

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

February 9, 2021

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, February 9, 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 Mayor Kownacki 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, February 9, 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, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager, David Roskos, Esq., Municipal Attorney, and Peter Kiriakatis, Certified Municipal Finance Officer.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

2021 Municipal Budget Presentation
Municipal Court – Lewis J. Korngut, JMC

Municipal Court Judge Lewis Korngut greeted Council and imparted that he hopes they have all been well personally and professionally during this pandemic and indicated tonight he is coming up for reappointment after serving as their Judge for the last four years and he would like to thank the Council and Mr. Nerwinski for giving him the opportunity to serve as their Judge for Lawrence Township; a place that has been

his home for the last 33 years. And, if re-appointed as the Municipal Court Judge it would be an honor for him to continue to serve in the capacity as their Judge. And indicated as a resident he would like to thank the Township Council for all that they do and the sacrifices that they make for the community.

Judge Korngut indicated as he reflects on his career that started back in 1988 as a young Mercer County Assistant Prosecutor at 26 years of age when he was very anxious and eager wanting to impress his superiors; but, in realization when a person becomes older and hopefully wiser they come to realize the positive impact and the difference they make in people lives which is why so many are drawn to public service and what drew him to public service. As a Municipal Judge what motivates him to come to work every day is his desire to work with a great Court Staff and have an opportunity to connect with people so he can help those who have traveled down the wrong path. And, yes...a good majority of the cases in the Municipal Court are motor vehicle matters but they are important for difference reasons, to maintain tranquility and safety in the community as well as instill peoples' confidence in the Township Judicial System that will hopefully carry over to the Township.

Judge Korngut stated that he always felt the best way to show people that the system is just and fair is to give the litigants a chance to express themselves and tell their story while maintaining humility, patience and tolerance with everyone you deal with. But, last year was a challenge for everyone in the Court including himself and his court staff, as he sure it was for all of them in their own personal and professional lives as well. Nevertheless, he still looks forward to coming to work every day serving the Township and hopes that the Township Council will give him another opportunity to serve as their Judge for another three years to have an impact and better the lives of the people in the community.

Judge Korngut advised that the Municipal Court's budget is similar to last year and since May, due to the pandemic; they have gone virtual with the majority of the cases being done telephonically with litigants. They have a few cases they do by Zoom platform and the case load has pretty much picked up to the amount they had seen prior to the pandemic; but, there are some obstacles with the difficulty of dealing with people on the telephone and they do not have the ability of issuing bench warrants for people who do not appear except DUI cases. So, as a result, they have about five (5) banker boxes full of cases for people who have not provided their telephone numbers or when they do send in their telephone numbers they do not answer and as a result they have a huge backlog of cases just waiting to issue warrants but they do not have the ability to do so given the Supreme Court will not allow them to issue warrants for except DUI cases.

Judge Korngut proceeded to discuss litigants having a choice as to whether they want to come in with Covid restrictions meaning everyone will be social-distanced, wear masked and have their temperatures taken with the majority of the litigants having chosen to wait and have their cases tried later on after the pandemic has cleared; but advised they do have one case scheduled for tomorrow and 60 trials awaiting after the

pandemic clears. So, it has been a little bit of a struggle for them but they are moving forward and they are doing everything that they can and proceeded to discuss the Court seeing a number of people who pleaded guilty or who are found guilty having difficulty financially paying their fines so they try to be as understanding as they can with those individuals in terms of trying to give out payment plans and work with them on paying their fines while still living within their means but it is very difficult not to have personal contact with people; especially, for him as an old-school judge who like to have some sort of impact on people when he deals with them personally and reiterated the stress and difficulty of dealing with people over the telephone in his profession. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and opened the floor for questions.

There was then a question and answer period after Judge Korngut's presentation relative to the length of time it would take the Court to get through the 60 trials pending; Supreme Court governing the procedure for processing court cases during the pandemic as it relates to trails and issuance of warrants which has created a backlog; inquiry about the number of marijuana cases that have come before the Lawrence Court since the November election and how those cases are being handled by the Court and the Supreme Court adjourning those cases until after March 31st being there is no direction from legislatures at this time with regards to legalizing marijuana; the pandemic having no significant impact on the request for public defenders.

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**2021 Municipal Budget Presentation**  
**Construction Department, Michael Rodgers, Construction Code Official**

Mr. Rodgers greeted the Council and distributed copies of his 2021 Budget Report for Council, Municipal Manager and CFO consideration and proceeded to read the following statement into record:

February 2, 2021

I am pleased to inform the council that even with the past year's difficulties that we all had to deal with, the Construction Department still has made its budget and additional revenue. As construction in the township was slightly down in 2020, we still issued 2,096 construction permits which is only 106 less than 2019.

