

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

January 15, 2019

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 7.00 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, January 15, 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: 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.

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Mayor Bobbitt administered the Oaths of Office to Chiefs of the Fire Volunteer Companies as follows:

Chief Ryan Dlabik	Lawrence Road Fire Company
Chief Todd Lenarski	Slackwood Volunteer Fire Company

Mayor Bobbitt thanked each of Fire Chiefs for stepping forward and being the Chiefs for 2019 and wished them all the success and safety over the year.

Mr. Nerwinski indicated he would like to publicly state that Lawrence Township is extremely fortunate to have volunteer firefighters who are willing to go into a burning structure to save lives and risk their own life because they love what they do and are committed to it. And, as the Municipal Manager, he is looking forward to working with them in the future so they can preserve the volunteers and help make the fire companies flourish. He then wished them the Best of Luck!

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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 Closed Session (Resolution-18-H.7) be amended to include discussions dealing with negotiations for pending Land Acquisition and Labor Negotiations, 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 August 28, 2018 and September 25, 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 Awarding Affordable Unit Rehabilitation to Affordable Housing Administrators, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 43-19

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 3, 2019, bids were received and publicly opened for the provision of administrative services for the grant known as **Lawrence Township Affordable Unit Rehabilitation**; and

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

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Affordable Housing Administrators that submitted a bid in the amount of \$700.00 to review and update the existing Policies & Procedures Manual; \$800.00 to maintain the program waiting list; \$3,250.00 per privately owned unit rehabilitation and \$3,000.00 per publically owned unit rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Township may conduct up to twelve (12) rehabilitations during the term of the contract costing a maximum of \$40,500.00 in administrative services; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is G-02-41-048-299 (\$40,500.00 - 2014 Lawrence Township Affordable Unit Rehabilitation);

WHEREAS, Affordable Housing Administrators has performed satisfactorily;

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Manager, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk executed a contract with Affordable Housing Administrators, P. O. Box 945, Point Pleasant NJ 08742 not to exceed the amount of \$40,500.00 for a term not to exceed one (1) year; and

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

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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#### Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

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#### Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

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#### **Manager's Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski submitted invoice listings for the month of January 2019 in the amount of \$1,437,253.99.

#### **Submission of the 2019 Recommended Municipal Budget**

Mr. Nerwinski distributed copies of the 2019 Recommended Municipal Budget for the Council's review and consideration and stated Peter Kiriakatis, CFO, is in the audience this evening and he and his staff have been working diligently on this recommended budget and he will be reading a portion of the Budget Message in terms of what they are recommending for 2019 and some of the highlights of 2018. Afterwards, they can begin their review and long conversation with regard to the proposed budget and he and Mr. Kiriakatis will be available to answer any questions the members of Council might have during their review.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the 2019 Recommendation Budget includes a 2-cent tax rate increase for the proposed \$49.1 million Municipal Budget and proceeded to review the 2019 Municipal Budget Calendar that included the following: Budget Recommendation (1/15/19); Director's Budget Presentations - Carol Chamberlain, Health Officer, Anthony Cermele, Construction Code Official, Nancy Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation and James Parvesse, PE, Municipal Engineering (2/5/19); Brian Caloiaro, Chief of Police, Jack Oakley, Emergency Management, Gregory Whitehead, Public Works and Lewis J. Korngut, Judge of the Municipal Court (2/19/19); Budget Introduction and Approval (3/19/19); Budget Advertisement (4/3/19) and the Budget Adoption Hearing (4/16/19). He indicated all the dates are compliant with the

law and continued to discuss in detail some of the recommendations in the budget as it relates to budget increases and shoring up personnel in various departments to meet the town's minimum physical requirements and public safety needs going forward. He noted that the Township is entering a sweet spot in terms of having the right amount of employees while remaining prudent in filling slots to better serve the residents and manage the town.

A general discussion took place relative the 2 cents proposed tax increase, eliminating tax swings and having a steady tax rate, alternative revenues, departmental presentations being helpful in Council's decision-making process and Directors/Division Heads making sure residents are aware of all the quality services and programs provided by the township and an increase of police and court personnel.

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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 –**

There was no new business.

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

There is no public participation.

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Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 44-19 (18-B.1) through 71-19 (18-H.7) 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 –**

Mayor Bobbitt advised that the Council will be making Boards and Committees appointments this evening but there are a few Board Chairs they would like to interview and touch base with before being reappointed. The chairs to the Board/Committees are John Conroy, Growth and Redevelopment Committee, Teresita Bastides-Heron, Human Relations Committee and Marie Tagliaferri, Recreation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bobbitt stated prior to making the appointments they have one extremely qualified candidate for the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority but he would like to get the Township Attorney’s opinion if there are any issues with having a Councilmember serve on the ELSA’s board from the Council’s perspective. Mr. Roskos advised the Sewerage Authority law allows a Councilperson to also serve on the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority Board and the appointment is in the parameters of the Statute.

**Appointment to Boards and Committees**

Mayor Bobbitt advised that the Liaisons will be casting their nominations for the nominees appointed to the following Boards or Committees:

**Cable Telecommunications Advisory Committee**

Mayor Bobbitt advised that the Cable Telecommunications Committee has not meet in a longtime and the Council has spoken about taking the Committee in a different direction looking at more technology issues and inquired as to how they would go about making that change to the committee. Mr. Roskos indicated as the Committee stands they deal with the Franchise Agreement for cable television and issues that come up every umpteen years and if they are giving that committee a new charge it has

to be done in a more formal way given the Committee has a reason for existing right now. They can mothball the committee for the time being since at the present time there is no need for them to meet; but they will need the Committee in the future. So they do not want to do away with it in perpetuity. A general exchange of dialogue took place relative to the Township keeping the Cable Telecommunications Committee as it is just wrapping a technology piece into the existing committee which would give members something to do in-between Franchise Agreements. Additional discussion took place relative to the Committee possibly monitoring the public access channel from a technology standpoint as stipulated in the ordinance that was done a few years back, assisting in the social media aspect and the Township looking into what other towns have in terms of a Technology Committee for them to review and incorporate.

Shade Tree Advisory Committee

Councilman Powers stated that the Shade Tree Committee has some housekeeping issues as well. They have had some dwindling of members and they are now below what is required for a quorum so he will be making a recommendation at their next meeting to reduce the number of committee members from 7 to 5 to ensure the Committee meets the Shade Tree USA requirements and have a quorum for plans that require action and advised of the Committee still has two openings for interested applicants.

Health Advisory Board

Leo Brummel, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21  
 Rabiah Asif, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21

Resolution No. 69-19 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						
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

Wolfgang Hull, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22  
 Edward McDonald, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22

Resolution No. 69-19 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Human Relations Advisory Committee

Cindy Hollender, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21  
 Hardat Singh, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21  
 Kenneth Bernabe, to fill an unexpired 3-year term ending 12/31/19

Resolution No. 69-19 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Municipal Alliance on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Kelly Nitti, for a 2-year term ending 12/31/20  
 Malissa Arnold, to fill an unexpired 2-year term ending 12/31/19  
 Julie Stockman, for a 2-year term ending 12/31/20

Resolution No. 69-19 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Planning Board

Kim Taylor, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22  
 John Ryan, Alternate #2 for a 2-year term ending 12/31/20

Resolution No. 69-19 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Public Safety Committee

Michael Burzachiello, for a 2-year term ending 12/31/20

Resolution No. 69-19 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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



Recreation Advisory Committee

Nick Sferra, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21  
 Becky Jo DiPierro, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21

Resolution No. 69-19 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						
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

Senior Executive Committee

Irene Gaskill, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22  
 Sarah Downing, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22  
 David Majofsky, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22  
 Hillie Spruill, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22

Resolution No. 69-19 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee

Joyce Copleman, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21  
 Paul Larson, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21  
 David Mizenko, for a 3-year term ending 12/31/21

Resolution No. 69-19 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						
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Charles Lavine, for a 4-year term ending 12/31/22  
 Jeffrey Johnson, moved from Alternate #1 position to a 4-year term ending 12/31/22  
 Olga Dember, moved from Alternate #2 position to Alternate #1 position

Resolution No. 69-19 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						
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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After the nominations, Resolution No. 69-19 was approved, with the exception of the appointment to the Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority, 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   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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**Appointment of Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority**

Resolution No. 70-19

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey that the following individual be and is hereby appointed to fill the position indicated below

Ewing-Lawrence Sewerage Authority

James S. Kownacki, for a 5-year term ending 1/31/24

Resolution No. 70-19- (18-H.6) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

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**Written Communications –**

There was 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.

7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor