

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

December 4, 2018

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at 6.30 p.m.

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

Mayor Bobbitt asked for a brief moment of silence for the passing of former President George H.W. Bush.

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 4, 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 Kownacki, Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Bobbitt.
Absent: None.

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Proclamation Celebrating Candela's 50th Anniversary

Mayor Bobbitt invited the Candela family to come up to the podium and indicated it is an honor and a privilege to present them with the following Proclamation in recognition of their 50th Anniversary. He then read the Proclamation into record:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Township of Lawrence to recognize individuals and businesses that have contributed to the overall well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, one of the major services that can be provided to the residents of a town is to operate a restaurant that provides quality food that each family member can enjoy on any given evening; and

WHEREAS, one such establishment is Candela's, formerly known as Peter Brother's Pizzeria and Restaurant, that opened its doors for business in November 1968; and

WHEREAS, the fare was, and remains, authentic Italian with recipes fashioned from those remembered from Vito's home town of Carini, Sicily as well as those created by Vito and his wife Rosalia; and

WHEREAS, Candela's, a jewel tucked away in the Eldridge Park area of the Township, has been the chosen site of countless birthday, anniversary, christening and graduation celebrations through the years; and

WHEREAS, as the era of modern-age food preparation came to the fore, Candela's never waived in their belief that good food can, and should, only be made with prime ingredients and from scratch; and

WHEREAS, the truth in that edict is evidenced by the fact that their parking lot is always filled with cars and the dining room is at capacity with patrons enjoying pizza, pasta or any of their other delectable offerings; and

WHEREAS, the Candela family has been a wonderfully generous member of the community giving freely of their time, energy and resources to numerous organizations in Lawrence Township and the surrounding communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED AND RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that it does hereby extend its most sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Candela Ristorante and Pizzeria; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND RESOLVED by the Township Council that it wishes the Candela family continued success and happiness as they continue their family tradition well into the future years.

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Mr. Frank Candela thanked everyone from Lawrence Township and the surrounding area for all of their years of support and indicated if it was not for the support of the patrons they would not have been in business for 50 years. Further, he did not think he would be in the restaurant business for as long as he has been...but he loves what he does and loves seeing the locals come in... it is like having one big happy family and for that he is very thankful and appreciative for everyone's support.

Public Participation

Mr. Samuel Pangaldi, 30 Northbrook Avenue, advised of the deplorable conditions at the house located at 5 Greenfield Avenue which has been abandoned for over 20 years and despite new owners who took over 3 years ago the property still being in shambles with all types of critters occupying the property - deer, fox, etc., and indicated neighboring residents have been corresponding with various Township Officials in the Code Enforcement Department and Health Department and they tried to reach out to the Construction Official regarding the problem, all with no success. He then distributed pictures of the abandoned property that were taken about a week ago for the Council to view and to keep for their records and proceeded to discuss the unacceptable conditions at the property and asked if there is anything the Township can do for them to help resolve the issue.

Mr. Pangaldi further advised that two of the residents in the audience live on opposite sides of the abandoned property and the rest of residents live on Northbrook Avenue.

Mayor Bobbitt stated that the pictures of the home look horrible and open to vermin and other animals and he can see how the condition of the property can affect the enjoyment in the neighborhood and asked the Municipal Manager if he was aware of the situation. Mr. Nerwinski replied that this is the first of him hearing about the situation and that when he last spoke with Mr. Pangaldi he made no mention of this problem. Furthermore, he has an open door policy for anyone to come and discuss matters such as this and the people that work for Lawrence Township are responsive and do what they can do to resolve problems within the framework of the law and if he was not getting any satisfaction that is why he exists and if he had come to him to try and resolve the issue prior to coming before Council tonight he might have had an answer for him...but now that he is aware of the problem he will speak to whomever is involved to make sure if there is something unlawful at the property that violates a code that the Township can enforce it will be done and continued to discuss the Township working within the framework of the law and property rights in the United States reigning supreme in many lot of aspects.

Mr. Pangaldi asked for an update on the Pit Stop. Mr. Nerwinski advised that Lawrence Township made an application for funding with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection that is still proceeding and they should be getting an answer within the next 30 days. The timeframe is 4 to 6 months. They have been engaged with DEP's engineers, provided a proposal and they are now navigating through all the requirements of NJDEP to get the funding necessary to clean the site given the Township does not own the site it is privately-owned and they cannot just go on private property and start digging and cleaning with taxpayers money to cleanup an environmental situation caused by a prior or present owner. So, they are working within the framework of the DEP and they should have an answer within the next month or so. He additionally advised that the Pit Stop is a very important issue that has been on his radar since he started as the Manager and thus far everything with DEP has been very positive. Additional dialogue took place relative to the property being under remediation by DEP and the length of time it is taking to get the property cleaned up.

Mr. Angelo Longo, 71 Northbrook Avenue, advised that he had his house knocked down and re-built in 2004 and before it was knocked down he had to board up the windows and Anthony Cermele, Construction Official, disrespectfully pointed his fingers in his face and told him in no uncertain terms that the law is that no house in Lawrence Township is to be boarded up for more than 30 days and he advised Mr. Cermele that house would be knocked down in (2) two weeks and Mr. Cermele sternly reiterated that he must abide by the 30 day rule but the house they are speaking of this evening has been boarded up for 40 years which is well beyond the 30 days specified by Mr. Cermele and that rule should apply to everybody. And, in previous years, he spoke to Mr. Cermele concerning the property and was told to mind his business. Mr. Nerwinski stated again he will look into the matter.

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## **TRENTON MERCER COUNTY AIRPORT EXPANSION AND FRONTIER AIRLINE NOISE MATTER**

The following individuals voiced their opinion and opposition to the expansion of the Trenton-Mercer Airport as it relates to the noise pollution, decrease in their real estate values, home sales and significant change to their quality of life with the number of flights coming in and out of Frontier Airlines and a possible increase in flights with the proposed expansion. Further discussion took place relative to the proposed expansion dramatically changing the environment in Lawrence Township with increased noise pollution of the landing and takeoff of commercial aircrafts over residential neighborhoods and the residents request for the flight paths to be rerouted over I-95, I-195 and I-295, stopping the airport expansion and/or dramatically reducing real estate taxes on the rolls for all those impacted by the airport. (A letter from Mr. Glen Schostak and Dr. Debbie Baseman were read and submitted to the Council regarding the Trenton-Mercer Airport expansion, noise pollution, flight paths and environmental concerns.)

- 1) Glen Schostak, 43 Van Kirk Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 – Resident for 25 years
- 2) Gary Karpf, 64 Van Kirk Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 – Resident for 36 years
- 3) David Penick 50 Van Kirk, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 – Resident since 2004
- 4) Ellen Schostak, Wife of Mr. Schostak 43 Van Kirk Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 – Read Dr. Debbie Baseman's letter regarding her objection to the Airport expansion, noise, decrease in property values and environmental concerns
- 5) Dr. Donald Coppola, 8 Toftrees Court, Princeton, New Jersey – Resident for 55 years

Mr. Roskos noted that the Trenton-Mercer Airport matter was previously discussed several years ago during Councilwoman Lewis' term as Mayor and based on the meetings with the Trenton Airport Manager, the head of Mercer County Department of Transportation, and Environmental Specialists regarding a study that was done, it was determined that the travel path, noise, and altitude met acceptable levels. As for rerouting the flight paths that is an FAA issue and not an issue Lawrence Township can resolve being they have no authority to redirect routes and was previously informed that rerouting of flights would infringe upon flights heading north to the Newark Airport and New York and south to the Philadelphia Airport.

Additional dialogue took place relative to the residents taking their concerns regarding the Trenton-Mercer Airport expansion to the County Board of Freeholders and Aaron Watson, Deputy Administrator who oversees the airport, presenting their property devaluation concerns to Lawrence Township Tax Assessor as it relates to tax appeals and possible tax reduction, FAA's measurement of the sound decimal level and flight patterns, various studies regarding airports in residential communities and the economic impact to those communities and the expansion of the Trenton Airport having a major impact on residents who reside in that area and the residents taking their concerns from the local level up to the State level.

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Mr. Gene Truncellito, 4 Penlaw Road, advised that he has a letter on the Agenda under Written Communications regarding a proposed change to the Lawrence Township Land Use Ordinance - Home Occupation Signs and that he knows that the proposal has to go through the process of the Planning/Zoning Board and professional staff before it is submitted to the Council for consideration; but, he simply wrote the letter as a starting point as he would like to see it move forward and not become dormant. And, he would like to emphasize that he is not against home businesses...he supports them and the part of the zoning law that articulates how and when home businesses can exist is very thoughtful, balanced and does the job as it requires home occupation use to be internal to the home with no outward signs . Unfortunately, in another part of the Land Use Ordinance tucked away in a section that does not make sense is a mention of business signs for home businesses allowing signs to be put curbside which negates all the thoughtful balanced provisions in the Home Occupation section of the zoning law. So, having a home businesses is a positive...but allowing signs to be put curbside is a negative given the signs negatively affect the aesthetics of residential neighborhoods, threaten adjacent property values and reduce appeal to residential and requested that the Township Council amend or eliminate that section in the LUO to address the concern.

Mayor Bobbitt advised typically the matter would be referred to the Township Manager who would in turn speak with the Township Engineer but starting with the Council was a good start and there are some committees that could possibly get involved in the signage matter - such as the Growth & Redevelopment and Planning Board which they have done in the past. He then turned the matter over to the Township Manager to get his take on it. Mr. Nerwinski commended Mr. Truncellito for the great work on his letter and advised that he met with the Township Engineer to get his sense on the matter and he will read Mr. Parvesse response for the record as it relates to the following observations: *“Generally, the Land Use Ordinance references in Mr. Truncellito’s letter are correct except the signs must be 15 feet from the right-of-way not the street line; therefore, any freestanding sign have to be 25 feet from the curb or street line. Also, I do not believe a Home Occupation Sign can be internally eliminated, by definition a name plate is typically a plastic or metal plate attached to a structured. Home Occupations have been permitted in the Land Use Ordinance for over 20 years and have included the right to have one square foot name plate sign. We only average about five new home occupations throughout the Township each year and most do not have any signage. Never received a complaint about the home signage and they have not seen a proliferation of home occupations in any specific area. Generally, they are well disbursed throughout the Township. Almost, all complaints that are received from Home Occupations have been associated with landscape and construction businesses. These uses generally have no signage, but involve commercial vehicles, trailers and equipment storage that can impact the residential character. One commercial vehicle in front of a residential property can have much more impact than installation of a one square foot nameplate sign. And, some recommended signage and proliferation of home occupations in residential areas have been an issue within the Township so he certainly understands Mr. Truncellito’s concerns; however, he has not convinced us the changes to the Ordinance are warranted.*

After reading Mr. Parvesse's response, Mr. Nerwinski advised that he has spoken with Mr. Truncellito concerning the matter and he absolutely has no problem working with the Planning Board to further review it; especially, identifying that last part in his letter relative to the exhibit displaying the unfettered use of signage which is a violation of the Township's code.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There was no review or revision of the agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

There was no adoption of minutes.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejection of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A "FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER" OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE – Flu Shots

Ordinance No. 2317-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A,
"FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER"
OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

SECTION I. BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 6A entitled: "Fees: The Consolidated License, Permit and Fee Chapter" of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 6A-22 Documents, copying and miscellaneous charges

[Flu Shot Fee (No fee if senior citizen or high risk) \$15.00]

SECTION II. Repealer

All ordinances, resolutions and all sections or provisions thereof pertaining to fees or charges for special services which are inconsistent or conflicting with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

SECTION III. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after adoption thereof, in accordance with law.

Deleted Material is bracketed []

Ordinance No. 2317-18 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						

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Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A "FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER" OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE – Soil Testing

Ordinance No. 2318 -18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A, 'FEES: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER' OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Section I.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 6A entitled 'Fees: The Consolidated License, Permit and Fee Chapter' of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code is hereby amended as follows:

Section 6A-11 Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems

(c) Soil Testing [~~\$60.00 per hour~~] \$75.00 per hour

A minimum of [~~\$360.00~~] \$450.00 per lot must be deposited in escrow for soil testing services.

Section II. Repealer

All ordinances or parts of same inconsistent with any provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section III. 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 IV. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Additions are underlined           
 Deletions are bracketed [  ]

Ordinance No. 2318-18 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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski submitted invoice listings for the month of December 2018 in the amount of \$2,071,478.31.

Mr. Nerwinski advised several months ago he spoke with the Council about the implementation of a donated Sick Leave Program which he felt was important way of additional protection afforded to Township employees. The State has a Sick Leave Program and the program is a benefit that does not have a negative impact to taxpayers. As they all know, each employee has a negotiated amount of sick time and if they do not abuse it the program will allow someone who has had a catastrophic injury and will be out of work for more than 90 days with supporting medical documentation co-employees can donate their sick leave to help them get through that sick period and indicated it is an aberrational event in the Township's history that has happened every once in a while; but, as the Administrator he feels it is a very important act to take, and a humane thing they should be doing, and he hopes the Governing Body supports him in that decision. And, as part of the process, he has to meet with each negotiating union to inform them of the program and once he has done that he can send it off to the State for approval.

Mr. Nerwinski reported the Bakers Basin Road Project is proceeding well and has a proposed end date of January 4, 2019 and from what he was told there is nothing at this point to suggest the hard date will be nixed. Some discussion took place relative to the extended road closure and the impact it has had on brush and leaf collection.

Mr. Nerwinski further reported that PSE&G is beginning overhead construction activities on Cold Soil Road between Blackwell Road and Carter Road; a section of the road will be closed each day from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. while they install higher poles to better support the new generator system they constructed. The project is expected to take about 3 months and he has spoken to PSE&G representative and the Lieutenant who heads Lawrence Police Department Traffic Bureau and they have a plan in place to minimize the disruption and provide access to residents and businesses with proper signage and the work will start tomorrow.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that they had a Public Employees Relation Commission (PERC) election with regards to the Police Department's membership. The Fraternal Order of Police FOP Lodge #209 was the bargaining unit of the Rank and File and Superior Officers. The PBA 119 (that had minimal membership) had a shift in membership which prompted an election to take place and they are now the bargaining unit for the Rank and File. The FOP has retained the Superior Officers. Additionally, their contracts are up at the end of December so he now in the process of putting together a schedule with the bargaining units.

Mr. Nerwinski imparted that he spoke briefly at the last meeting about the Administration concluding their search for a website design company. They have selected EvoGov a company based in Parker, Colorado, to work with them on the

building of the town's new website. They anticipate the project will begin in mid-January and is expected to take 3 to 4 months and the cost is a fixed base price of \$12,800, payable in four installments, and the contract will extend for one year beyond the start date and after the website is up and going it will be \$200 per month fee which is still a really good value and proceeded to discuss a list of websites designed by the company that are outstanding and user-friendly and the positive feedback he received back from Administrators and IT Executives who have worked with the company on their websites.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that an application was made to the Planning Board with regard to the construction of a 300,000 square-foot facility that was approved on Princess Road and through the hearings the process involved contemplation of how the residents can be protected in that area in terms of truck traffic. He spoke with and engaged Lieutenant Drew to do a study of the area and Jim Parvesse, Township Engineer, as well, and he feels they have a good opportunity to close off access through Princess Road from Franklin Corner Road so that no truck vehicles will be going through the center of Traditions to get to where the business will be located. They will make the access from Princeton Pike via a service road and they are committed to making it happen prior to the groundbreaking of that project. There should be ample time to study the consequences and hopefully they can resolve a concern of the residents in that area. A general discussion ensued relative the traffic study of Princess Road, properly signing the road to divert and enforce the new traffic patterns and putting up barrier and contacting the businesses about staggered start times.

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### **Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos advised that he provided everyone with a draft of the Amended Rental Property Requirements to review for discussion and it relates to the Township returning to inspecting residential rental buildings throughout the Township and indicated there was a case a few years back, Timber Glen Phase II, LLC v Township of Hamilton, which found landlord licensing to be illegal in the State of New Jersey. It was a very broad decision and towns were reluctant to continue with inspections not understanding whether they would be violating that Appellate Division decision. Now, there has been a recent case, Cona v Township of Washington, that clarifies Timbers Glen case citing that a town cannot ask landlords to pay a fee simply to register in their municipalities; but, it is permissible for towns to defray the cost of inspections and have the right to inspect buildings to make sure they meet fire codes, safety standards and the property is inhabitable. So, he will be bringing forth an ordinance that will be in compliance with the New Jersey law as recently explained by the Appellate Division and advised of a survey he performed as to what other surrounding towns are doing in terms of inspections and he has a chart detailing their procedure as well; but, he does not want to bring the Ordinance for first reading as yet. He wants to revisit the matter in the New Year when they can have both the first and second reading without the calendar halting their efforts.

A short comment and question period ensued relative to the inspection fees and special exception for fire inspections for multi-dwellings (rental or owner-occupied) and the Multi-Dwelling Family Act which is a State Program and the difference between State and Township inspections.

Mr. Roskos reported that the negotiations with the Shefts are ongoing as they work with their lenders to make sure they can get the property they plan to devote to open space released from the mortgages which took a while; but, were finally successful. He now has their comments and he has met with the Municipal Manager to discuss the matter and he will be responding back to their remarks. Needless to say, his biggest concern is environmental protection and Lawrence Township having the right to adequately inspect the property and the Township being protected while acquiring the property. However, he is sure everything can be worked out and he will keep the Council apprised as they proceed.

Mr. Nerwinski noted that important hurdle has passed with regards to them restructuring their debt which would have been the only thing that could have posed a real significant problem in what they hope to do.

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**Clerk's Report –**

Ms. Norcia stated she had nothing to report for the record.

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**Unfinished Business –**

Mr. Powers advised

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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**Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –**

*Mr. Paul Larson, chair of Lawrence Township Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee and Trustee of Lawrence Historical Society, stated that he resides at 170 Darrah Lane and he would like to add to Councilmember Lewis' comments with regards to the noise and the airplanes over his house all the time while going into the Trenton-Mercer Airport which is part of the flight plan and indicated they*

circle right over Darrah Lane all the time so it is a big chunk of the Township the flights are impacting. And, additionally indicated he is one of the few residents who attended the Freeholders meeting here in the Municipal Building in September 2017 in which lots of people came out to complain about airplane noise who live in the flight plan and their trees being cut down on their property. He is also one of many Mercer County residents who are quite skeptical that the airport is not expanding as they are very careful about their wordsmithing. And, for the record, he does not think there is anybody as a resident of Mercer County, outside of the Freeholders, that will say the airport is not expanding.

Mr. Larson advised last month they just finished honoring the Centennial of the end of World War I and rededicating the Monument in front of Town Hall and from some of the research they were involved in, there are twenty-one War Memorials which includes monuments, memorial plaques and rolls of honor here in Lawrence Township alone, with almost half them being right in the municipal building, with the Memorial being out front and the Rolls of Honor in hallway of the Township, combined with the ones at the National Guard Armory which is about three-quarters, Veterans Park, VFW and the two American Legion Posts and he uncovered through a cryptic line, a very nice brass plaque in the back hallway at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church from the Great War. Also, Patriotic Week is coming up and he got some shell cards and posters from the Trenton Association downtown which he will drop off. He also managed to get into the official program for area events - both the Annual Hogmanay Bonfire at the 1771 Brearley House and the Colonel Hand Historic March which are part of the official program. And, the last thing he would like to propose is a new idea to promote Lawrence Township history and indicated right outside the front door they have some recessed arches that are almost 6-foot wide by 10-foot high and they can cover David Brearley, Colonel Hand, Captain James Lawrence and the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Route which follows Route 206 right out front which is something we can do to promote the town's history and thanked the Council for their time.

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Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 377-18 (18-A.1) through 399-18 (18-H.5) with the exception of Resolution 383-18 (Inadvertently Not Used) 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.

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Mr. Nerwinski stated that the Veterans' Day ceremony at Town Hall was amazing and he came in that morning and witnessed Mr. Larson working very hard with the World War I displays and all kinds of artifacts that were displayed in various areas of the Township, and indicated Mr. Larson and group did an unbelievable job and he has received a lot of personal thanks for it which he shares with thanking all of the special citizens that made the program a phenomenal community event and how proud he is to be a Lawrence Township resident.

Mayor Bobbitt seconded the Manager's comments and commended Councilmember Kownacki and his group, the Public Works Department and the Recreation Department on the roles they played in making the event look as good as it did.

Councilmember Kownacki stated it took a lot of planning and time with a lot of people being involved – civilians, military, Township Council, 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, American Legion Post 414, Girl Scouts, Boys Scouts and a couple other groups. The program runs for one year starting with the preparations for the Memorial Day service followed up by the Veterans' Day ceremony and that tomorrow they were supposed to have a meeting but it has been postponed until January. Upon meeting, they will start working on upcoming events with the goal of improving each event in an effort to let everyone know how great Lawrence Township is.

Mr. Larson noted that Sam Connick who is the great nephew of Crozier Connick, one of Lawrence residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War I, came up to him after the ceremony and donated some family original photographs of him and some other items which are now housed in the Lawrence Township archives.

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**Written Communications –**

- A. Letter from Gene Truncellito – Home Occupation Signs – Discussed (PP)
- B. Letter from Glen Schostak – Trenton Airport – Discussed (PP)
- C. Letter from Local 96 Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association – Comprehensive Township Fire Study Request – Mr. Nerwinski discussed the letter being well-intended but taken aback by some of the comments and thoughts in the letter which he wished they had shared with him first to collaborate on given his open door policy and there is a way and process of doing things. He then assured the Council that there is leadership in place and they are working to resolve the matter. The Mayor and Council thanked all their paid and volunteer firefighters for their dedicated work and echoed the Municipal Manager's sentiments as it relates to his open door policy and matter being handled internally rather

than publicly and the plans that are already put in place relative to the public safety concerns detailed in the letter.

Mr. Sean Dlabik, 133 Berwyn Place, stated he is the Vice President of Local 96, Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association, and that the letter presented to the Council and Municipal Manager was not intended to be a slap in the face to the Municipal Manager nor their supervisor, Director Jack Oakley, as a rudderless ship lost at sea. Rather, it just means if there is a plan in place let them know so they can buy into it. He then proceeded to discuss him being a 20-year volunteer for the fire company before he was forced out because of his employment and him being very passionate about his entire family, plus 90-percent of the volunteer firefighters who serve in Lawrence Township. And, he knows the letter is very passionate; but, the intent of the letter was not to offend anyone; but, to request a fire study to improve public safety, move fire services forward, support the volunteer fire companies and plan for the future and not to say the Municipal Manager, Township Council or Director Oakley is pushing them out as volunteers. Personal feelings aside, they are just asking for everyone to take a step back as he thinks they can do it better going forward.

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

8.07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor