the budget gap without proposing taxes that hurt the average citizen – such as fees for sanitation services and privatization of 911 Dispatchers, as well as, them being more forceful in having global corporate giants and non-profits in Lawrence pay their fair share of taxes instead of the pushing the burden off on the taxpayers.

Mr. Andres Mejia, Lawrence Township Police Officer, stated that they have all heard from the Dispatchers and the Township Manager regarding the numbers, quality of services and the pros and cons of privatizing dispatch services and indicated out of the 58 police officers they have in Lawrence Township nine of them started as dispatchers, nine people who proved themselves in the Dispatch Center and as a result of their duties and excellent production were hired as police officers and now they are all valuable, contributing, outstanding police officers in the Police Department and if the Township decides to go with a private contractor with no guarantee they will save money they are going to eliminate a breeding ground for police officers in the Township; something that has been done all over New Jersey from the Chiefs of Police down to a rookie Patrolman who started as dispatchers and to privatize that service would eliminate that opportunity in Lawrence Township. So, he implores the Council to not go with the private contractor being they only received one bid and no guarantee of realized savings and the Dispatchers are willing to open up their current contract as well as their next contract to try and save the Township money and their jobs... so again he asks that the Council reconsider the proposal for the safety of the cops on the streets.

Ms. Susan Handleman, Lawrence Township Dispatcher, echoed previous comments made with regards to the Dispatchers working very hard to come up with various working schedules and scenarios comparable to the iXP proposal and why the Township should keep them as opposed to outsourcing the service that could possibly cost the Township more given some of the unknown variables – such as cost of living increases, overtime, etc. and advised that none of the Dispatchers want to leave Lawrence Township as they are all happy and get along with each other to include the police and command staff. Further, she feels the matter can be worked out and it would be a shame if the Council decides to award the contract to iXP as the Dispatchers will lose... but so will the Township in the long run, and urged the Council to rethink their decision prior to making a final vote, after which she thanked her fellow Dispatchers for all of their hard work on the counter-proposal and the police officers, employees and her family who supported them.

Ms. Edith Pike, 2861 Princeton Pike, advised that she has lived in Lawrence since 1965 and during the course of the years she has made several calls for 911 Dispatch Services and has always received good service including

when she had to call for a friend who fell ill and is alive today because of their quick response. So, when she read about the Council considering outsourcing dispatch services she could not understand the reason for them wanting to outsource a service so essential to the welfare of the people instead of hiring more dispatchers to fill the vacancies that would have cut the overtime and not affected the budget as much and proceeded to discuss her being a Nurse Administrator in charge of scheduling and her understanding the importance of having a good staff who knows the job, the town and is willing to work overtime and how appalled she was by the number of vacancies that have existed for so long causing the Township to pay police officers double of what they would have been paying the Dispatchers and urged the Council to reconsider outsourcing such a vital service that deals with life or death as she feels it will be a big mistake.

Mr. David Handleman, spouse of Dispatcher Susan Handleman, questioned whether or not the first year of the contract with iXP will cost the Township more or less money than the Dispatchers as it is very important for them to know when the full savings will be realized and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that the cost is more by a margin of \$17,000 over a 5 year period and that the analysis was done on an annualized basis year-for-year and during his report he did point out that the work presented by the Dispatchers over the last two meetings solved some of those costs of additional overtime or built-in overtime. Afterwards, an exchange of dialogue took place relative the cost of the service versus the savings and the matter not being about money but about safety and the people who have committed themselves for many years to the Township, which a price should not be put on.

Ms. Carol Lerner, 20 Pine Knoll Drive, advised that she has been a resident of Lawrence for 30 years and just like Ms. Pike she has used 911 Dispatch Services quite a few times, some for trivial situations and one for a more serious situation in which her child was being stalked and was hysterical over the situation and advised that the Dispatcher who got the call was very comforting while walking them through the ordeal and proceeded to discuss her being a Social Worker in Hamilton at a school for children with extreme emotional difficulties and being some of the children are suicidal she has a very professional relationship with the Dispatchers, sometimes under very trying immediate emergency situations which could happen in Lawrence as they have many educational institutions as well as residents who depend on the services that the professional dispatchers provide and urged the Council to reconsider the proposal as it is going to cost the taxpayers more money and because she has worked with both private and professional contractors and there is a huge difference in the quality of service.

Mr. Richard Lamont, Lawrence Township Dispatcher, stated he is proud to be a Dispatcher and he would like to thank each and every one of his co-workers because without them he does not know where he would be today and advised

that he is 26 years old, the youngest of the Dispatchers, and he has worked in the Police Department for a little over 3 years and when he was first put on the desk the first 911 call he received was from a wife who had just lost her husband and he was scared as to how to handle the situation, but Sue Handleman came over and walked him through the entire process like a pro. Now, he is scared as to what is going to happen with this whole outsourcing possibility being he just got married and purchased a home and for the last four months it has been a nightmare not knowing whether he will have a job or not and he knows the Township is trying to do what is right by saving money for the taxpayers, but they also need to understand that the residents of Lawrence are human beings... not just taxpayers and their welfare should be first and foremost and in his opinion the whole idea of privatizing dispatch services is just wrong and proceeded to discuss his colleagues' dedication, professionalism and length of service they have given to the Township and deserving better as they more experienced than iXP and know what to do in crisis situations such as Newtown.

Mr. Edward Wizinitzer, 118 Darrah Lane, asked for clarification on the contract proposed by iXP because at the last meeting he thought the award was for 5 years not 2 years and that the cost of the contract was a set fee and was advised by Mr. Krawczun that the initial contract period is for 2 years with a renewable period of 3 years and that competitive contracting allows for the price to be fixed for 5 years; however, the salary is adjustable as it is based on an agreed upon scale or what the employees in the position would have been paid or receive in increases. In addition, iXP will absorb merit increases and regular overtime, but not cost of living increases or overtime for a disaster situation such as a hurricane. Afterwards, Mr. Wizinitzer stated that he is very impressed by what he has heard from the Dispatchers tonight with regards to them being able to rework their schedules and coming back with a solid proposal and suggested that the Council budget the dispatch operations for whatever they want or what the Township will pay to iXP next year and he bets that the Dispatchers will meet that proposal based on the impression they gave tonight and proceeded to discuss the risk and legal issues that could result from outsourcing such a vital service and recommended that the Council to do a risk analysis prior to making a final decision.

Mr. Nicholas Mellis, 135 Harmony Avenue, voiced his opposition to the privatization of dispatch services and the Dispatchers getting the released as he supports public unions and public workers and he does not believe the Dispatchers should be blamed for the shenanigans that have taken place on Wall Street and he feels the Township should be asking the large corporations based in Lawrence to help out by paying a little more in corporate taxes for the sake of stability of one of the more important positions. Thereafter, he congratulated the new Councilmember, Stephen Brame, and ask Mr. Brame his thoughts on the situation and Mr. Brame replied that he would not be able to answer the question intelligently because he does not know all the facts, only what he has read in the

newspapers; therefore, he is requesting a pass on the matter and he will be abstaining from the vote as it is would be consistently fair.

There being no additional comments, Mayor Kownacki closed public participation was closed.

~~~

Mayor Kownacki stated that the entire process relative to the privatization of dispatch services started back in May 2012 when they begin talking about the 2013 municipal budget and where they needed to make cuts and over time they made a decision to not cut the EMT's, Firefighters or more Police Officers and they ended up cutting employees from the Construction Department, Public Works Department and other various departments within the Township... so the Council looking to make cuts in the Dispatch Center is nothing new. Also, they have looked into shared service with another town that backed out and if that shared service did take place they still would have had to lay off some of the Dispatchers due to the merger and seniority. Now, they are at the next step that involves them making a decision and voting on the matter of privatizing dispatch services which is a tough decision for everybody; but, it is a decision they have to move forward with.

Mayor Kownacki asked if there were any comments from Council.

Councilmember Powers commended the Dispatchers and their AFSCME Representative for working with the Township Manager and showing good faith throughout the process and stated for him personally it is not a budget issue...it is a public safety issue and proceeded to discuss the rise in crime at the southern border of the Township and the Chief of Police coming before the Council each year to present his budget but not asking for an additional police officer although there is a need for one because he understands the budget situation the Township is in. In addition, they just heard the Township Manager report that the Police Department has gone from 71 officers to 58 officers and those officers are stretched the max and God forbid they have a situation like Newtown and continued to elaborate on the budgetary problems that have been looming since the 2008 recession and the Council's dilemma with regards to trying to find ways to eliminate administrative services and put them in the hands of someone else so that they can have more police on the streets to patrol and protect the citizens of Lawrence. And, if they choose to go with iXP it is not a disparagement on the job performance of the Dispatchers, it is about public safety; however the public did raise some good points concerning iXP's contract and proposed that the Township Attorney review some of the legalities in the proposal so that it best protects the Lawrence Township.

Councilmember Lewis thanked the Dispatchers and the Township Manager for all of their hard work over the last two weeks as there has been a lot

of conversation back and forth and the Dispatchers for doing their best work in trying to find a solution and indicated the folks that came before Council this evening are not wrong about the savings because the decision to privatize dispatch services is not about economics or how much money they will save. It is about public safety as they heard the Township Manager and the Police Officer last week talk about the need for police on streets. After the losses that the Township has taken over the last few years, particularly last year, public safety and putting officers back on the streets has to be the Council's top priority and it is not a perfect solution by any means and she wished that they could find a way to keep the Dispatchers within government and if they had a County Dispatch she would be the first to suggest gladly joining, as it would allow the Township to put the Officers back on the street to produce a similar amount of savings; however, Lawrence cannot force other municipalities to join them in shared services they chose to engage in. So, they are left with unpleasant choices and she struggled a lot with her decision until she heard the President call upon elected officials to act, knowing their work is imperfect, and the decision they now have to make is an imperfect solution to a horrible problem; but, they have to allow the police to focus on their primary task and it is her hope that the new company will see the talent and dedication that the Dispatchers have given to the town and use that so that the Township employees and residents will hear that same familiar voice on the other end of the line... because at the end of the day public safety is the Council's top priority.

Prior to moving the following Resolution, Mr. Powers stated he knows a Resolution has already been prepared but he would like in addition to what is written in iXP contract for them to enter into an agreement with Lawrence Township with standard protections included in the contract.

There being no additional comments from Council, on a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Lewis the following resolution was presented for adoption:

Resolution 65-13

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2013, bids were received for 911 Emergency Dispatch Services; and

WHEREAS, only one bid was received and reviewed by the Township Manager and Chief of Police. The bid was submitted by iXP Corporation, 1249 South River Road, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512 at an annual cost of \$719,400; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is 3-01-25-250-299 (911 Dispatch OE) for \$539,550 for a nine (9) period in 2013 from

April 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 and is contingent upon the appropriation of funds in the 2013 municipal budget; and

WHEREAS, continuation of the contract at \$719,400 for twelve (12) months in 2014 and \$179,850 for three (3) months in 2015 (January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015) and will be charged to 3-01-25-250-299 (911 Dispatch OE) contingent upon the appropriation of funds in the 2014 and 2015 municipal budgets; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township is hereby authorized to award the bid for 911 Emergency Dispatch Services to iXP Corporation, 1249 South River Road, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Kownacki.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Councilmember Brame.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE - Agenda"

Ms. Amy Davis, 54 Pine Knoll Drive, stated she would like to sincerely thank the Council for listening to what the public asked them for and for taking action as they acted fairly and have been reasonable and she sincerely appreciates it. She then welcomed Councilmember Brame and indicated he must be an extremely brave man to solicit the position of Councilmember at such a difficult time and she looks forward to listening to what ideas he has and is enthusiastic about how his tenure will reduce her stress as a taxpayer and requested that he carefully consider Mr. Dember's comments tonight during his presentation in seeking appointment to the vacant Council position, about the importance of communicating with the public and seeking their opinion as she feels that is extremely important and there could have been different results in the past had maybe had the Council solicited the public's opinion before taking action - such as the recent public question. Thereafter, Mr. Brame thanked her and stated he will take that into advisement.

Ordinance No. 2147-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF THE
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Article II of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code entitled "Council" be and is hereby amended as follows:

- I. Section 2-18 – Order of Business is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

At each regular meeting of the Council, the order of business shall be as follows:

- a) Mayor's Welcome and Statement of Proper Notice
- b) Pledge of Allegiance
- c) Roll Call
- d) Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations
- e) Public Participation – 5 minute limitation per speaker
- f) Review and Revision of Agenda
- g) Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings
- h) Awarding and/or Rejecting of Bids*
- i) Introduction of Ordinances
- j) Adoption of Ordinances*
- k) Manager's Report
- l) Attorney's Report
- m) Clerk's Report
- n) Old Business
- o) New Business
- p) Public Participation – 3 minute limitation per speaker
- q) Resolutions
- r) Council Initiatives & Liaison Reports
- s) Written Communications
- t) Executive Session (if authorized)
- u) Adjournment

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.

Ordinance 2147-13 was adopted on the following roll call vote:

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

Manager’s Report –

Prior to the 2013 budget report, Mr. Krawczun stated that the following Public Meetings on the Revaluation will be held at 7:00 p.m. with the exception of the February 13th meeting date, which will begin at 1:30 p.m.: Thursday, January 24 - Lawrence High School; Thursday, February 7- Lawrenceville Fire Company; Wednesday, February, 13 - Lawrence Senior Center; Thursday, February 21 - Slackwood Fire Company and Monday, February 25 - Dempster Fire School.

Mr. Krawczun distributed copies of the recommended budget for the Council to review and proceeded with an in-depth review of the budget in addition to reading the 2013 Municipal Budget Recommendation Report that included a proposed 5-cent tax increase for the proposed \$42.9 million municipal budget that was unveiled. He then thanked the Township Department Directors and the Staff in Accounts and Controls in the Municipal Manager’s Office for their professional contributions in developing the 2013 Recommended Budget.

Mayor Kownacki thanked Mr. Krawczun and his staff for the preparation of the 2013 Municipal Budget and requested that the Department Heads present their budget presentations at the next Council Meeting.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Roskos stated that he has nothing to report tonight to the Council other than they are embroiled in litigation with the owners of Quaker Bridge Mall and it will take two or three months of his time.

Clerk's Report –

There was no Clerk's report.

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

There were no Liaison Reports.

Written Communications –

- A. Letter from Mother's Recovery, Inc. Requesting a Hearing to Appeal Denial of Towing Application – Mr. Powers requested a copy of the letter that the Towing Company referenced in their letter that was sent out from the police, and the Municipal Clerk advised that the Council has to set a hearing date for the towing company, as well.

Old Business –

There was no old business

New Business –

Mayor Kownacki asked the wishes of the Council with regards to meeting at 6:00 p.m. before the Council meeting on February 5th to conduct interviews for the two alternate positions from the Zoning Board. There being no objections from Council he asked the Municipal Clerk to schedule the interviews. Some discussion took place relative to additional vacancies and the local press advertising for Zoning Board applicants.

Mr. Powers stated he received a email from Susan Herrmann mentioning the World Wildlife Fund has available funding for a program for municipal

participation in the prevention of global climate change and he is referring the matter over to the Environmental Resources Committee so they can review it and hopefully participate in the program.

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

8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

James S. Kownacki, Mayor