

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

December 18, 2018

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 6.30 p.m.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Bobbitt 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, December 18, 2018, 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." Said Notice was forwarded to The Trentonian, The Times and The Princeton Packet on December 26, 2017.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Bobbitt.
Absent: Councilman Kownacki.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager and David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

Public Participation

Ms. Eleanor Horne, 35 Dix Lane, stated in the audience this evening is Becky Taylor, co-president of the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT), and they are present to express their gratitude and to let the Council know how very grateful she is to live in a town with men and women of commitment and integrity are at the helm...she is so

grateful because as far back as 2002 when the idea for the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail was launched their predecessors on Council saw value in an idea for the 22-mile trail designed and developed by a non-profit corporation that would connect Lawrence and Hopewell Townships...she is grateful that Lawrence Township Council, Kevin Nerwinski, Municipal Manager, Public Works and the Engineering Departments have been steadfast partners...she is grateful that once again the professionalism and dedication of Jim Parvesse, Township Engineer, and Brenda Kraemer, Assistant Engineer, has resulted in a \$1.2M grant from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program to build a trail segment through Maidenhead Meadows.

Ms. Horne advised the funding through the Federal Highway Administration is awarded for projects that reflect the interest of communities that will have a positive impact on both the natural environment and human environment and that the LHT Project was selected because of the impact it will have on the community and natural environment as well as the health and well-being of all their residents. Their application was supported by the Lawrence Township Public Schools, Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership, D&R Land Trust and Sustainable Lawrence and enthusiastic fans of the Trail. And, once the segment is completed there will remain only one segment left in Lawrence to be completed which is the Pretty Brook Road segment that they are working on, again with the support of Mr. Parvesse and Ms. Kraemer. As of today, 19.5 miles of the 22-mile loop have been constructed. Maidenhead Meadows will add another (33) thirty-three hundred feet of combinations of paved and raised boardwalk which will be one of the most unique and one of the most beautiful segments of the Trail. They could not be more pleased. The grant is the most recent manifestation of Council's support of the LHT, both collectively and individually, and they are grateful to each of them.

Ms. Horne stated it meant the world to the LHT members to see Mayor Bobbitt and his wife join LHT for the 2018 Full Moon Ride and to have him mention the importance of the Trail in his State of Lawrence Address. Councilman Kownacki who is not present this evening but has gone out to his way to attend the LHT Ribbon Cuttings and to let them know he would always be available to support them in any way that he could. Councilwoman Lewis who stood with the LHT when they were honored with the Complete Streets Excellence Award in 2017 for the Province Line Road segment known as Kings Highway and how good it was good to have her there. Councilman Maffei when he became Mayor one of his goals was to see LHT completed before he stepped down from the post and which they did not quite make...but they were thrilled that he considered it important enough to make it one of his goals. And, Councilman Powers who probably does not remember this...but in 2003 soon after he was elected he said to her that he believes in the Trail and he believed that she and Becky (although they knew nothing about building a trail) could pull it off and that he would be there to support them and 2003 was a longtime ago and he is still with them today. As for Kevin Nerwinski, Township Manager, they are honored to have him on their Board and they are deeply grateful for his commitment, knowledge and just having him by their side.

In closing, Ms. Horne stated she and Ms. Taylor wish each of them a joyous holiday and a fantastic 2019 and that they hope to see them on the Trail frequently as they played a major role in making the LHT a reality, and they are still the only trail project of this type and complexity anywhere in the country and she is grateful to live in a town that has made the achievement possible. She additionally indicated many people talk about public, private partnerships but with their support they actually live it. She thanked the Council again very, very much for all of their support over the years and echoed that the grant for \$1.2M to build an incredible section of the Trail is a wonderful way to start 2019.

Mayor Bobbitt thanked Ms. Horne and Ms. Taylor for all that they do and indicated the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail is part of the landscape, literally and figuratively, as he cannot imagine getting around town without it and he knows that section, Maidenhead Meadows, well as he runs it, and it kind of ends up in a swamp area. So, this is a needed piece of the Trail to complete and again thanked Ms. Horne for all of her hard work. Ms. Horne asked that the Council to let Mr. Parvesse and Ms. Kraemer know how much they value their support.

Councilman Maffei stated he was born in 1947 and at that time there were 11,000 people in Lawrenceville, 71 years later there are 33,000 people and 71 years from now there will be 100,000 people in Lawrence Township and that the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail will be the shining stone for all those years to come. God Bless!

Councilman Powers stated he has been around so long he remembers when it was new idea started by Pam Mount and Ms. Taylor and Ms. Horne were like okay...let us see what happens and indicated they have outdone themselves...so kudos to them.

Councilwoman Lewis thanked Ms. Horne and Ms. Taylor for all of their work over the years and in also making sure the community gets to share in its great progress so people get to know about the great gem they have in Lawrence and how they can all connect.

Mr. Nerwinski stated he has been in the Municipal Manager's position for a year and half and in that time many people and groups have come to him with ideas which they do not really follow-up on in one way or the other as life tends to get in the way; but, watching the LHT and their members and leadership and the commitment they have shown in what he has witnessed is unbelievable as it shows people what they need to do to accomplish things and their dedication as to what it takes to get the job done is absolutely impressive and he is honored to be part of that.

Ms. Horne reiterated they could not have done it out the support of the Township Council and the various departments in town government.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to remove Resolution No. 406-18 (18-H.3), Authorizing the Sale of 7 Alburus Court, and Resolution 18-H.12, Closed Session, to the agenda.

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 17, 2018 were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Lewis, Maffei, Power and Mayor Bobbitt.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Kownacki.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

Mayor Bobbitt asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Bobbitt asked for comments from Council.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing the Rejection of Bid for 2018 Solar Energy Project, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 402-18

WHEREAS, on Thursday, November 15, 2018 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as **2018 Solar Energy Project**; and

WHEREAS, five (5) bid were received, opened and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the bid documents specify the Township may reject any submission for any reason in its sole discretion, and

WHEREAS, upon review, a number of items should be included to provide a more competitive and fair bid process; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer has recommended that this bid be rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the bids received for the 2018 Solar Energy Project are hereby rejected pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2.d, due to the fact that the bid specifications will be revised.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Bobbitt.
Absent: Councilman Kownacki.

Mayor Bobbitt asked for comments from the public. There being none, Mayor Bobbitt asked for comments from Council.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-B), Authorizing Contract to Rehabilitate 2 Alburtus Court, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 405-18

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, November 21, 2018, bids were received and publically opened for the project know as Home Improvement Program of 2 Alburtus Court; and

WHEREAS, one (1) bid as received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Unlimited Builders Construction, LLC who submitted a bid in the amount of \$63,940.00; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is 8-19-56-853-299 (COAH Trust Fund – Other Expenses); and

WHEREAS, the bid is within the range of the estimate prepared by Affordable Housing Administrators, the Consultant for the Rehabilitation Program, and they recommend that it be accepted; and

WHEREAS, Unlimited Builders Construction, LLC has performed satisfactorily;

WHEREAS, the owner of 2 Alburus Court has been deemed eligible to participate in the rehabilitation program;

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 Manager, the Mayor and the Municipal Clerk hereby authorize the acceptance of the bid and the execution of a contract with Unlimited Builders Construction, LLC, P. O. Box 9029, Hamilton NJ 08620; 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 Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Bobbitt.
 Absent: Councilman Kownacki.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2305-18 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2018/2019

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance provides for adjustments in salaries for the Municipal Manager due to contractual obligation and (2) two employees in the Finance Department with increased responsibilities; Linda Lutes, Supervisor of Accounts, who will take on additional duties as the Deputy Registrar in the absence of the Registrar and Debbie Monroe, Payroll Supervisor, who has taken on significantly more task.

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

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

Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Administration has started the process with regards to the new website and he has asked the Department Directors to go through their current websites to let them know what is obsolete, what they would like to preserve and to review other websites and consider further how the website can help their departments and the citizens user ability while on the website. The first important date is January 4th and he wants to get as much done as possible before their kickoff meeting with the web design company and the formal process with the company will start about the third week of January and will take approximately three months to complete.

Mr. Nerwinski stated public comments were made at the last meeting regarding the Pit Stop and that the Administration did speak with NJDEP and they indicated there are (7) seven other applications in front of Lawrence Township's application for review and they know it has been a long process in getting it done...but they have reasserted the Township's interest and it is just a matter of them processing through the seven other applications. A brief discussion took place relative to DEP's plans to clean up and remediate the Pit Stop site and upon completion and receipt of funding make it into an open recreational park not a redevelopment enterprise.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Notice to go out to the residents with regards to adjustments and changes to the Brush Collection Program has finally been prepared and that Greg Whitehead, Director of Public Works, is getting some quotes from printers and they will be having a mass mailing within the next month. They will also be advertising through social media several times and have it posted on the Township's website. All complaints and violations of the ordinance will be directed to him.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Roskos stated he has nothing to report except that negotiations on the Sheft property acquisition is still ongoing.

Clerk’s Report –

There was no Clerk’s report.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

There was no new business.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There is no public participation.

Resolutions

Mr. James Webber, 114 Copperfield Drive, asked for an explanation and understanding of Resolution 410-18 (8-G.1), Authorizing a Grant Application and agreement for the Roadway Preservation Program for Princess Road.

Mr. Nerwinski explained that it is a Grant Application for potential funding that the Township is seeking for roadways that are utilized and damaged by extensive trucking so the funding would be used to resurface those roadways when they become destroyed, and indicated the Township Engineer and Assistant Engineer are always looking for different types of grants to fund road projects.

A general discussion took place relative to the grant being broad in its parameters and Township Officials keeping their options open as it relates to the resurfacing Princess Road for truck use, plans to close off the road right at the roundabout and possibly being closed to thru traffic and becoming a pedestrian walkway and the widening of the intersection at Princeton Pike.

Resolution Nos. 400-18 (18-B.1) through 416-18 (18-H.10) with the exception of Resolution 406-18 (Removed Prior to Meeting) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Councilwoman Lewis reminded everyone that the Re-enactment of Colonel Hand March is Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Municipal Building.

Mayor Maffei stated he was tremendously happy about the wonderful luncheon that took place at the Senior Center the other day. Mayor Bobbitt further stated he was also in attendance and the dancing was fantastic and he does not think he could have kept up. Councilman Powers noted they had Santa Claus at the event as well.

Written Communications –

There was no written communications.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at Council went into Closed Session.

6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor