

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

February 4, 2014

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Lewis 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, February 4, 2014, 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 Brame, Kownacki, Maffei, and Mayor Lewis.
Absent: Councilman Powers.

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

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**Department Budget Presentations**

Mayor Lewis advised that this part of the Agenda will consist of various discussions from Department Directors regarding their 2014 departmental budgets, after which the Council will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the presentation. She then turned the floor to the following Department Heads.

**Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer, Budget Presentation:**

Ms. Chamberlain greeted the Council and distributed copies of her 2013 Annual Health Department Report and advised that she would be providing an overview of the Health Department's mission, activities, programs, various public and health services, shared services and partnerships they have with other agencies that are governed by the State Health Department and Department of Environmental Protection to include new changes in the law – such as same sex marriages and future initiatives. She then proceeded with a narrative relative to her staff and their day-to-day functions, health inspections, formal and informal shared services, inter-local agreements, cooperative purchases, grants and various health screenings and programs, as well as, her 2014 Budget request for Council's consideration.

Some questions and comments took place relative to Ms. Chamberlain's budget presentation, after which Mayor Lewis and Council complimented Ms. Chamberlain and her staff on the wonderful job they do, especially, during emergency situations.

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Steven Groeger, Superintendent of Recreation, Budget Presentation:

Mr. Groeger greeted the Council and read the definition of Recreation which defines the mission of the Recreation Department to provide enjoyment, amusement and pleasure that is fun, healthy and refreshing for the mind and body of the residents 3 years of age and on. He then distributed copies of his 2013 Recreation Annual Report/2014 Budget Request comprised of three separate divisions; the Recreation Division, Office on Aging and Special Events, and their primary function is to provide recreational leisure activities for all the residents of Lawrence Township through those divisions and proceeded with an overview of the departmental function, online registration, program activities for boys and girls, camps, safety town program, social and special events programs, health screening, lectures and activity programs for seniors, grants and sponsorships, fees and expenditures associated with the three divisions, anticipated and generated revenues that will help create new programs, offset programmatic cost and alleviate the burden of cost to the residents as well as their objective and future goals.

A short question and answer period took place relative to Mr. Groeger's presentation, after which Mayor Lewis and Council commended Mr. Groeger for his continued efforts in reducing cost while adding more services in the Recreation Department with fewer resources.

Public Participation (5-minute limitation per speaker)

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Manager requested that the Agenda be amended to remove Resolution (17-A), Authorizing Appointment to the Human Relations Committee and Resolution (17-X) – Authorizing a Closed Session of Council Immediately Following the Regular Meeting, not needed.

On a motion by Dr. Maffei, seconded by Mr. Brame, the Agenda was amended to include the above revision.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Minutes

There were no minutes of adoption.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

Mayor Lewis asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Lewis asked for comments from Council. There being none, public participation was closed. On a motion by Mr. Brame, seconded by Mr. Kownacki, the following resolution was presented for adoption:

Resolution No. 66 –14

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 16, 2014 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **Colonial Lake Dam – Gabion Mattress Repair**; and

WHEREAS, eleven (11) bids were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Land Tech Enterprises who submitted a bid in the amount of \$44,700.00, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged are C-04-55-320-231 (\$4,308.03) and C-04-55-347-231 (\$40,391.97); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Engineer, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a contract with Land Tech Enterprises, 3084 B Bristol Road, Warrington PA 18976 in the amount of \$44,700.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to draft the necessary agreement, subject to the approval of the Municipal Attorney as to form and content thereof.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Krawczun stated that he has nothing specifically to report but he does have some information he would like to share with the Council regarding the ratification of the Blue Collar and White Collar contracts and asked the wishes of the Council as to whether they would like him to proceed with the presentation now or discuss the matter when they get to Resolutions. Mayor Lewis advised Mr. Krawczun to proceed with the presentation.

Mr. Krawczun distributed copies of AFSCME Blue Collar, Local 2476, and White Collar, Local 2257, contract negotiations and advised that there are approximately 52 employees who are represented by the two groups and 54 police officers in another group who have all reached a collective bargaining agreement. So, half of the employees of Lawrence Township will have a labor contract at this time and they will move forward at the next meeting with the next largest group, which is the non-union employees, that will reflect much of what they see here this evening. Further, the Agreements for the Blue Collar and White Collar address economic issues and some internal administrative matters that are subject to collective bargaining and he will be briefing the Council on both of those topics as it affects the two groups.

Mr. Krawczun then proceeded to review the following items relative to the ratification of the two union contracts: *Contract Term - 3-years (2014-2016); Compensatory Time - 40 hours for Blue Collar and 35 hours for White Collar unions, which will help control cost and alleviate large accruing of time when an employee retires; the number of days and response time for grievances was addressed; codification of a formal policy for absences was negotiated – 5 days of unexcused absences without authorization constitutes an employee's resignation; reduction of vacation time - 20 days maximum for employees hired on or after January 2010; unpaid sick leave - capped for employees hired prior to January 1, 2009 at (50%) of accumulated leave not to exceed (\$15,000) – employees hired on or after January 2010 capped at (25%) of accumulated leave not to exceed (\$10,000) and employees hired on or after January 2014 not entitled to any payment toward or for accumulated sick leave. Health Benefits - all employees covered by the two Agreements will move to the Chapter 78 Matrix where employees will be required to contribute a percentage of premium over the next four years based on the coverage they chose and level of salary. Additional Language - included regarding the excise tax and retirees being responsible for the additional cost and contribution required by the Chapter 78 Matrix; Retirement Benefits - employees who retire on or after February 2, 2014 and are eligible for post-retirement benefits to pay (1%) of their pensionable benefit or an amount set by New Jersey State Statute; on or after February 2, 2014-(2%) and on or after February 2, 2016-(2.5%); Lawrence Township Municipal Employees do not receive lifetime benefits, which is applicable to police and non-police employees and the maximum a civilian or non-civilian employee can receive is 10 years. Longevity – frozen at existing amount for all existing employees; employees hired on or after January 1, 2014 will receive no longevity. Uniform Allowance - will be provided for certain employees and apparel will be purchased for field employees. Salary Adjustments – 2014 COLA (0), 2015 – (1.95%) and 2016- (2.25%) and employees at their maximum step level will receive a one-time payment of \$500 at the end of December 2014 and in exchange for that benefit employees hired after January 1, 2014 will have a separate salary guide that will include a cost saving benefit (no cost of living adjustment until the last step, which is Step 11 or 12 Step for certain Titles on the Salary Guide).*

After the report, Mr. Krawczun reviewed in detail the actual cost saving amount that will be generated over a 3-year period of time with the new negotiated contracts and his recommendation of approval regarding the ratification of those contracts. Thereafter, Mayor Lewis thanked both Mr. Krawczun for his many years of thinking ahead in cutting costs and saving the Township money and the employees on the other side of the negotiating table for understanding the reality of the situation and working with Mr. Krawczun to help reduce costs.

Attorney's Report –

There was no Attorney's report.

Clerk's Report –

Ms. Norcia advised the Council that she sent out an email today regarding the Mayor's Legislative Day that has been changed to March, possibly due to the weather, and as soon as she receives further information she will forward that to them.

Old Business –

There was no old business.

New Business –

Mayor's Appointment of Township's Emergency Management Coordinator for the 3-year Period Ending February 1, 2017 – There was no comments or objections.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 68-14 (17-A) thru 94-14 (17-BB) were approved with the exception of Resolution (17-A) and Resolution (17-X) by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Mayor Lewis stated she is pleased to report they had an embarrassment of riches in the number of qualified applicants they had for the Zoning Board and after some wonderful interviews and deliberation the Liaisons will be casting their nominations for the nominees appointed to the following Boards:

EWING-LAWRENCE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY – (Joseph M. Cermele - 5-year appointment ending 1/31/19)

Resolution No. 90-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – (Shabnam Salih 4-year regular term ending 12/31/17 and Christina Hultholm – 2-year alternate term ending 12/31/15)

Resolution No. 90-14 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

There was no Liaison report.

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**Written Communications –**

A. Letter from Mercadien Relative to Scope and Time of 2013 Audit – No Discussion

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

8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Cathleen M. Lewis, Mayor