

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

November 8, 2018

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at 6.30 p.m.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Mayor Bobbitt noted that November is National Native American Heritage month and asked that they remember the contributions and legacy of the people who were in America longer than them. He also asked for a moment of silence for the people killed in California to senseless gun violence including Ventura County Sheriff's Sergeant Ron Helus.

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 Thursday, November 8, 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

Oath of Office Administered for Police Department Promotions

Mayor Bobbitt welcomed everyone and advised that he would be administering the Oath of Office to Christopher Longo who is being promoted to Police Lieutenant and Timothy Wallace on becoming a Police Officer and congratulated both Officers on behalf of the Township Council and indicated it is a testament to how special the Lawrence Township Police Department is with regards to how many people have shown up tonight...friends, family, neighbors, fellow police officers and retirees and thanked them for the incredible work they do and continue to do.

Chief Caloiaro congratulated Lieutenant Longo on his promotion and welcomed him to the Command Staff and imparted that he is a very diligent, motivating supervisor who has a lot of respect from his peers as they can tell by all the officers in attendance tonight. And, it is great to have him move up in the ranks, a well-deserved promotion and he looking forward to working with him in the near future.

Chief Caloiaro stated that Officer Wallace worked as a security officer at the Quakerbridge Mall and came highly recommended by several Lawrence Township police officers who worked at the mall and identified him as a fine young officer that they would love to have in the Police Department. But, before they were able to hire him he was scooped up by the Trenton Police Department and they were able to steal him back. He indicated they are excited to have Officer Wallace who started back in July as part of the Lawrence police family and that he is doing extremely well, very community-oriented, lives in Lawrence and wants to be part of the community and apologized for the delay in the swearing in; but, they had to wait until his blouse came in that was being made for him.

Lieutenant Longo extended a sincere thank you to the Mayor and Council, Chief Caloiaro and the command staff, a great group of qualified leaders, and the Municipal Manager for giving him the opportunity to serve the town as a Police Lieutenant; a responsibility he takes serious and welcomes it and indicated community service in his life has been around for as long as he can remember and most of his family members are involved in some type of career or volunteer emergency response so it only seemed fit for him to follow suit so he joined the Lawrence Road Fire Company where he volunteered for 20 years but he knew being a law enforcement was his passion so he joined the Lawrence Township Police Department as a dispatcher and the level of professionalism and dedication he witnessed from the officers made him more passionate about becoming a Lawrence Township Police Officer. And, over the past 20 years he has worked with hundreds of law enforcement officers from around the country and the police officers they have working in Lawrence have a level of professionalism, compassion and genuine care for others that is remarkable and he is proud to call them his co-workers and friends.

Lieutenant Longo thanked Lieutenant Joseph Lech, his partner in the Detective Bureau, for bringing him in and teaching him the ropes in investigations, Lieutenant Timothy Drew, who is regimented and made him very regimented and he got to grow and learn a lot under his leadership, Lieutenants Joe Caloiaro and Joseph Amodio for being mentors to him with their wealth of knowledge. He then thanked his parents who

are the hardest working people he knows and who taught him the meaning of great work ethics, dedication and loyalty, his three kids, his brother, sister-in-law, nephews, his two childhood friends and all of family, friends, neighbors and retirees who traveled from far and near to be present this evening. He then invited everyone to join him afterwards at the American Legion located on the Brunswick Circle for food and refreshments.

Police Officer Wallace stated it is an honor to be a Lawrence Township Police Officer and his decision to leave the Trenton Police Department and transfer to Lawrence has obviously been one of the best decisions he ever made in his life as he wanted to see himself in a community-oriented police department so he is glad to have that opportunity here in Lawrence. He then thanked the Command Staff, Chief Caloiaro, Township Manager and Mayor Bobbitt and everyone who provided him this opportunity and he is looking forward to serving the Township of Lawrence.

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**Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority Annual Report**  
**S. Robert Filler, Executive Director**

Mr. Filler greeted everyone and advised that he will be updating the Council on what took place in 2018 and future plans for 2019 for the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority (ELSA) and that Joseph Cermele, Harold Vereen who are on the Board of Directors and Vance Stevens, Chief Financial Administrative Officer are in the audience this evening. He then discussed the following items relative to ELSA's Annual Report:

- 1) Amendment to the Sewer Use Ordinance for ELSA adopted by Lawrence Township at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and Ewing Township adopting the sewer use ordinance on November 20<sup>th</sup> which will be forwarded to NJDEP, as required.
- 2) The \$30M major upgrades done at ELSA and the project being substantially completed in early 2018 and the improvements at the facility allowing them to be within the parameters set by DEP; 3) a facilities evaluation as it relates to how the \$30M was spent which included the completion of Phase I and partial completions Phase II and the balance of Phase II and Phase III in the future (7 to 10 years).
- 3) Completion of ELSA's 2017 Audit and 2019 Budget that was submitted to the State and awaiting approval from the State so it can be adopted at their December meeting. Mr. Filler discussed ELSA's operating budget for 2018 - \$5,072,000 and 2019 - \$5,112,000 being \$40,000 more than the previous year; the 2018 estimated adjusted flow for Lawrence versus Ewing charge of \$5.4M for 2018 including debt services and the \$5.6M projected amount for 2019 that also includes debt services; creation of 2018 Rate Stabilization and

Improvement Fund where money was stockpiled during the few years ELSA had a reduction in debt services and the money now being disseminated and utilized under the direction of Lawrence Township Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer for facility upgrades based on 2018 and 2019 anticipated revenues.

- 4) Lawrence Township having a collection system on Whitehead Road and (3) three pump stations and the Authority awarding a contract to an engineering firm at their November meeting for the Collection System of Lawrence Condition and Capacity Flow Study. Mr. Filler advised that a study was already done in Ewing Township where a few more issues exist than in Lawrence and they were tackled so procedures are now being put in place to identify problems in the collection and pump stations in Lawrence to prevent catastrophic or unforeseen situations going forward. Mr. Filler further discussed the (5) five firms that submitted a proposal for the Study and the process for selecting the right firm to get the job they need done.
- 5) ELSA's public private partnership with Synergy energy for a Solar Farm on Sweetbriar Road across from the Assunpink right across from the plant and Synergy achieving at no cost to ELSA, other than an internal cost, the approval from PSE&G which took a few years to get into the grid and all approvals necessary from the NJDEP which was quite a journey and now the easiest or more difficult part of the task is in December the company is scheduled to go for a preliminary and final approval before the Hamilton Township Planning Board and doing all the right things to satisfy the people that see the potential for removing 14 to 16 acres of trees to install the solar panels.

Mr. Filler stated the property is a 40 acres parcel located on Sweetbriar Road with the front facing Sweetbriar and the back an industrial park area and that none of front trees will be disturbed except the back half of trees minus the driveway, and there are some concerns regarding the removal of the trees on that particular property which he considers a friendly use of the property being half of the property is considered wetlands and cannot be utilized. If approved, they plan to put 14 to 15 acres of a solar panel farm providing somewhere in the area of 85% of energy they will need for operations at the Whitehead Treatment Plant. It is 15-year arrangement with the opportunity to buyout the investor Synergy who has handled all of the soft cost, design, construction, operation with ELSA being the benefactor of not having transmission cost because there will be a line directly into the plant and the switchgear and in using a conservative present day estimate in dollars the savings will be \$250,000 per year a significant savings being the cost is generally around \$750,000 per year which is variable depending upon year and amount of energy, water, etc. that is utilized.

- 6) Mr. Filler distributed a Summary of Trenton Biogas relative to Duck Island and the Carver Greenfield Sludge Drying Facility; a project that has been ongoing for about 35 years or so from the point of initiation until today and informed the Council that the facility was sold and that the sale is a 10 year lease sale purchase and that the entire lease purchase price is guaranteed so there is absolutely no risk. He then read information relative to Renew Energy, a Danish Corporation, who will provide anaerobic digestion technology to Trenton Biogas, whereby, organic portions of municipal solid waste i.e. food waste will be digested and converted to methane gas for the sale of electricity. And indicated those facilities unlike ELSA have digesters to try and catch as much of that methane to utilized the energy and that is what that company will be doing at that facility...waste streaming, and in addition to getting electricity they are going to get the by-product that is used for soil enrichment, etc.. The majority of the food waste will come down from New York so the project is well started and moving forward and is scheduled for completion the 4th quarter of 2019. The Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) is overseeing the project and in round numbers 50-percent is Trenton, 25-percent is Hamilton and 25-percent is ELSA which is 60/40 Ewing and Lawrence. Mr. Filler stated that concludes his update and opened the floor for comments and questions.

Mayor Bobbitt stated that the work that Mr. Filler and his staff do at the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority is a silent...but very important thing; because if they stopped everyone will hear about it and thanked them for the diligent work. Further, he appreciates his continued efforts regarding the Solar Farm and the things that he has been done to maximize the impact on ELSA's finances and operations.

Councilwoman Lewis asked if there had been any discussion with regards to Lawrence Township Compostable Food Waste being moved to the new site. Mr. Nerwinski advised that they met with the MCIA Director about a month ago and he did speak to about this project on the horizon and it definitely is a possibly. Mr. Filler further stated there is a lot of interest.

Councilman Maffei stated in light of troubles they are having with the Trenton Water Works is there anything the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority could do to alleviate the situation. Mr. Filler replied he does not have an answer to that question based the town's water problems and what he reads in the newspaper he is just not sure ELSA could help in that situation; but, he knows with the new Mayor and Administration they are making incredible changes and great strides to resolve the issues.

Councilman Kownacki commented on ELSA's clean water record and well-run operations at the treatment plan and thanked and commended Mr. Filler and his staff on the great job they do.

Additional discussion took place relative to the problems with disposing organic waste and the cost doubling and the matter possibly being revisited now that New Jersey is offering end place for the organic waste and how fast the construction is moving at the Sludge facility on Duck Island, invested money being returned to ELSA, the rate stabilization/improvement camp – reserved fund exclusive to Lawrence.

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#### Public Participation

There was no public participation.

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#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to include Resolution No. 376-18 (9-B), Authorizing Awarding Bid 18-11 Refuse Collection and Trash Disposal, 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 Kownacki, Lewis, Maffei, Powers and Mayor Bobbitt.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

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#### Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 19, 2018 were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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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 Known as Envelope Improvement to Eggert Crossing Neighborhood Center, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 370-18

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as Envelope Improvements to Eggert Crossing Neighborhood Center; and

WHEREAS, six (6) bid was received, opened and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was M & M Construction Technology, Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$112,000.00 for the base bid and \$10,000.00 for Alternate No. 1, and

WHEREAS, the bid amount substantially exceeds the budgeted amount for the project; 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 Envelope Improvements to Eggert Crossing Neighborhood Center are hereby rejected pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2a, b and d, due to the fact that the bid substantially exceeds the budgeted amount for the project.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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

Mr. Nerwinski provided an overview of the Bid Award as it relates to Central Jersey Waste and Recycling, Inc. being the sole bidder and the significant price increase for the Organic Waste Program and Trash Collection and advised that they

met with the company a few months ago and they were not very interested in continuing the organic waste program with all the problems they were experiencing so they were surprised when they submitted the bid. And, Mr. Whitehead has prepared as a letter informing the 200 people who are participating in the program about the increase and giving the opportunity to opt out and indicated that they are not killing or subsidizing the program that some people are very passionate about...but letting them decide whether they would like to continue with the program. A general comment period ensued relative to the program.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-B), Authorizing Awarding Bid 18-11 Refuse Collection and Trash Disposal, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 376 –18

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2018 bids were received for Bid No. 18-11, Refuse Collection and Trash Disposal; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received and was reviewed by the Municipal Manager and the Director of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, Central Jersey Waste and Recycling, Inc., 432 Stokes Avenue, Ewing NJ 08638, Inc. was the only bidder; and

WHEREAS, the Township is awarding Option #1 (*curbside and container garbage collection including bulk waste*) and Option #5 (*curbside organic waste collection*) from the submitted proposal for the period December 1, 2018 through November 30, 2019, with the option to renew for four (4) additional years concluding November 30, 2023; 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 8-01-26-305-252 (Garbage and Trash Removal) in the amount of \$71,919.79 one month in 2018 with the balance of \$791,117.71, and subsequent years, to be charged upon approval of adopted budgets; and

WHEREAS, Option #5 for curbside organic waste is being awarded at \$38.50 per month per household with the customer being responsible for the monthly fee; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-24 a. provides that an award or rejection of a bid must be made within sixty days of the receipt of bids and said time limit may be extended with the consent of the bidder.

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 enter into a one year contract for Option #1 and Option #5, per bid

specification, from December 1, 2018 through November 30, 2019, with the option to renew for four (4) additional years with Central Jersey Waste & Recycling, Inc; and

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Introduction 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 – Eliminate Flu Shot Fee

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the ordinance amends the Lawrence Township Administrative Code to eliminate the Flu Shot fee being the service is no longer provided by the Health Department. The Township is now using the Rite Aid Pharmacy and it went well so they are going to continue in that fashion.

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						

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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 Fee

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the ordinance amends the Lawrence Township Administrative Code to increase fees for soil testing for individual subsurface sewage disposal systems. The current fee is \$60 per hour and a minimum of \$360 per lot and new fee will increase to \$75 per hour and a minimum of \$450 per lot. The fee increase is along State guidelines and is appropriate according to what the Inspectors are taxed with regarding soil testing.

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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2297-18 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN"

Ordinance No. 2314-18

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2297-18  
 BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER,  
 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO REVISE THE DESCRIPTION  
 OF THE IMPROVEMENT HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

Section 1:

- a. Section 1 (a) of Ordinance 2297-18, finally adopted May 1, 2018, and Ordinance 2310-18, finally adopted September 25, 2018, be and are hereby amended to add the following purposes:

Acquisition of Various Computer and Office Equipment consisting of ...“Computer Upgrades: Software, Hardware, Licenses and Mobile Applications...”

Section 2:

The capital budget of the Township of Lawrence is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for inspection.

Section 3:

This amending ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by Law.

Ordinance No. 2314-18 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 ORDINANCE NO. 2145-13 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE “IN ORDER TO RENAME THE COMMITTEE “ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE”

Ordinance No. 2315-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2145-13 “AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE” TO RENAME THE COMMITTEE “ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE”

WHEREAS, the members of the Environmental Resources and Sustainability Green Advisory Committee have requested that the Committee name be changed to the Environmental and Green Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that this name change shall not compromise the Township’s position with Sustainable Jersey nor be detrimental to grant application approvals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the committee presently known as the Environmental Resources and Sustainability Green Advisory Committee shall be changed to and become known as the Environmental and Green Advisory Committee.

Ordinance No. 2315-18 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 13 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” AS IT PERTAINS TO LAWRENCEVILLE-PENNINGTON ROAD”

Ordinance No. 2316-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE  
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”  
AS IT PERTAINS TO LAWRENCEVILLE – PENNINGTON ROAD

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that Chapter 13 of the Lawrence Township Administrative Code entitled “Motor Vehicles and Traffic” be and is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article II – Stopping, Standing and Parking

Section 13.12 Stopping or Standing Prohibited – At all times

Lawrenceville-Pennington Road, both sides, from its intersection with Route 206 to its intersection with Willow Road

2. Severability

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of the Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

3. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and publication, in accordance with law.

Deletions are in brackets [ ]  
 New material is underlined \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance No. 2316-18 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 November 2018 in the amount of \$1,717,082.41

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Council has been provided the Best Practices Worksheet CY 2018/SFY 2019 prepared by Mr. Kiriakatis, CFO, who is in the audience tonight. He then asked that they review the Worksheet and follow-up with him on any questions they might have and that the Lawrence Township Best Practices score is 95-percent which is an increase from last year’s score of 93-percent which is pretty good; but, they are striving for 100-percent and proceeded to review Items No. 25, 26 and 27 of the Best Practices as it pertains to the Governing Body assessing the authority or authorities it has created to ascertain whether they can continue to serve the public interest and are more efficient than other means of providing the same services and/or financing public facilities and hopes that the governing body is in agreement that the Ewing-Lawrence Sewage Authority (ELSA) is their best option in terms of providing the service they provide and that the Council is required to publicly state that. Mr. Kiriakatis also informed him that he will be submitting the Best Practices to the State tomorrow. It was the consensus of the Council that ELSA is the town’s best option.

Mr. Nerwinski stated at the next meeting they will be bringing forth a Resolution for approval of a contract for the Township’s new website design and going through the process found somebody that they think is a good fit – EvoGov; and they will give more information at the next meeting which they are excited about. He will also be emailing the Council several websites that the company has done, with the closest one being East Windsor, to view and advised that the company is outstanding and it is exactly as they are looking into making the website user-friendly and have people at their fingertips be able to do business with the town in an easier way which will be a win-win for everyone using that resource to do the same work. Further, they have met and talked to representatives via a telephone conference several times and he has personally called four or five of their customers in California, New Jersey and West Virginia and they all stated the process is not easy; but, the company has been very responsive. And, one of

things they like about the company is that they have a live chat feature behind the scenes so as they begin to work on the website from the beginning 24/7 there will be someone to provide them with guidance, and he was told if they are diligent the newly designed website could be finished in a three-month period of time and advised that some of the departments will be more difficult than others in getting the information that they need. But the artwork and the vision the towns are presenting for themselves are pretty cool and he will send the Council an email where they can go on and look at some of the designs.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that they previously discussed reviewing the Salary Schedule for Lawrence Township employees to be provided in the 2019 Municipal Budget and they are going to look for a consulting firm to assist in reviewing the salary schedule to make sure that it is inline, competitive and where it needs to be. Hopefully, they will have more information to report at the next meeting in terms of the development and their goal is to get this accomplished by the end of the first quarter of next year and advised that they see some areas where Lawrence is less competitive and in order to keep talented people as an employee they are going to have to take a stronger look at salaries.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that James Parvesse, Municipal Engineer and Brenda Kraemer, Assistant Municipal Engineer, who is now full-time, have been working on the Municipal Carbon Footprint with regards to the Township's goals for sustainability and distributed some information for the Council to review pertaining the Township establishing their baseline which sets the mark for what they need to do in terms of reduction to achieve their Gold Certification and indicated it is quite a lengthy process but they have compiled all the data that they need and in hearing Mr. Filler's report earlier about the solar farm and how it could impact the energy consumption at ELSA makes him wonder if that is something that could be added into the Township's carbon footprint; something he will follow up on.

Mayor Bobbitt's thanked Mr. Nerwinski for doing the Carbon Footprint which was a big thing capturing all of the information. Mr. Nerwinski replied by having Ms. Kraemer full-time it has really worked out for them as it has enabled the Township to be more productive and proactive both in terms of the grant program that the Township is managing now and the spreadsheets that they find of value that he distributes to Council with everything in one place to view which he likes and indicates she has really stepped up in filling a void.

Mr. Nerwinski distributed documents to the Council regarding a property that is Township-owned located on Lawrence Square Boulevard North and from what he was told the picture is of the Substation and the property is not providing any type of benefit or service to the Township except that the town has had to maintain it. The structure itself is in deteriorating condition and Mr. Whitehead, Director of Public Works, who he gives full credit, asked that the Township Council consider selling the property. So, he asked the Tax Assessor to do a report to see if he property has value and Municipal Engineer to let him know if the property is developable and they both came back with

favorable responses which seems like a thing for the Township Council to consider and indicated he would like to put it on the market to have that piece of land to start working for the Township as a ratable since it is located in a good place and plans for the proceeds will be used to construct an additional storage facility needed at the Public Works property which is a good way to transfer the value of the land. He then asked the wishes of the Council with regards to the suggestion. A brief discussion took place relative the property being rezoned to maximize the profit. There was no objection from Council relative to Mr. Nerwinski's proposal to sell the property.

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**Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos advised that he has a Peddlers/Solicitors Ordinance revision that the Council is free to review that is not on the Agenda tonight and they will clean up that ordinance so that it is consistent with the Federal decisions that have come out. He will also have a Landlord Registration ordinance revision forthcoming as well.

Mr. Roskos stated he spoke with the Municipal Manager about having an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) meeting with the Clerk's Office and the Police Department about some of the requests the town receives which are punitive and indicated they have a request right now that is sixty-one paragraphs long for materials that he thinks do not exist or were already provided by the Prosecutor's Office and complaints have been filed with the Government Records Council (GRC) so the Township must have more of a set program to deal with the some of the requests because some are off the beaten path such as the request pertaining to a domestic violence incident where they are not allowed to provide that kind of information.

Mr. Roskos stated with regards to Open Public Records Act (OPRA) he does not know if members of Council have gotten a chance to meet Victoria Britton who is a great lawyer, a pleasure to work with and is wonderful in the OPRA area in which she worked for many years in Clinton, Montgomery and Princeton and defended a case in Montgomery, Somerset County, where a man was murdered and they were not sure if the murderer was the son and the theory was refuted by the family and turned into a big matter of public interest that led to the Philadelphia Inquirer bringing suit against Montgomery Township and Ms. Britton successfully defending that case.

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**Clerk's Report –**

Ms. Norcia reported that Lawrence Township had a very good turnout for the General Election as it was 54-percent overall with two of the districts voting a little over 60-percent. And, because they do not have the mail-ins or the provisional ballots in yet those numbers are not included in the percentage.

Ms. Lewis questioned if the delay in the Absentee Ballots and Provisionals were caused by the new Vote by Mail law extending the receipt date for absentees. Ms. Norcia replied “yes” they do not have the numbers tonight because of the extra two days with the cutoff being today. And, due to all the confusion with regards to who could, could not or did not want to vote by mail resulted in a large number of provisional ballots being cast and the delay in results.

Ms. Norcia further reported they had a problem with Lawrence Square Village not having electricity and Public Works again doing a wonderful job in bringing the portable battery lights out to the site and just as they were bringing the generator the lights came on.

Ms. Norcia stated that the Council has a little housekeeping to do with regards to Resolution No. 376-18 (9-B), Authorizing Awarding Bid 18-11 Refuse Collection and Trash Disposal, which should have been added to the agenda under Bids instead of Resolutions as it is a contract and needs to be open for public participation in case anyone would like to speak on it. They can present it now or after resolutions. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to present the bid award now. (Please refer to Awarding and/or Rejecting of Bids).

Ms. Norcia informed the Council that she will be on vacation next week and that concludes her report.

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### **Unfinished Business –**

Mr. Powers advised that the Council had a discussion at their last meeting regarding proclamations which was left sort of unresolved but he did talk to Mayor Bobbitt, Councilwoman Lewis and left a message for Councilman Kownacki regarding his thoughts for the process for proclamations if a member of Council wants to initiate a proclamation then that Councilmember should be responsible in assisting the Municipal Clerk by having a draft of the proclamation and template such as Councilwoman Lewis who subsequent to the meeting reached out about a proclamation for the Community of Lights event that is coming up; it had a template which was tweaked; but, he thinks if someone takes the initiative to have it drafted and have it go to the Municipal Clerk that might take a couple of days so in the meantime an email should be sent out to all of Council from the Municipal Clerk advising a member is proposing an proclamation and suggested they have an opt in to veto for the proclamation being 99-percent of the time everybody will be supportive of a proclamation for the Lawrence Little League, League of Women Voters, etc.; but, if three of them have a strong objection to moving forward with the proclamation then they can veto it by reaching out to the Clerk and letting her know their stance on the proclamation and proceeded to discuss the procedures for endorsing a Proclamation as it relates to Lawrence Township organizations and residents/non-residents.



Additional discussion ensued relative to memorializing the procedures, sponsorship for proclamations, proclamations being shared with members of Council by the Municipal Clerk and the process for objections and timing as it relates to the submission to the Clerk. After the discussion, Mr. Nerwinski recommended that the Clerk do a memorandum to the Council as to the procedure for proclamations.

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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

There was no public participation.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 348-18 (18-A.1) through 375-18 (18-H.11) with the exception of Resolution 370-18 (Bid Award) 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 –**

Councilman Kownacki reminded everyone again that Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. outside in front of Town Hall they will be having Memorial Day service and a rededication in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of World War I. Last night the Patriotic Committee met and finalized everything and today they brought over from the museum that is part of the 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Armory, a World War I Air Force Uniform which they hung up at Town Hall and they will have a couple more pieces that will be displayed in the display case at Town Hall as well. And, on Sunday they are going to have a 75mm artillery piece at the Township that was actually fired by the 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery during World War I that they will be firing on Sunday. He then thanked the

Municipal Manager for giving them the approval and Greg Whitehead, Director of Public Works and his department for all the hard work they did out front and advised that there will be food and refreshments at the end of the ceremony in the Lower Level Conference Room.

Mr. Nerwinski stated that everybody who comes in the building stops and takes a really long look at the display case which is perfectly placed and serving its purpose and they will rotate the contents to celebrate different aspects of history,

Councilman Kownacki stated if anyone has a chance they should go over to the 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery on Eggert Crossing Road on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday between 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and check out the National Guard Militia Museum as they will be surprised to see what is in there. And, they just received good news from the Board of Directors that they got approval from the State to build a new museum directly in back of building and it is going to be bigger than the National Guard Museum of New Jersey in Sea Grit being they have many items stored that they cannot bring out and the expected date for the groundbreaking is Spring of 2019.

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**Written Communications –**

There was no written communication.

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

7.58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor