

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

April 2, 2019

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 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, April 2, 2019, 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 19, 2018.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmember 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

Mayor Bobbitt stated although there are no proclamations or presentations on the Agenda this evening he would be remiss in not mentioning Laura Wooten, a longtime resident of Lawrence Township, who recently passed away at the age of 98 and who served as an Election Poll Worker for 79 consecutive years and holds the distinction of being the longest serving poll worker in the Nation. He indicated it is rare when a town can have someone like Ms. Wooten who has done something so incredible that she was recognized nationally for her service as a poll worker for 79 years...which is pretty amazing... in terms of volunteerism which Councilman Maffei opened his term with, as Mayor, speaking of the importance of volunteers.

Mayor Bobbitt went on to discuss Ms. Wooten waking up at 4:00 am to work the Election Polls at the Lawrence Road Fire Company for 30 of those 79 years on Election Day and Governor Murphy describing her as “one of the great moral leaders of our State and Nation, promoting voting rights and democracy year after year” and suggested that the Township Council do something in recognition of her service and contributions which he will further discuss under new business.

Public Participation

Mr. Buzz Donnelly, 28 West Church Road, advised that he is present this evening to discuss a problem that has existed for 30 years with regards to the noise from the traffic along I-295 in his neighborhood which he has addressed before the Council on numerous occasions regarding the installation of sound barriers that were promised but never built and is desperately needed. He then indicated he was out working in his yard doing a spring cleanup and noticed a huge increase in noise from the Interstate which started after DOT resurfaced the road last fall and took away the Open Graded Friction Course which was a special pavement put down from Exit 67 to Exit 71 to appease the residents until the sound barrier issue was resolved and now that the surface is gone the sound is at least 50 to 70 percent higher and longer as they can hear the cars and trucks coming from far away like a crescendo where it increases then it goes down. But, when they had the Open Graded Friction Course they could see the cars heading to Pennsylvania but could not hear them but now they can hear every car that passes and the noise is worst then he can remember in the 31 years of residing in his home.

Mr. Donnelly indicated back in 2007 the State spent over \$250,000 designing the Sound Barrier and had a public forum discussing the proposed plans for the sound barrier which was going to be 2,700 feet long, 12 feet high, and the project was going to be put out for bid in the Spring 2008; but, a bridge in Minnesota fell down which is the same type of bridge as the Pulaski Skyway Bridge and all monies were reallocated to that project which is now fixed. Then, NJDOT used the Transportation Trust Fund lack of funds as an excuse and now that the Trust Fund is in good health again from the gas tax and all the affected residents are asking that the Township Council revisit the matter with DOT; especially, being they caused the problem by resurfacing the road. He then discussed the project being grandfathered and the Project Number (94010A) remaining the same...but unfunded and him having the original documentation needed to help Council get the necessary funding for the project and his request being the same as it was 30 years ago which is to have a Sound Barrier put up from the Scudder Falls Bridge to the Delaware Memorial Bridge along I-295, and advised that there is only one municipality along that route that does not have any noise litigation. Furthermore, Congresswoman Bonnie-Watson Coleman father was the one of the people in the past who was very instrumental in getting the project qualified and approved so maybe they can reach out to her for assistance in the matter.

Mayor Bobbitt thanked Mr. Donnelly for bringing the matter to the attention of the Township Council and stated that he will definitely reach out to representatives at the Federal and State level and requested that he give all correspondence relative to the matter to the Municipal Manager. Councilwoman Lewis stated she can attest to how long the project has been around because not 30 years ago...but many years ago when Greg Puliti was mayor he called her when she was a staffer in Congressman Rush Holt office asking for assistance on this particular project which is probably when the Open Graded Friction Course project came about. Mr. Donnelly echoed Ms. Lewis' sentiments with regards to former Councilman/Mayor Greg Puliti being a huge advocate and very interested in getting the project completed.

Mr. Robert Pluta, 711 Lake Drive, advised of a newly formed club called Friends of Colonial Lake and a Lawrence resident, Tom Ritter, who is present, has been very instrumental in and that they are happy about the Township purchasing the property from the Sheft family and proud that the lake area will be the gem and oasis in the Township and proceeded to discuss the upcoming Clean-Up Event taking place on April 6 and the 2018 Clean-Up which he attended and was very proud of given the hundreds of town's people picking up all the garbage debris which left the area beautiful and in pristine condition until a couple of weeks later on Memorial Day weekend when they had heavy rain storms and soon after he went canoeing down the lake under the bridge underneath Route 1 and back by Captain Paul's and found it was loaded with trash and filthy debris as if they had never been there. Subsequently, research was performed as to where the runoff debris was washing down from and they found that a lot of the garbage was extending from Olden Avenue in Ewing and he does not know how the Council would address the matter, rather it is with Ewing Council, Senator Shirley Turner, or if they should install a catch basin there to catch the debris before it comes into Colonial Lake or consider a more sophisticated 21st Century solution to resolve the problem.

Mayor Bobbitt advised that he is well aware of the debris problem at Colonial Lake being he lives in the Lakelands and he has previously taken this concern to Mr. Whitehead, Director of Public Works, who has tried various techniques to resolve the matter with no resolve. As for trash flowing from Ewing Township into the Lake, Mayor Bobbitt suggested Mr. Pluta present his findings to Ewing Township Council being Lawrence has no jurisdiction over Ewing's code enforcement. He also suggested that the Municipal Manager revisit the matter with Mr. Whitehead to seek his opinion and recommendation regarding the problem. Mr. Nerwinski advised that he will also reach out to the Administrator of Ewing Township to see if they could better enforce the littering problem taking place at the Home Depot and Solterra Recycling. An exchange of dialogue took place relative to the various ways to try and resolve the issue.

Mr. Tom Ritter, 747 Lake Drive, stated he thinks Solterra Recycling is the main issue with regards to trash getting into Colonial Lake as he sees all kinds of recycling materials and plastics of all sorts in the lake. He feels covering and fixing the storm drains is a minor part of the problem. And, he knows Lawrence has no governance over Ewing Township but he would like to know if any members of Council recollect ever engaging in any discussion with Ewing Township Council about the problem being that is the only way

to resolve it. Mr. Nerwinski stated if someone was polluting a waterway in Lawrence they would definitely do something about it and he thinks Ewing Officials will do the same. In addition, he feels that the State regulators are a another entity they can inform regarding the issue; but, as a courtesy he will reach out to the Business Administrator in Ewing to make him aware of the problem and to give him an opportunity to address it and if it is not addressed then they will take it to another level. Some discussion followed relative to the Colonial Lake polluting matter being previous addressed but just not taken to the next level, after which Mayor Bobbitt and Mr. Nerwinski thanked both Mr. Pluta and Mr. Ritter for bringing the matter to the attention of the Council which they will work on.

Ms. Carol Connolly, 21 West Long Drive, echoed Buz Donnelly sentiments with regards to the long history and need for the Sound Barriers along I-295 and indicated she is a longtime resident of Lawrence who used to live across from the Ben Franklin School prior to moving on West Long Drive and she is keenly aware of the problems created by having a highway from the bike and pedestrian prospective but on March 3 when she took a walk from her house to the Bank of America on Princeton Pike it was a real challenge from a pedestrian prospective due to the lack of sidewalks, gravelly pavement and there being no shoulder or sidewalk to walk on along in Lewisville Road basically leading to no safe way to walk from point to point. And indicates she sent an email out to the Council regarding the matter with no response back so she is present this evening to advocate for sidewalks to be put in where possible throughout the Township for pedestrian and bike safety as it is a huge public safety issue. She further suggested along Princess Road close to the Canal access be made from the Tow Path which connects to the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail so that everybody in south Lawrence has access to the Trail; especially, for bicyclists to not have to cross the highway.

Mayor Bobbitt stated he agrees that there are areas in the Township that are very challenging for pedestrians to walk and bicyclists to ride within the town and that the matter is being addressed under the Complete Streets Ordinance which is a long term process. Councilwoman Lewis further stated eight years ago there was a plan that had three different alternatives to create a pedestrian trail to cross over that highway; so, it not a project that they would not like to have a solution to...but it is a reminder to the Council to go back and revisit that important matter and echoed the Mayor's comments with regards to the sidewalk project being long-term project. Mayor Bobbitt thanked Ms. Connelly for her comments.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There was no review or revision of the agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Closed Session of **March 19, 2019** were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Kownacki, Lewis, Power and Mayor Bobbitt.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Councilman Maffei.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding Bid 19-03 for Lawn Services to On-Site Landscape Management, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 139-19

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2019, proposals were received for Bid 19-03 Lawn Services; and

WHEREAS, one proposal was received and reviewed by the Municipal Manager/QPA and the Director of Public Works and On-Site Landscape Management met all requirements and is being awarded the bid: and

WHEREAS, Option #1 is also being awarded at this time in the amount of \$12,024, with the understanding that the implementation of this option will be subject to the Department of Transportation releasing Business Route #1 to the Township; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged are 9-16-56-843-299 (Open Space) for \$28,974 and 9-01-26-290-255 (Streets and Roads) for \$12, 024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Township is hereby authorized to award the bid for Lawn Services to On-Site Landscape Management, P.O. Box 294, Millstone, New Jersey 08535 for the period of April 22, 2019 through October 25, 2019.

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 TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 13 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED ‘MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’ – Lawn Park Avenue

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance provides restriction for parking on Lawn Park Avenue in an attempt to address the traffic issues caused by increased motor vehicles for drop-offs and pick-ups of students at Eldridge Park Elementary School. The proposed ordinance came about as a result of traffic study performed by the Police Department of drop-offs and pick-ups at the school and they are exploring other options but this ordinance is just one to offer a little bit of relief at this point in time. Some discussion followed relative to the narrowness of the street as it relates to the problem.

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

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED ‘MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’ – Handicapped Parking

Ordinance No. 2324 -19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
ENTITLED ‘MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’

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:

Section 1. Article II – Stopping, Standing and Parking

Sec. 13-4 – Parking prohibited – At any time, except by vehicles bearing special identification for handicapped persons.

(5) Special Vehicle Parking (Handicapped)

Restricted parking spaces shall be established as set forth below and only those persons who are handicapped and who possess a special vehicle identification shall park in such designated parking space.

- a. 64 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Pike and Valley Forge Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet on Valley Forge Avenue on the south side of 1894 Brunswick Pike.
- b. 138 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Pike and Pear Street (N/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 766 Pear Street.
- c. 340 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Rt. 206 (Lawrence Road) and Fairfield Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 81 Fairfield Avenue.
- d. 285 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Myrtle Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 55 Myrtle Avenue.
- e. 180 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Hopewell Avenue and Slack Avenue (S/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 115 Slack Avenue.
- f. 263 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Myrtle Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 57 Myrtle Avenue
- g. 204 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Ohio Avenue and Puritan Avenue (N/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 716 Puritan Avenue
- h. 324 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Myrtle Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 51 Myrtle Avenue

- i. 141 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Slack Avenue and Princeton Pike (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 143 Slack Avenue
- j. 54 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Puritan Avenue and Brunswick Pike, for a distance of 22 feet
- k. 518 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Avenue and Lanning Avenue (N/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 944 Lanning Avenue
- l. 70 feet westbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Avenue and Lanning Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet on the side of 1279 Brunswick Avenue
- m. 37 feet southbound from the prolonged curb line of pear street and Michigan Avenue for a distance of 22 feet in front of 139 Michigan Avenue

Section 2. This ordinance supercedes all previous ordinances that relate to the designation of handicapped parking on streets and roadways within the Township of Lawrence.

Section 3. Severability.

If any provisions of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall be deemed severable therefrom.

Section 4. Repealer.

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

Section 5. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days following the adoption thereof in accordance with law.

Additions Underlined _____

Ordinance No. 2324-19 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, “ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER”

Ordinance No. 2325–19

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS  
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE  
TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey finds it advisable and necessary to apply in its CY 2019 budget a CAP rate of 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that a 3.5% CAP rate in the budget for said year, amounting to \$627,365.24 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey by a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring that, in the CY 2019 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Lawrence shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, have applied a CAP rate of 3.5%, amounting to \$627,365.24 and that the CY 2019 municipal budget for the Township of Lawrence be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within five days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within five days after such adoption.

Ordinance No. 2325-19 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 April 2019 in the amount of \$956,783.02.

Mr. Nerwinski updated the Council on the Solar Program and indicated the process that the Township took from 2017 to 2018 has been so effective at the Senior Center that it no longer qualifies for solar panels. The kilowatts used in 2017 were 34,732 but because they changed the four air blowers and switched out all of the lighting to LED lights the usage went down to 7,160 kilowatts which greatly reduced the carbon footprint thereby disqualifying the Center for the program. They do have a preliminary design on the solar panels proposed for the two areas at the Municipal Complex that will not affect the integrity or aesthetics of the municipal building and only a small set of trees will be removed that are already posing a problem and proceeded to discuss the cost and savings with regards to the retrofitting and lighting that was done and the installation of

the solar panels reducing the cost by 50-percent from .12.5 cents per kilowatt to .6.5 cents per kilowatt.

Mr. Nerwinski turned the floor over to Mr. Roskos who discussed some contract issues which he imparted will be resolved prior to the deadline regarding the Solar Program and violation of the Bid Statute and Proposal relative to the financing and the contracted installers and him creating a Tri-Party Agreement with the installers to be in compliance with the bid law and working through the details before the abstract window closes this year given the significant savings.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that Andy Link, Planner and Township Business Liaison, will be retiring on June 1<sup>st</sup> and he requested that he provide him with a full description of all of his job duties and responsibilities for the Township. And, he did. So he now has a good sense of what he does with his primary responsibility and being the coordinator for the Affordable Housing Program and that he and Peter Kiriakatis, CFO, has been exploring the possibility of using an outside source to handle the Affordable Housing Program in terms of listing the properties, working with the parties involved and doing all the compliance issues. They met with Frank Piazza from Piazza & Associates, Inc. located in Princeton and had a good conversation about other municipalities his company works with and he reached out to those municipalities to see how it works which basically shifts the associated affordable housing fees paid by the town to the purchasing party as well as helps the Township monitor and stay in compliance with the Affordable Housing regulations. So, it is an option that they would like to further explore.

Mr. Nerwinski proceeded to discuss the fees that the Township has been absorbing that could have been shifted to the prospective parties purchasing the units and bringing in a part-time Business Development person to fill the role and take over some of the duties that Mr. Link performed as the Business Advocate for the Township which he and Councilwoman Lewis previously discussed. Further, he feels Mr. Piazza is someone he can work with on Affordable Housing matters as he seems to have a firm grip on what is current and required. Additional dialogue took place relative to all the duties Mr. Link performed as the Affordable Housing Administrator and Business Advocate by hiring a dedicated person for each position instead of the new person wearing both hats. Mayor Bobbitt stated Mr. Link wore a lot of hats for the Township and he will surely be missed. Councilman Powers echoed the Mayor's sentiments with regards to Mr. Link wearing multiple hats and his institutional knowledge and expertise as the liaison to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee in term of knowing the specimen and varieties of trees will be sorely missed.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that NJDOT informed them that the 2019 Municipal Aid Program for the Road Improvement Program awarded Lawrence Township \$605,000 for the Denow Road Project and last year's number was around \$275,000 which is a significant increase and that he has been sharing the grant status with the Council

monthly and it really seems to be working out well. Mayor Bobbitt thanked Mr. Nerwinski for moving an employee from part-time to full-time to focus on the grant opportunities that help the Township control cost and fund improvement projects.

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**Attorney's Report –**

There was no Attorney's report.

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**Clerk's Report –**

There was no Clerk's report.

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**Unfinished Business –**

There was no unfinished business.

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**New Business –**

Councilman Kownacki stated that the Municipal Clerk sent out an email to members of Council about the groundbreaking ceremony for the National Guard Militia Museum taking place on Monday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the 112<sup>th</sup> Artillery on Eggert Crossing Road and he needs to know who will be in attendance. They can reply to the Municipal Clerk or they can let him know so they can get on the roster to enter the facility.

Councilwoman Lewis advised that the Complete Counts Committee for the Census started yesterday to make sure everyone is properly counted and she knows 10 years ago they had some concerns about The Lawrenceville School and Rider University students who utilize Lawrence Township infrastructure and services and they had a problem with counting children under (5) years of age as well and inquired as to whether anyone reached out to the Township concerning the census.

Mr. Nerwinski stated he had an email that went out to a Committee asking if someone would like to register to help in a meaningful way with the 2020 Census for Lawrence Township and discussed the counts being critical to funding and a lot of different things and him being on top of it.

Councilwoman Lewis stated that the Township Council has had previous discussions about how to get people more involved with the Township Boards and Committees and in speaking with other towns they have student members on their committees so she plans to speak to her committees to see if they are interested in having a student member and she wanted to share the information with the rest of Council to see if they wanted to have conversations with their committees as well.

Mayor Bobbitt stated that the Municipal Clerk and he had spoken about honoring Laura Wooten with a Proclamation at the June Council Meeting to thank her for her dedication and longtime service as a Poll Worker. He then asked the wishes of the Council to proceed. There was no objection from members of Council regarding Mayor Bobbitt's request.

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

*Dr. Eric Jaszewski, 811 Bunker Hill,* stated he definitely agrees with the Municipal Manager's report regarding the visual aesthetics as it relates to the placement of the solar panels at the Municipal Building and the Township Police Department and he was curious about the investing/financing of the panels and how the savings of the \$40,000+ a year be applied to the municipal budget. Mr. Nerwinski replied that there is no cost to the Township for the installation of the Solar Panels; the company derives their money off of the placement of solar panels in certain areas and the power bill savings goes right to the town's regular cash funds; it just a reduction of expenses. And in terms of budgeting they will need to go through a year's cycle.

*Mr. Paul Larson, 170 Darrah Lane,* stated he would like to comment on the trash issue at Colonial Lake which was previously discussed and advised that it is not just Solterra creating the trash problem as he knows most to the trash is coming down from Olden Avenue given he has seen multiple cases of Sonic cups that have washed into the Lake and there is only one Sonic in the area located on North Olden Avenue. Also, something he brought to the attention of the Municipal Manager was lots of sports equipment – footballs, soccer balls, basketballs, like it had been dumped as well as a door and lots of branches and debris that came downstream into the Lake. He then echoed that Colonial Lake is a gem and is one of the keystone parks in Lawrence and he would be remiss in not mentioning the other keystone park, Maidenhead Meadows Park, in the 1761 Brearley House.

Mr. Larson advised along the Meadow Road corridor the two tallest building in that corridor are the two 18<sup>th</sup> Century Brearley houses to remain today as the tallest one and that an Application was submitted to the Planning Board to build 18 houses right next to Meadow Road which is more building in that section since the Brearleys settled.

Mr. Larson stated he has some ideas for links to both the LHT and Canal which he will save for another time and since the Council is looking to make changes around the municipal building he is proposing again the Twin Oaks Historical Highway Park outside of Town Hall. As for Andy Link retirement, he will be missed and asked that the Council do not forget the coordinating and grant writing aspect; a task done by Mr. Link. He then echoed Councilman Kownacki request regarding the groundbreaking ceremony and Militia Museum Association which he is a member of.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 132-19 (18-B.1) through 138-19 (18-H.5) were 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 Powers advised that Diversity Day/Cinco de Mayo is taking place on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Lawrence Township High School cafeteria.

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**Written Communications –**

There were no written communications.

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

7.46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor