

REGULAR MEETING
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL MEETING BY TELE-CONFERENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, ET SEQ. AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 107

April 7, 2020

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 6.30 p.m.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that Councilman Bobbitt will be the Chair for tonight's meeting.

Councilman Bobbitt asked for a moment of silence for Mayor Kownacki's wife, Phyllis Kownacki, who passed away last week as well as moment of silence for the 1200 plus victims of COVID-19.

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

At the commencement of the meeting Councilman 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 7, 2020, 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, 2019.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.

Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There was no proclamation or presentations.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to include Resolution No. 132-20 (18-F.1), Authorizing a Community Planning and Development for the Brandywine Operating Partnership, LP Affordable Housing Project, and remove Resolution (18-H.3) – Closed Session, not needed.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Agenda was amended to include the above revisions.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Ryan, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 3, 2019 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis and Ryan.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Councilmember Powers.
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 17, 2019 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis and Ryan.  
Nays: None.  
Abstain: Councilmember Powers.  
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of March 3, 2020 was approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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#### Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding of Bid #20-07 Lawn Services, was presented for adoption.

#### Resolution No. 131-20

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, proposals were received for Bid 20-07 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, 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 0-01-28-375-255 (Park Maintenance) for \$28,974.00 and 0-16-56-843-299 (Open Space) for \$10,347.00.

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 20, 2020 through November 6, 2020 in the total amount of \$39,321.00.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers and Ryan.  
Absent: Mayor Kownacki.

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#### Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

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#### Adoption of Ordinances

Councilman Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$89,389.25; THERFOR, AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF"

#### Ordinance No. 2357-20

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$89,389.25; THEREFOR, AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF

WHEREAS, at the request of certain owners of properties identified herein, the Township of Lawrence has previously authorized and undertaken certain sidewalk improvements; and

WHEREAS, the understanding between the property owners and the Township was that these improvements would be specially assessed against the properties; and

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to authorize the special assessment of the cost of such improvements;

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

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3 of this ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Lawrence, New Jersey as a local improvement. For the improvement or purpose described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$89,389.25.

Section 2. (a) The improvement hereby authorized is the improvement of the sidewalks, curbs, and driveway aprons along the streets listed below. The affected properties, listed by name of record owner, street address, block, lot and assessment amounts are as follows:

| <b>OWNER of RECORD</b>               | <b>BLOCK</b> | <b>LOT</b> | <b>PROPERTY ADDRESS</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Eirvvn Erini Papafilipakis           | 1004         | 14.02      | 26 Slack Avenue         | \$200.00     |
| William C. & Marcia Miller           | 1003         | 15         | 120 Slack Avenue        | \$1,975.00   |
| Ken & Patricia Johnson               | 1002         | 4          | 137 Slack Avenue        | \$220.75     |
| Kenneth & Maryann Micai              | 1003         | 9          | 107 Harmony Avenue      | \$1,050.00   |
| Nicholas & Dina Perris               | 1501         | 21         | 126 Harmony Avenue      | \$803.25     |
| Joyce Debnis                         | 1003         | 5          | 125 Harmony Avenue      | \$894.75     |
| Christine & Nicholas Mellis          | 1003         | 3          | 135 Harmony Avenue      | \$1,750.00   |
| Judith Brancolino                    | 1501         | 18         | 112 Harmony Avenue      | \$838.25     |
| Kent & Tina Young                    | 1003         | 2          | 141 Harmony Avenue      | \$375.00     |
| Craig Peacock & Cindy Friedman       | 1502         | 14         | 34 Graf Avenue          | \$1,475.00   |
| Marjorie Evans                       | 1502         | 16         | 100 Graf Avenue         | \$616.75     |
| Brenda Andrejco                      | 1501         | 12         | 115 Graf Avenue         | \$2,225.00   |
| Margaret Kellerman                   | 1502         | 23         | 124 Graf Avenue         | \$3,107.50   |
| Kim Marie Bennett                    | 1501         | 3          | 149 Graf Avenue         | \$452.00     |
| Robert & Dawn Santello               | 1001         | 11         | 11 Carr Avenue          | \$1,598.00   |
| Donald Lech                          | 1002         | 18         | 48 Carr Avenue          | \$1,275.00   |
| Martha Lara                          | 1502         | 10         | 18 Graf Avenue          | \$1,424.25   |
| Axel Haenssen                        | 1605         | 1, 2       | 731 President Avenue    | \$1,150.00   |
| Rory & Justine Sullivan              | 1606         | 42, 43     | 772 President Avenue    | \$1,431.25   |
| Thomas & Jane Bushar                 | 1606         | 37 – 39    | 762 President Avenue    | \$1,495.75   |
| Ann Marie Fitzpatrick & Hugh Toner   | 1606         | 34 – 36    | 756 President Avenue    | \$250.00     |
| Anna Krausova                        | 1604         | 13, 14     | 749 President Avenue    | \$2,623.75   |
| Ernest & Angela Lampkin              | 1604         | 19, 20     | 737 President Avenue    | \$975.00     |
| Slackwood Presbyterian Church        | 1605         | 5 – 8      | 719 President Avenue    | \$4,050.00   |
| Georgine Coleman                     | 1607         | 24         | 700 President Avenue    | \$606.25     |
| Precision #1 Contractors, Inc.       | 1605         | 18         | 105 Lakedale Drive      | \$402.00     |
| Karen & Leona McGovern               | 1605         | 20, 21     | 708 Bunker Hill Avenue  | \$1,299.00   |
| Charles & Beverly Micciche           | 1605         | 23, 24     | 720 Bunker Hill Avenue  | \$2,817.00   |
| Patricia & Robert Schwing            | 1603         | 3, 4       | 725 Bunker Hill Avenue  | \$1,375.00   |
| Noelle Marchetta & C. Gersteinbacher | 1602         | 16, 17     | 743 Bunker Hill Avenue  | \$475.00     |
| Monika Zawadzka                      | 1604         | 39, 40     | 768 Bunker Hill Avenue  | \$464.50     |
| Romulado & Ramona Buerano            | 1604         | 45         | 2204 Brunswick Avenue   | \$550.00     |

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|                                       |      |         |                        |            |
|---------------------------------------|------|---------|------------------------|------------|
| Louis Sebastian & Valerie Baehr       | 1603 | 27.01   | 726 Mayflower Avenue   | \$775.00   |
| Gregory & Pamela Puliti               | 1503 | 14, 15  | 827 Bunker Hill Avenue | \$221.25   |
| Jonathan Perego                       | 1503 | 16, 17  | 823 Bunker Hill Avenue | \$1,171.50 |
| Lawrence Proka, ux                    | 1603 | 22 – 24 | 720 Mayflower Avenue   | \$1,441.75 |
| Marsha Labowicz                       | 1601 | 34, 35  | 709 Mayflower Avenue   | \$956.25   |
| Anna Kraun & Eva Eslami               | 1601 | 36, 37  | 705 Mayflower Avenue   | \$962.50   |
| Regina Smith                          | 1601 | 26, 27  | 725 Mayflower Avenue   | \$900.00   |
| Katarzyna Semeniuk                    | 1601 | 18, 19  | 741 Mayflower Avenue   | \$406.25   |
| John & Judy Padgett                   | 1602 | 33 – 35 | 760 Mayflower Avenue   | \$1,179.00 |
| Thomas & Amnda Sheehan                | 1601 | 22.01   | 735 Mayflower Avenue   | \$379.25   |
| Enrico Ballezzi                       | 1506 | 5       | 2223 Brunswick Pike    | \$3,498.25 |
| David & Brenda Bramley                | 1503 | 24, 25  | 237 Stevens Avenue     | \$1,262.00 |
| Jeffrey Allison                       | 3202 | 10      | 4 Hillsdale Avenue     | \$5,310.75 |
| Nabila Feroze                         | 3202 | 8       | 8 Hillsdale Avenue     | \$972.75   |
| Berbeth Meisel                        | 3203 | 23      | 19 Hillsdale Avenue    | \$729.50   |
| Dr. Yair Devash                       | 3202 |         | 18 Hillsdale Avenue    | \$5,356.25 |
| Robert & Hai Thi Zeissler             | 3202 | 13      | 6 Whitemarsh Avenue    | \$2,918.50 |
| Joseph Pronesti & Laura Borsch        | 2505 | 6       | 11 Whitemarsh Avenue   | \$437.50   |
| Enrico & Donna Scardelletti           | 3202 | 12      | 8 Whitemarsh Avenue    | \$250.00   |
| Rolando Torres & Lisa Mojer           | 2505 | 5       | 9 Whitemarsh Avenue    | \$1,156.75 |
| James & Katrina Roohr                 | 3201 | 4       | 30 Lawnside Avenue     | \$3,044.25 |
| Steven & Julia Hanna                  | 3201 | 5       | 28 Lawnside Avenue     | \$857.25   |
| Christopher & Kimmerly Robbins        | 3202 | 16      | 7 Lawnside Avenue      | \$2,200.00 |
| Robert Gardiner, et ux                | 3202 | 17      | 9 Lawnside Avenue      | \$1,000.00 |
| Stacy Shannon                         | 3201 | 7       | 24 Lawnside Avenue     | \$125.00   |
| John Dember, et ux                    | 3201 | 8       | 22 Lawnside Avenue     | \$381.25   |
| David Schoenberg                      | 3201 | 13      | 12 Lawnside Avenue     | \$375.00   |
| Alyson Fischer & John Yaros           | 3201 | 15      | 8 Lawnside Avenue      | \$2,267.50 |
| Alicia Grimaldi                       | 5301 | 9.20    | 1 Dayna Lane           | \$389.00   |
| Thomas & Patricia Palmisano           | 5301 | 9.17    | 7 Dayna Lane           | \$483.25   |
| Rukshan & Alike Wijesuriya            | 5301 | 9.14    | 15 Dayna Lane          | \$187.50   |
| Perry & Stephanie Liesberg            | 5301 | 9.13    | 17 Dayna Lane          | \$437.50   |
| Phillip Girandola                     | 5705 | 11, 12  | 34 Green Avenue        | \$356.25   |
| George Ferenchick, ux                 | 5706 | 7       | 62 Green Avenue        | \$550.00   |
| Thomas & Gail Sabatura (Living Trust) | 5703 | 90      | 69 Green Avenue        | \$433.50   |
| Matthew Gill, ux                      | 5703 | 89      | 71 Green Avenue        | \$1,053.25 |
| Michael Weiner, ux                    | 5706 | 9       | 66 Green Avenue        | \$600.00   |
| Jennifer Muller (Living Trust)        | 5704 | 16      | 10 Green Avenue        | \$2,300.00 |
| Philip & Deborah Rubin                | 5703 | 88      | 73 Green Avenue        | \$1,168.75 |
| Gregory & Michele Kelly               | 5703 | 92      | 65 Green Avenue        | \$650.00   |
|                                       |      |         |                        |            |

(b) The estimated cost of the improvement or purpose is equal to the amount of the appropriation herein made therefore.

Section 3. The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance shall be undertaken as a sidewalk improvement and the cost thereof shall be assessed in the following manner. An accurate account of the cost of construction of the sidewalks shall be kept, and such cost shall be assessed upon the several properties fronting on the improvement in proportion to their respective frontage or square yardage thereon pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:65-1 *et seq.*

Section 4. The owner of any land upon which any assessment for the local improvement shall have been made may pay such assessment in the number of equal yearly installments herein determined, with legal interest, currently six-percent (6%) on the unpaid balance of the assessment. The first of the installments shall be due and payable two months after the confirmation of the assessment, and each subsequent annual installment and interest shall be payable in each successive year thereafter at such time as the governing body shall by resolution determine, provided that any owner of land so assessed shall have the privilege of paying the whole of any assessment or of any balance of installments with accrued interest thereon at any time. Whenever any such installment shall remain unpaid for thirty (30) days from and after the time it shall become due and payable, the whole assessment or balance thereof shall become and be immediately due and payable and shall draw interest at the rate imposed upon the arrearage of taxes in the Township and shall be collected in the same manner as provided by law for other past due assessments. Such assessment shall remain a lien upon the land described herein until the assessment with all installments and accrued interest thereon shall be paid and satisfied. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Township shall have the right to waive default as may be permitted by law.

Section 5. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvement or purpose described in Section 3 of this ordinance is not a current expense. It is an improvement or purpose that the Township may lawfully undertake as a local improvement the cost of which shall be specially assessed in the manner provided herein.

(b) The number of annual installments within which the special assessments are to be levied on the lots and parcels of real estate affected by the improvement is seventy-three (73).

(c) The Township will not contribute to the payment of any part of the cost of the improvement.

(d) The estimated maximum aggregate amount of the special assessments is \$89,389.25.

The Ordinance was adopted after the public hearing thereon, on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Ryan       | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |

Councilman Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 435 OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED ‘MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’ – Handicapped Parking”

Ordinance No. 2358-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 435 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 435 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. 99 feet northbound from the prolonged curb line of Pine Street and Brunswick Avenue, for a distance of 22 feet, in front of 1117 Brunswick Avenue.
- 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. 56 feet southbound from the prolonged curb line of Greenfield Avenue and Rupert Street (S/W corner) for a distance of 22 feet on the side of 49 Greenfield Avenue.
- n. 268 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Princeton Avenue and Lanning Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 961 Lanning Avenue.

- o. 191 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Pike and Puritan Avenue (N/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 758 Puritan Avenue.
- p. 188 feet eastbound from the prolonged curb line of Brunswick Pike and Puritan Avenue (S/E corner) for a distance of 22 feet in front of 759 Puritan 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      \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deletions Bracketed      [      ]

The Ordinance was adopted after the public hearing thereon, on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Ryan       | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |

Councilman 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. 2359–20

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 2020 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 \$313,690.66 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 2020 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 \$313,690.66 and that the CY 2020 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.

The Ordinance was adopted after the public hearing thereon, on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Ryan       | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |

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**Manager’s Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski stated as the Council knows they are in the middle of a pandemic crisis and they have made a decision as a community to not keep a running tally of the total cases of COVID-19 that they have within their community such as other municipalities are having at the top of their websites. So, in light of that, he has made the decision that the Township should provide a Notice to the community and they will do that every Friday with an updated list.

Mr. Nerwinski further stated that he would like to put on record his rationale on the matter. First, the County Executive and the County are producing the documentation and providing the data with regard to the cases that are affecting the county and there was a request made that the towns do not provide the tallies per community. He also thinks with tallies being reported in that manner individuals kind of lose perspective that there are people within their community battling a very serious deadly virus so he thinks weekly notifications are appropriate.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that Governor Murphy today put out one of several Executive Orders, one which was to close all state and county parks, which prompted him to reflect on what Lawrence Township should do for municipal parks and the Governor expressly stated that his Order does not include municipal parks, and based upon his conference with the Lawrence Township Police Chief with regards the Lawrence specific situation in the community, the Chief and he agree based on what has been happening in the township that they are not at the situation where they should close Township parks. They agreed that the plan moving forward would be to monitor the parks more closely to have police presence and more proactive in breaking up groups of three or more to ensure the social distancing aspects of it and they agreed to meet again on Friday to see how they are doing with regard to that. He additionally indicated it is a difficult balancing situation as they do want to offer people within the community the ability to walk safely and have activities in a park setting as opposed to pushing them out onto the streets and also to not be part of providing fuel to the virus.

So, they will be watching the situation very closely and if they feel that they cannot handle the parks in a manner where people can use them safely then they will make a decision to shut them down.

Mr. Nerwinski reported the he is going to be on WPST tomorrow at 8:05 a.m. to discuss the American Red Cross Drive and the Bunny Drive and to discuss different things Lawrence is trying to do as a community and it's a good opportunity to speak on behalf of the community with things that they are trying to do during this odd situation when everything they try to do is counterproductive to spreading the virus. So, the blood drive is something the Township can closely regulate and help to provide an answer to a growing problem of blood shortage and do it in a safe way which he thinks is an appropriate thing to do. To date, the total number of COVID-19 cases are 51 and they have experienced 2 (two) deaths from members of their community as a result of the virus.

Councilman Ryan stated in terms of the park is the Police Department going to be implementing bicycle patrols in the parks to enforce social distancing? Mr. Nerwinski replied "no" because he does not want to put the police in situations where they have to closely interact with people; so, instead they plan to have police vehicles positioned at the parks in a stationary position and the police officers are going to be instructed how to disengage people from close contact with each other. And, so far, they have been pretty fortunate with the police force with regards to the virus and it is important to preserve their interaction and limit them to only law enforcement related interaction which is the current plan.

Councilman Powers stated in terms of the schools with regards to the football and track fields and asked if they are going to be doing the same thing with the police monitoring. Mr. Nerwinski stated that is an interesting situation because the fields are not a municipal park; although, the police department does have law enforcement authority over that area, so he will contact the Superintendent of Schools and speak with the Police Chief as well to see what they want to do in regards to the matter. But, as of now his position is to not have a police officer positioned there; but, because he has witnessed large groupings there maybe they can have a little police presence to educate the public. So, he will report back to the Council after he speaks with the Superintendent on it.

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### **Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos stated he would like to draw up the idea of disabling the basketball hoops by covering every hoop at every park being he knows that, in and of itself, has stopped kids from gathering at parks because if they cannot play B-Ball it stops the congregation of large groups.

Mr. Nerwinski stated he does not think Lawrence Township is at the point yet but it is certainly something to consider and he will talk to Police Chief about it; however, if they fail in their ability to keep social distancing effective then they would just close down the parks.

Mr. Roskos reported that the Supreme Court is closed and has essentially called a timeout for litigations, for filing Briefs with the Court, Discovery's and for a number of other things; but, at the same time the State seems to be suggesting that municipalities continue to move forward with meetings and building code inspections and inquired if the Township had a lot of people wanting to come before the Planning Board and Zoning Board. Mr. Nerwinski advised that they do not have a lot...but they do have plan with regards to both of those Boards and they just had a meeting last night that went rather well and they are not inundated. So it does make it possible for Lawrence to continue to operate and do business and have those particular meetings so he does not see that they have a problem that way. A general discussion ensued relative to difficulties and problems this poses for reviewing applications, exhibits and people to voice their objections on a controversial application.

Mr. Roskos further reported that today the Supreme Court extended the deadline for Tax Appeals and he shared that information with the Ken Pacera, Tax Assessor, Peter Kiriakatis, CFO, and the Municipal Manager and the change to the timeline is not a big deal because tax appeals right now relates to the property value of October 2019 and proceeded to discuss Lawrence Township experiencing a real down market some years ago when the Township was flooded with tax appeals and he anticipates that it will happen again given the letter they received from Simon, who owns Quakerbridge Mall, and what he is hearing from lawyers who handle nothing but Tax Appeals who are looking forward to next year's tax appeal in anticipation of what they will be able to file and bring in. So he thinks there are things they might want to discuss with regards to some options that may available to the town.

Mr. Roskos went on to discuss buyouts for older employees with long years of service and advised that Jersey City just announced that they are offering a buyout to older employees with 15 years or more of service with the idea that it could save them a tremendous amount of money. And, they made a smart move of not leaving it an open-ended offer; it is \$25,000 or 25% of the employee's yearly income and the window closes on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and he will provide the Council with further information on this and things they should start considering given they might have problems down the road in terms of revenue and property values.

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**Clerk's Report –**

There was no Clerk's report.

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**Unfinished Business –**

Councilman Bobbitt stated Mayor Kownacki wanted to discuss meeting times for Boards and Committee which they will keep tabled for now until they get to a place where they can have Council Meetings again.

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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. 126-20 (18-D.1) through 132-20 (18-H.3) with the exception of Resolutions 130-20 (Refund) was approved by the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL        | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Mr. Bobbitt    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Lewis      | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mr. Powers     | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Mr. Ryan       | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mayor Kownacki |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |

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

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Resolution Nos. 130-20 (18-D.2) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

There were no liaison reports.

Written Communications –

There was no written communications.

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

6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Christopher Bobbitt, Acting Mayor