

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

April 16, 2019

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, April 16, 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 16, 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 he is happy to read a Proclamation acknowledging Stigma Free – Mental Illness and in the audience this evening are representatives from Mercer County and invited a representative up to the podium who spoke about the Stigma Free Campaign that the County Executive launched last year as well as Mercer County designating itself as a county recognizing the barriers coping with mental illness or addiction and indicated they have gone municipality to municipality having each township sign-on to the campaign with Lawrence being the last one tonight and that various counties throughout the State have launched similar campaigns with Mercer being the only county to have each municipality sign on which they are pretty proud of.

The Representative advised that the campaign ends tonight but the Mental Health Director and her team will continue the program within the local schools. He then presented the Council with a Stigma Free Tee Shirt and Wristband to express their gratitude and how thankful they are for the Council's support. Mayor Bobbitt read the following Proclamation into record:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses affect almost every family in the United States; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses make important contributions to our families and to our communities;
and

WHEREAS, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year; and

WHEREAS, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for their mental illness; and

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools and businesses;
and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED AND ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that it calls upon all the residents, government agencies, public and private institutions, and businesses to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

Public Participation

Mr. Gary Whyte, 289 Old Tote Road, Mountainside, New Jersey, advised that he was present at the Council Meeting in October 2015 asking the Council consideration to adopt a Proclamation or Resolution for a rare disease called FOP (Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva); a disease where if a child receives trauma to his muscles, tendons or ligaments they do not heal like they would in a normal human-they turn to bone; essentially causing the child to develop a second skeleton in their body. So, in 2002 with the help of his (9) nine year old son they wrote to all 566 municipalities, 21 Freeholder Boards and all 50 Governors telling them about FOP and asking for their consideration to adopt a Proclamation or Resolution to urge continued awareness and research into the disease.

Mr. Whyte stated at the present time Lawrence Township is the only town in Mercer County who has not supported the FOP Awareness Initiative by adopting a Resolution. And, there are only two towns in the entire State of New Jersey that have not supported the Initiative. To date, they have 568 Proclamations and Resolutions with the ultimate goal being 570. Senator Shirley Turner and Senator Loretta Weinberg both introduced a Bill three years ago on his behalf, SJR-98, and the Assembly did the same with Bill, AJR-147, and Governor Christie on his last day in office signed the Bill which designates and recognizes April 23rd as FOP Awareness Day in the State of New Jersey, the date researchers at University of Pennsylvania found the gene in the body that causes the disease. So, April 23rd is a very unique day for the FOP community worldwide and he is happy that the Bill passed.

Mr. Whyte advised in writing to the Governors the response was not as good as their good State of New Jersey where they had all 21 Freeholders and 568 Mayors respond; but, he would like to read the Council one short letter he received in response to his request dated October 12, 2004 that was designated FOP Awareness Month in the State of California and proceeded to read the letter signed by then governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and indicated if Mr. Schwarzenegger can do an FOP he is sure Lawrence Township can do the same.

In closing, Mr. Whyte stated he does not want to beg but he is begging for Lawrence Township's consideration to adopt a Proclamation to support them and indicated Congressman Van Drew from South Jersey is looking to have their two books that house everything put into the Library of Congress in Washington DC and if that fails they have the New Jersey Historical Society who has already asked for the books. So, he would really hate to see them go forward without Lawrence Township.

Councilman Powers stated Mr. Whyte has been so tenacious regarding this matter the Council should loosen up their policy on Proclamations and do one in support of this rare disease. Mr. White presented the Council with the Proclamations and Resolutions passed by the other municipalities. The Municipal Clerk confirmed Mr. Whyte presence at the May 7th meeting to receive the proclamation.

Mr. Paul Larson, 170 Darrah Lane, advised that he is a longtime resident and he would like to speak about the two things he is passionate about History and Open Space and at the top of the list is the Brearley House and Maidenhead Meadows Park. He then spoke about the Township website that talks about Lawrence Township being renowned for its diversity and natural beauty and its commitment to conservation, cultural diversity and historic preservation being the town's cornerstones and the Township having a lot of other things of natural beauty, recreational, exercise and the Lawrence Hopewell Trail helping with health who just won a Smart Growth Award from New Jersey Future for the LHT along with another local group, Clarke, Caton Hintz, who received the award for designing the Downtown Campus for Mercer County Community College in Trenton and proceeded to discuss an article talking about the renovation of historical buildings and respecting the history of the building or losing it.

Mr. Larson further reported on the tragic fire of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris yesterday and indicated he put together pictures of the two 18th Century Brearley Houses and the on picture is 2 Lewisville Road, Spring Grove, that got hit by lighting right before the 4th of July in 1967 and it was important enough that the Historical American Building Survey came out and took pictures on the 4th of July so that is how the photographer spent his holiday and discussed how close they came to losing that historic building and how quickly history can be lost.

Mr. Larson distributed a photograph of the front of lawn section of the Municipal Building and proceeded to discuss a map he reviewed as it relates to the old park boundary in front of Town Hall and how the tree and flag poles encroached on the Brearley House located in front of Town Hall. He also reminded the Council and the audience that Maidenhead Meadows Park is the largest municipally-owned park in all of Mercer County.

Some discussion took place relative to the burning and rebuilding of the Notre Dame Cathedral and the sad effects the 850 year structure has on the Western civilization.

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 Regular Meeting of February 5, 2019 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.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Closed Session of April 2, 2019 were approved on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejecting of bids.

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**ADOPTION OF THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mr. Nerwinski stated for the record that the budget process started back in September 2018 and Peter Kiriakatis, CFO, who is present in the audience, worked diligently on the budget, the Township Council met with them individually to discuss the 2019 Recommended Budget and they have had multiple budget hearings where they heard from each of the Department and Division Heads and what they arrived at is a responsible budget so he is asking that the Council vote to adopt the Lawrence Township 2019 Municipal Budget (2-cent increase). Members of Council expressed their sentiments as it relates the budget, staff and the quality services provided by the Township. The 2019 budget was then presented as follows:

**Authorizing that the 2019 Budget to be Read by Title Only**

Resolution No. 140-19

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the approved budget as advertised has been posted in the Municipal Building and copies have been made available by the Clerk to persons requiring them; and

WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the budget shall be read by title only.

Resolution No. 140-19 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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Authorizing Adoption of the 2019 Municipal Budget

Resolution No. 141-19

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the attached document be and is hereby the Adoption of the 2019 Municipal Budget.

Resolution No. 141-19 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						

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2264-17 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A "FEE: THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER" OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance amends the Administrative Code of the Township Code to include an option for a one-week camp instead of what was always a two-week camp.

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, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,695,000, INCLUDING ANY TRANSPORTATION TRUST GRANT FUNDING TO BE USED TO OFFSET BONDS OR NOTES, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,545,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Bond Ordinance provides for various road improvements appropriating \$2,695,000 with a down payment of \$150,000 which is a continuing obligation of the Township in order to make road improvements.

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, "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,150,000, FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance appropriates \$1,150,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for various capital improvements including purchase of computer and office equipment, purchase of fire and rescue equipment, purchase of communication equipment, public works vehicles, and improvements to buildings, parks and recreation facilities.

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 THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE ENTITLED "AMUSEMENT AND PUBLIC EVENTS AND GATHERINGS"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance amends Lawrence Township Administrative Code entitled "Amusements and Public Events and Gatherings" to include the authorization of amusement games in bowling alleys as required by law.

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

Ordinance No. 2326– 19

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT 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:

Article II. Stopping, Standing and Parking

Division 1. Generally

Sec. 13-12 Stopping or standing prohibited – At all times.

No person shall stop or stand any vehicle at any time upon the following street or parts thereof:

[Lawn Park Avenue, south side, extending from Lawrence Road, also known as Lawrenceville Road, to Zoar Street.]

Lawn Park Avenue, south side, from the prolongation of the southerly curb line of Lawn Park Avenue and Lawrence Road, for a distance of 579 feet and beginning at a distance of 880 feet from the prolongation of the southerly curb line of Lawn Park Avenue and Lawrence Road to Zoar Street.

Section 13-20. Parking Prohibited

No person shall park a vehicle on any of the following streets:



Lawn Park Avenue, south side, beginning at a distance of 579 feet from the prolongation of the southerly curb line of Lawn Park Avenue and Lawrence Road and continuing for a distance of 300- feet.

Sec. 13-16A Between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on schools days.

No person shall park a vehicle on any of the following streets between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on school days:

Lawn Park Avenue, northerly side, beginning at a distance of 594 feet from the prolongation of the northerly curb line of Lawn Park Avenue and Lawrence Road and continuing for a distance of 60 feet.

[Lawn Park Avenue, northerly side, at any point opposite the property line of the Eldridge Park School, a distance of approximately three hundred feet.]

Sec. 13-21 Parking Time Limited on Certain Streets on School Days

No person shall park a vehicle on any of the following streets on school days, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for longer than 15 minutes:

Princeton Pike, southbound from a point opposite the prolongation of the southern curb line of Whitemarsh Drive south to a point opposite the prolongation of the northern curb line of Hoover Avenue.

Lawn Park Avenue, north side, beginning at a distance of 535 feet from the prolongation of the northerly curb line of Lawn Park Avenue and Lawrence Road and continuing for a distance of 353 feet, excluding the 'parking prohibited area' specified in Sec. 13.16A.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Township of Lawrence will mail a certified copy of this ordinance to the New Jersey Department of Transportation once adopted.

Repealer:

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

Severability:

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason, the remaining portions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date:

This ordinance shall take effect twenty days (20) days after adoption thereof.

Brackets are deletions [ ]  
 Underlines are additions —

Ordinance No. 2326-19 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 reported that the Trenton Water Works Community Forum scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> has been canceled at the request of TWW Officials due to a scheduling conflict and the meeting is tentatively rescheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nerwinski stated he previously reported that longtime employee, Andy Link, will be retiring as of June 1<sup>st</sup> and one of the duties he performed was Affordable Housing Management and they discussed having an outside agency take over the Affordable Housing Program in Lawrence. They met with Piazza & Associates, who have offices in Princeton, about taking over the program and they seem like a really good fit and opportunity as it will allow the Administration time to search for a part-time Community/Business Development person who they hope will also sit on the Growth & Redevelopment Board that Mr. Link sat on. And, they have other personnel taking over some to the other aspects of Mr. Link’s job duties. Mr. Nerwinski advised that many municipalities have taken this route and it does not provide any less of a service to the resident. As required by law, there will be a person on site to be present when people have questions or seek application regarding Affordable Housing. So, he is requesting the support of the Council to give this proposal a try and there is a significant budgetary cost but it will allow the Township to venture out and work on business development which the Township has never done before. He then asked the wishes of the Council with respect to his proposal. There was no objection from Council relative to Mr. Nerwinski request.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that he, Peter Kiriakatis, CFO and Jack Oakley, Director of Emergency discussed implementing a Paper-Call Program which he previously mentioned to the Council regarding the Volunteer Fire Companies; it is a program that both Ewing Township and Princeton have to incentivize volunteer firefighters to show up

and respond to calls and indicated over the years volunteerism for the fire companies has been greatly reduced due to family obligations so they are trying to develop a program to build up the forces to have a volunteer force that covers (2/3) two-thirds of day. Further, he has spoken with the Business Administrator in Ewing and he has had Mr. Oakley looking at some of the programs in place which he would like to implement sooner rather than later to track and see if it will help the response time in getting out to calls and building up the Township's forces.

Mr. Nerwinski indicated in terms of how the Program works when a call comes in, which they will track, and the person makes it onto an apparatus and actually responds the person will receive \$5.00 per call and the individual will receive credits. If the person tries to respond and get to the building and is not needed that person will receive \$1.00. The monies will be tracked over the course of the year and disbursed twice a year; one payment in June and the other payment in December which will provide a good incentive for people for the holiday purchases. The LOSAP Program will be phased out. But, for now they will keep both until they see how the program works and continued to discuss the Paper-Call Program being a continuous effort to try and figure out how to effectively cover the town through volunteers as they owe it to the residents of Lawrence.

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**Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos reported that the Township has recently been asked to enter into a Pilot Arrangement and it has been a while since the Council entered into such an Agreement that it might be good to refresh everyone's recollection and explain the benefits and detriments of the agreement. So, he will work with Mr. Kiriakatis on the request and prepare a memo in the near future for Council.

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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) –**

*Mr. Edward Davis, 277 Fieldboro Drive*, inquired if the Township would be able to enforce the new Brush Pickup Ordinance because the day after or sometimes the day of, some resident is putting piles of brush out. Mr. Nerwinski replied that the Brush Pickup Ordinance has been in effect for many years and they have just started to crack down on violators of the ordinance; but, it will be enforced by the new Code Enforcement Officer who works 20 hours per week and proceeded with a brief background history which led to the brush problem getting out of control and the implementation of the new Brush Pickup Ordinance to try and keep the program which is not a mandatory State program.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 142-19 (18-C.1) through 153-19 (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 –**

Councilwoman Lewis thanked the Public Works staff and everyone who participated in the Colonial Lake Cleanup for their efforts and indicated during the cleanup they found a lot of styrofoam cups and asked those businesses try to reduce their use of the cups and the same organization that did their pickup also did one outside of Home Depot in Ewing Township. Mayor Bobbitt also expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Department for cleaning up the dam debris on a Saturday at the lake that was dangerous for the volunteers to do.

Mr. Nerwinski stated as a follow-up to trash flowing downstream from Ewing into Colonial Lake he spoke with the Business Administrator in Ewing who indicated he is well aware of the littering problem coming from the Olden Avenue area and that they are working on the problem along with State officials to shore-up some the dilapidation and track some of the trash items.

Councilman Powers advised that Diversity Day is taking place on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Lawrence High School.

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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.

7.20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor