

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

January 5, 2021

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 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 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, January 5, 2021, 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 18, 2020.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Bobbitt, Powers, Lewis and Ryan.

Absent: Mayor Kownacki. (Ms. Norcia advised that Mayor Kownacki is unable to be with them this evening.)

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations or presentations.

Public Participation

Mr. Shaun Keegan, 410 Morrisey Road, Neptune, New Jersey, advised that he is with a company called Solar Landscape and he is not trying to sell the Township solar panels or put solar panels on rooftops of residents. His company is doing a new kind of program called Community Solar where his company installs solar panel at a specific location then sells the electricity to the community. For Lawrence it is the extra storage space on Route 1. The old way of doing solar is to install the panels on the roof then sale to the building where it is located. With Community Solar they are able to host the solar panels on the rooftops, deliver power into the local power grids and credit the people who live nearby receiving the energy with an automatic 20 percent discount.

Mr. Keegan explained that the Solar Program is not like a third party energy or community aggregation and there is no involvement on the part of the Township. His company reaches out to people in the community offering a subscription and an opportunity to join with an automatic saving of 20 percent to the customer and a fixed energy rate and proceeded to elaborate on the Program being in its second year of the Pilot Program for this type of solar and his company having projects elsewhere in the State with their year one projects just now commissioning. And indicated the new project promotes clean energy in addition to the 20 percent savings required by State law and he is present this evening to introduce the concept and ask the Township Council for a Letter of Support for the Project being it is a competitive program to get into Round 2. The deadline is February 5th.

Mr. Keegan indicated that the Letter of Support just needs to state that they understand the program, have been educated on the program and support the program coming in their community which they have received from other municipalities. Another critical thing they do is job training where they work with local schools by going into the local schools and teaching the kids about how solar works in New Jersey and how the Community Solar Program works being it is really a game changer for solar because instead of putting panels on individual homeowners roofs or needing to be a homeowner or have good credit they can be a renter or live in an apartment and still join one of the community solar gardens and access the discounted energy. A general question and answer ensued relative to the company's request for a Resolution of Support, clarification on what resources the company is seeking from the Township Council and the program benefiting low to moderate affording housing customers.

Ms. Martha Friend, 976 Lawrenceville Road, stated that the president-elect Presidential Inauguration Committee is asking or inviting cities or towns to join in a Moment of National Unity and Remembrance by lighting up homes, building and ring church bells on January 19th at 5:30 pm in honor of those they lost due to the pandemic that has taken so many lives of the community and inquired if Lawrence Township planned to participate in the event or does she need to put something officially in writing to the Clerk or Mr. Nerwinski.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he knows in the past they have eliminated certain events at Town Hall and suggested that Ms. Friend send the information to the Municipal Clerk or Municipal Manager.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

There were no Minutes for adoption.

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no award or rejection of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

Councilman Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CONSOLIDATED, LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE"

Ordinance No. 2381-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CONSOLIDATED LICENSE, PERMIT AND FEE CHAPTER OF THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 156 "Fees" is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1.

Sec. 156-2	Animals	
	Animal Trap Rental	\$15.00/1-7 days
	Animal Release	\$50.00
Sec. 156-3	Division of Fire Safety, Uniform Fire Code	
	(a) Basic Inspection Fee	
	Under 500 sf	\$75.00
	501 - 999 sf	\$105.00
	1,000 - 4,999 sf	\$145.00
	5,000 – 9,999 sf	\$180.00
	10,000 – 15,000 sf	\$200.00
	15,001 – 20,000 sf	\$285.00
	20,001 – 30,000 sf	\$395.00
	Over 30,000 sf	\$620.00
	(b) Application Permit Fee	
	Type 1	\$54.00
	Type 2	\$214.00
	Type 3	\$427.00
	Type 4	\$641.00
	Type 5	\$1,380.00
	(c) Certificate of Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance	
	Application Fee received:	
	-10 business days prior to change of Occupant	\$45.00
	-4-10 business days prior to change of Occupant	\$90.00
	-fewer than 4 business days prior to change of Occupant	\$161.00
	Fire Lane Summons	\$50.00
	MRNA Alarm Registration	\$30.00

Sec. 156A-4	Retail Food Licenses	
	Food Handlers Licenses –	
	Various Categories	\$5.00-\$450.00
	Food Handlers Licenses-Duplicate	\$15.00
	Food Handlers Licenses-Delinquent	\$2.50/day
Sec. 156A-7	Events and gatherings	
	Miscellaneous events	\$15.00/day
Sec. 156A-11	Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems	
	Septic System Application-New	\$775.00
	Septic System Application-Alter.	\$600.00
	Septic System Minor Repair	\$175.00
	Septic System Tank Permit to Empty	\$10.00
Sec. 156A-19.1	Swimming Pool Fees	
	Issuance/Renewal to Operate Year	
	Round	\$525.00
	Issuance/Renewal to Operate	
	Seasonal	\$325.00
	Locate and construct	\$325.00
	Alterations	\$325.00
Sec. 156A-22	Documents, copying and miscellaneous charges	
	Proof of Insurance Letter for Limousines	\$25.00forfirst car; \$15.00 each additional car
	Certified copies of marriage, birth, death, domestic partnership and civil union records	\$18.00
	Maps	\$10.00
	Flu Shot Fee (No fee if senior citizen or high risk)	\$15.00
	<u>Vaccinations – Per Dose Administered</u>	<u>\$0-\$30.00</u>
	Correction to Vital Records	\$35.00
	Electric Vehicle Charging Station	\$1.00-\$5.00
	(with 30 minute grace period after vehicle is fully charged, after which fee increases to \$5.00-\$50.00/hour)	

Sec. 156A-24	Miscellaneous Fees	
	Well Installation	\$175.00
	Well Abandonment	\$75.00
	Housing Inspection Fee	\$80.00
	Multiple Dwelling Units 1-7	\$39.00/unit
	Multiple Dwelling Units 8-24	\$27.00/unit
	Multiple Dwelling Units 25-48	\$24.00/unit
	Multiple Dwelling Units 49 and Up	\$18.00/unit
	Hotel 1-20 Units	\$17.00/unit
	Hotel 21-100 Units	\$14.00/unit
	Hotel 101-250 Units	\$10.00/unit
	Hotel 251 Units & Up	\$7.00/unit
	Leaf Mulch/Wood Chips Loading Fee	\$11.00/yard
	Receiving Material	\$11.00/yard
	Mechanic's Labor Rate LTBOE	\$31.50/hour
	Mechanic's Labor Rate ELSA	\$31.50/hour
	Trashcan 95 Gallon	\$55.00
	Trashcan 65 Gallon	\$50.00
	Trashcan 35 Gallon	\$45.00

Sec. 156-26 Police Department Fees

(k)	Firearms Purchase	
	(1) Identification Card	\$5.00
	(2) Pistol Permit	\$2.00
(l)	Use of Police Vehicle	\$30.00/hour

Section 2. Repealer

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

Section 3. 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.

Section 4. Effective Date

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

Adopted: January 5, 2021

New material is underlined _____

Deleted material is 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			

Manager’s Report –

Mr. Nerwinski reported that Lawrence Township is in the process of preparing its 2021 Municipal Budget so the budget season has begun and he will be providing them with some budget dates and sharing with them the process. He then asked Councilwoman Lewis if she would like to discuss the concern she brought to his attention regarding the budget process.

Councilwoman Lewis stated in the past they normally have an open forum where the Department Heads come before Council and present their budgets and everything is transparent and the public has a good chance to look at those reports and then ask questions. But, given Covid 19 and technology and the possibly of delays and technical issues, she asked the Municipal Manager to think of some other options to continue that open transparency in this time whether it is having questions through a chat session, emails or another method as she feels it is important for the residents to get the budget information and have that dialogue that they are normally allowed to have.

Mr. Nerwinski advised in speaking with Councilwoman Lewis he did share with her that he loved the idea of asking the Department Heads to do a pre-recorded budget presentation. A link would be available on the Township's website for residents to view at their convenience and if they wanted to participate in the formal public meeting they would have the ability to ask the questions as they normally have in the past which he thinks is a good means of being more proactive in getting out information. So, he would like to explore that issue and inquired as to the thoughts of the Council.

Councilwoman Lewis stated that the Manager's suggestion is a good way to explore that option as she knows Councilman Powers had problems logging in today. And, although, they had problems logging on today they may not have any problems logging on tomorrow which is the issues they have with all the technologies. So, having the budget presentations prerecorded on the website would allow residents to view the information whether technology allows them to join the meeting or not. Mr. Nerwinski stated he thinks it is a great idea going forward and that the Staff members participating in any of the Council Meetings would still be available to answer any questions that any Councilmember would have of that Director as well as the public. Councilman Powers echoed Councilwoman Lewis' sentiments in terms of the pandemic and the online option giving the residents who cannot travel to Town Hall for the Council Meeting a greater opportunity to provide input to the Council regarding their concerns.

Attorney's Report –

Mr. Roskos reported that they are finalizing the Anti-Nepotism Policy that they are suggesting the Council approve by Resolution and insert into the Employees Handbook which they will have available for the next meeting.

Mr. Roskos stated with regards to the Mt. Laurel ligation the Township had a Developer's Agreement agreed to with Nexus; however, Fair Share Housing Center and the Court Master had their own additions and modifications. Those changes were communicated to the attorneys for Nexus which they indicated was not a problem. So, they hope to work that out and have the Developer's Agreement finalized this month and move forward with the rezoning of that parcel.

Clerk's Report –

There was no Clerk's report.

Unfinished Business –

There was no unfinished business.

New Business –

Authorizing Appointments to Boards and Committees

Councilman Bobbitt advised that the Township Council spoke about moving all the incumbents to the Boards and Committees in a block and inquired as to the consensus of the Council. There was no objection by members of Council.

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Ryan, the resolution was approved to re-appoint all incumbents to the Boards and Committees 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			

Affordable Housing Board – 3-year term ending 12/31/22

- Kevin VanHise
- Craig Schultz
- Peter Ferrone
- Mary McKillip

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Environmental and Green Advisory Committee – 4-year term ending 12/31/24

- Noemi de la Puente
- Pamela Mount

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Growth & Redevelopment Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/23

Ryan Kennedy
 Joan Brame
 Andrew Frank

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Health Advisory Board – 3-year term ending 12/31/23

Anthony Brickman
 Camila Pena
 Darlene Hanley

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee – 4-year term ending 12/31/24

Joseph Como
 Douglas Sargent
 John Pavlik

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Municipal Alliance on Drug and Alcohol Abuse – 2-year term ending 12/31/22

Melissa Arnold
 Kelli Nitti

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Planning Board – 4-year term ending 12/31/24
John Dauber

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Public Safety Committee – 2-year term ending 12/31/22
Michael Burzachiello
Ron Dzminski

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Recreation Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/23
Robert Dalle Pазze
William Chester
Sigmund Zegarski

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Senior Executive Committee – 4-year term ending 12/31/24
Cheng How Mao
Christine Holsneck

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Shade Tree Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/23

David BostedMao
Christine Holsneck

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Advisory Committee – 3-year term ending 12/31/23

James Hooker

Resolution No. 38-21 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			

Zoning Board of Adjustment – 4-year term ending 12/31/24 – (Regular Members)

Peter Kremer
Sheila Grant

Resolution No. 38-21 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.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

There was no public participation.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 1-21 (18-D.1) through 42-21 (18-I.7) with the exception of Resolution 35-21 (18-H.23), 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 No. 35-21 (18-H.23) 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 Resolution is spread in its entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Councilwoman Lewis stated although they did not have the Colonel Hand March this year she would like to thank the Recreation Department for the job they did in allowing the residents to not only experience the March but to participate in the event this year.

Councilman Bobbitt echoed Councilwoman Lewis’ sentiments in terms of the great job the Recreation Department has done during the pandemic; especially, during the holiday season and stated kudos to them.

Mr. Nerwinski also thanked Bill Agress for the great job he did in putting together a video in one take (legend has) for the Colonel Hand March that was posted on the Township’s social media site.

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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.

6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James S. Kownacki, Mayor