Moving forward in 2021 all indications show that we will have another year achieving our budget goals and more. Our operating budget will stay flat at the 2020 level. Due to Covid-19 our expenditures last year went down and are expected to stay the same for 2021.

Our staff has been keeping up with the work load, but I do see in the near future that we will need more inspection staff. With projects such as Lidl Grocery Store, Rider Science Building addition, Amazon warehouse, The Trail at Princeton with 189 housing units, Texas Avenue development with 70 housing units, Lawrenceville School Dining and Athletic Complex (which is a three-year project) and the other 2,000 plus permits that will be issued, we will be very busy.

With that being said, I would like to thank the Construction Department staff for all their hard work and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael T. Rodgers  
Construction Official

Mr. Rodgers imparted one of the nice things he would like to point out is he requested in a future year's budget a replacement of the aging fleet in the Construction Department and thanks to the Mayor, Council and Township Manager they received a new vehicle this year and he believes they are going to receive another vehicle later this year which is greatly appreciated. Also, his 2021 Budget includes the Monthly Report for the period ending December 2020 with figures for money received and the total collected from the Construction Department totaling \$1,609,155 which includes funds that go to the State Department of Community Affairs.

Mr. Rodgers went on to discuss the Five Year Comparison from 2016 through 2020 (January – December) provided in the Budget Report that showed a very good breakdown of how the Construction Department has been doing over the past 5 years - 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and those revenues being extremely high mainly due to Bristol-Myers Squibb projects which he advised is not to be expected every year as BMS slowed down in 2020 with plans to rev back up in 2021. Nonetheless, they still have other large projects going on that the town will make good revenue from and out of the 2000 plus permits processed by the Construction Office on an annual basis 4,161 Sub-code Technical Forms are included in those permit packets and processed by each of the Construction Officials as well as taken over the counter by his office staff. In concluding, Mr. Rodgers acknowledged and commended the great staff he has in the Construction Department.

Mr. Nerwinski noted that Mr. Rodgers took over for Mr. Cermele who was Lawrence Township Construction Official for 40 years and prior to that it was Mr. Cermele's father...so the Cermele name is on almost every building in Lawrence Township in some way, shape or form. Further, Mr. Rodgers is the first Construction Official to be appointed outside of the Cermele family in over 60 years and he is 20 year employee well experienced and the transition has been seamless and they are happy to have him.

Mr. Nerwinski stated there was one comment previously made he would like to clarify for the record concerning the Texas Avenue development (70 housing units) which is an Application pending before the Planning Board which Mr. Rodgers has to plan for; but. it is not approved at this point as the Zoning Board still has to go through their scrupulous process. Also, as it relates to Covid they have decided this budget season to have in-person meetings because the Budget involves direct finances and the taxpayers; so, they will be having in-person meetings subject to all Covid requirements. They are also doing a live feed for those who are unable to attend and they are also posting links to each department head's presentation to view on the homepage. And, if anyone has questions they can be directed to him.

After the presentation a general question and answer period took place between members of Council and Mr. Rodgers relative to Covid and its effects on construction projects as it relates to curtailing inspections, mask mandates and social distancing; the need for extra building/field inspectors for large construction projects; Lidl progress at the Lawrence Shopping Center; inspectors having a more flexible schedule for

inspections to accommodate residents to help reduce wait time for issuance of commercial and residential permits and the Department's permit process. Mayor Kownacki and members of Council thanked Ms. Rodgers for all the great work he and his staff have been doing and expressed their appreciation for the shoes he had to fill replacing Mr. Cermele in an extraordinary time which for him is a wonderful way to take over and make his mark.

Mr. Nerwinski noted that he used to receive several calls a month regarding the timeframe for permits and now he does not receive any calls so the Construction Office is really hitting on all cylinders right now providing the services that the residents and business owners expect which he is really pleased with. As for comments regarding more staff...welcome to the chess match...given that is the request from most of the Department Heads and the Administration having to do what they need to do to find that sweet spot being they do not just hire and lay off employees later on; and, reiterated again how pleased he is with the staff and how the Construction Department is operating as a whole even with the building being closed to the public.

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#### Public Participation

Ms. Martha Friend, 976 Lawrenceville Road, thanked the Council for allowing her the time to speak again as she is seeking clarity on rather the Township Council is going to put out a statement about the violent attack that took place at the Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup>. And, she knows Lawrence Township is the type of government that either do it together or not at all which has been communicated to her by a couple of folks. But, because of some of the news that was put out in a particular article on February 3<sup>rd</sup> stating that New Jersey was one of the States that had the most people who took part in this violent Insurrection at the Capitol as well as a number of folks who took part from Mercer County, she thinks as Lawrence Township elected officials they are elected to make choices and decisions and to be strong, clear and forthright about their stance on matters and that the attack was not okay which is why she sent two emails asking them to put out a statement denouncing that attack on the Capitol but never received a response back from the Council only the Municipal Manager.

Ms Friend proceeded to discuss an incident that happened in Lawrence where a middle-aged Caucasian male stopped his car on Route 206 strolled to a woman's house picked up the woman's Black Lives Matter sign, tore it up and threw it out of his car while one of the children of the couple who just happen to be bi-racial watched the incident from the window. And, further indicated Lawrence is a wonderful community that will smother that family with love should they need it. But, because awful things such as that happen and everyone does not always participate in the meetings, people need to hear from their elected officials denouncing such actions which is why she requested a statement from the Council and she does not mean to put anybody in an awkward position so it is at the discretion as to how they would like to respond back to her.

Mayor Kownacki stated that he is only speaking for himself not for any member of Council with regards to Ms Friend's request and indicated he is an elected official appointed to serve as the Mayor with one equal vote just like the rest of his colleagues and January 6<sup>th</sup> is a day that he will never forget as it was not only a day that there was an attack on the Capitol but it would have also been his father's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday if he was alive and a day he is not ready to speak on although he does not discourage any of his colleagues on Council from speaking on. At the present time his main priority is dealing with the pandemic and getting as many people as possible vaccinated and that is his focus at this time. So, for his own personal reasons he is not ready to talk about what took place on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Council will get to it at some point but it is not on the agenda for now until they get through the budget process and see where they are at with regards to the pandemic.

Additional discussion took place relative to members of Council making their own personal statement regarding the attack at the Capitol on January 6<sup>th</sup> rather than doing a unified Resolution to try and encompass each member's feelings or thoughts as well as each member having their own voice on the matter given each of them perceived the attack on the Capitol differently; racism and hate having no place in Lawrence Township; Lawrence Diversity Day stemming from an anti-Semitic act directed towards their Jewish Mayor and Lawrence taking action versus doing resolutions being more important to the Township Council.

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#### Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to include Resolution 84-21 (18-H.10) – Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract for 2020 Snow Plowing Services.

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 Bobbitt, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.  
Absent: None.  
Abstain: None

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Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of **December 15, 2020** were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, Resolution (9-A), Authorizing Awarding Bid to Affordable Housing Administrators for the Affordable Unit Rehabilitation Program, was presented for adoption.

Resolution No. 59-21

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, bids were received and publicly opened for the provision of administrative services for the grant known as **Lawrence Township Affordable Unit Rehabilitation** as outlined in Resolution No. 75-20; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to renew this contract for an additional year; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Township may conduct up to twelve (12) rehabilitations during the term of the contract; 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 (\$57,854.50 - 2014 Lawrence Township Affordable Housing Unit Rehabilitation) and 1-19-56-853-299 (\$1,145.50 Affordable Housing Trust Fund); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Manager and the Mayor now wish to exercise the option to renew the contract for an additional one year period from February 18, 2021 through February 17, 2022 with Affordable Housing Administrators, P. O. Box 495, Pine Beach, New Jersey 08741 not to exceed the amount of \$59,000.00.

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATION OF TOWING AND STORAGE SERVICES"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance revises the towing and storage rates to be in conformity and consisted with the New Jersey State Police contract and their Garden State Towing Association which is how Lawrence Township determines their towing fees and narrows those fees so that they are in line with the customs throughout the state.

The Ordinance No. 2382-21 was introduced and approved 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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Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF ALCAZAR AVENUE (BLOCK 2308, LOT 8 AND 16) AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE PURSUANT TO NJSA 40A:12-1, ET SEQ."

Mr. Nerwinski advised that Ordinance authorizes a sale of land on Alcazar Avenue and as in the recent past they have been looking to identify certain properties of the town that they do not need and offer them for sale and these are two such properties they have identified to sale.



The Ordinance No. 2383-21 was introduced and approved 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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Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSY, APPROPRIATING \$19,387.50 THEREOF AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance is the Sidewalk Concrete Program which residents are able to participate in and get a good rate in terms of repairing and replacing their sidewalks and this is the appropriation that coincides with the program.

The Ordinance No. 2384-21 was introduced and approved 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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Adoption of Ordinances

There was no adoption of ordinances.

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**Manager’s Report –**

Mr. Nerwinski reported that they had a call at the last meeting about the unfortunate structural fire that took place in Lawrence and one of the callers stated it was her belief that it took 25 minutes for members of the fire department to respond to this structural fire. And indicated not knowing this was going to be a topic of discussion he did not have the incident report before him; but, the next day he did speak with the Fire Director and he provided him with the reports and indicated for the record that a

response call starts from the date it is received by the dispatch not when the observation of smoke or fire are by a resident at a structure. The dispatch time for the particular fire came in at 22 hours, 27 minutes and 51 seconds; the first Fire Official on the scene was there in 7 minutes, the second one was there 7 minutes, and the first apparatus was there in under 10 minutes and the other apparatus was there at 11 minutes. So, in hearing 25 minutes which is much to long as a response time felt aberrational to him which he expressed at the last Council Meeting; but, the response time are well within the parameters that the Township is trying to meet for a Volunteer Fire Company which he was happy to see and just wanted to clarify for the record.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Council may have observed the Hydroraking that happened at Colonial Lake and he asked Greg Whitehead, Director of Public Works, how it was going (which is over at this point and time) and he was really satisfied with the project and characterized it as a really good start. There is work that still needs to be done there but he feels he will be able to get the fountain going based upon the work that has taken place already and he was satisfied with the contractor so when the Township is in a position to continue on to improve the lake they certainly plan to do so which is good news.

Mr. Nerwinski stated he has not made a lot of comments with regards to the pandemic but the Health Department has been working diligently to meet the needs of the community in terms of contact tracing and the hiring of several individuals to help with the contact tracing. And advised that the Health Officer keeps him informed about the growing list of people who signed up to receive the vaccine and they now have a significant list. They are now partnering with West Windsor and they have had sites throughout the County and they plan to have some sites in Lawrence once they get confirmation that they are actually going to receive vaccines and have definitive information in terms of how many vaccine slots they get to fill. The Trenton vaccine site went really well and they believe there is going to be a site approved at the Lawrence Shopping Center with a mega tent near the Burlington Store, a site at the CVS on Route 1 and the Lawrence Senior Center will be a vaccine site as well. So, Lawrence has been slotted to provide vaccines. They are just awaiting confirmation on when they will receive the vaccines then the scheduling will begin. Carol Chamberlain, Lawrence Health Officer, has been doing a fantastic job, they are just going to try and keep the lines of communication open through the Township's website and social media and hopefully they will start to see some positive numbers come back in terms of shots in arms versus scheduling shots in arms.

Councilwoman Lewis inquired about the question that was posed at the last Council Meeting concerning the out of service fire hydrants. Mr. Nerwinski advised that he touched base with Jack Oakley, OEM, who stated that there are always fire hydrants not functioning for one reason or another and that Lawrence Township has several water companies servicing the Township – Aqua, NJ American Water and Trenton Water Works; unfortunately, Trenton Water Works is not as diligent and does not deem it as emergent as the other water companies. So, when the Township tags a hydrant in need of repair they have seen historically Aqua Water and New Jersey Water come out

and get it done right away for obvious reasons...it's emergent. So, they are now doing an inventory of what is open and in need of repair and he is directing a letter to the Director of Trenton Water Works as he thinks they need a new protocol as what an emergent situation is and they had a perfect storm happen and they can assume it can happen again and proceeded to discuss the matter being a valid concern and the fact that the hydrant was tagged for so long without being brought to anyone's attention is really unfortunate.

Councilman Bobbitt stated it is really troubling to hear about Trenton Water Works not addressing the fire hydrant problem; that is a life safety issue. But, on a lighter note, he was glad to hear that the Hydroraking at Colonial Lake went well as it was fun to see the little boat out there and also about the fountain since he does not know how many times he was asked throughout the pandemic when the fountain was coming back. He then inquired if the Township has received any help from the County in terms of getting more vaccines or getting bumped up on the list. Mr. Nerwinski advised that he is not the Health Official so he not dealing directly with the County; but he can say frustration has been expressed and leadership is coming more from the State Officials rather than from the County. And, the Township level of satisfaction is on the lower end of what they are seeing from the County and they hope it changes when the vaccines are more readily available. The Cure Arena will be used as a site and hopefully the County will be able to step up with Capital Health as a partner.

Additional exchange of dialogue took place relative to the health and welfare of Lawrence residents and local level frustration from the very top all the way down to try and get vaccines for their residents. Councilman Bobbitt asked Mr. Nerwinski to let the Health Department know how much the Council appreciated their efforts.

Mayor Kownacki stated with regards Councilman Bobbitt's concerns about the County helping to get more vaccines, the Mayors in Mercer County have been meeting with County Officials to discuss the problems with getting the vaccines for the residents of Mercer County and the County is well aware as to how unhappy local officials are with their efforts and they are trying to do what they can but it is not soon enough.

Councilman Ryan stated that he received an unusually high water bill from Trenton Water Works which went from \$78 to \$140 almost 100-percent increase and it took a while but he finally got through to a representative who advised that the billing was for a 5 month period instead of a 3 month period because of Covid. So, if a resident received an unusually high bill that is their reasoning for the increase. Mr. Nerwinski noted that there was a rate increase which is the first time TWW has adjusted their water rates in about 10 or 11 years because they are putting more money in to improve their water infrastructure.

Mr. Nerwinski reported during the snowstorm there was a question that came up on social media from a resident about who is responsible to clear from the fire hydrants and the answer is the Township does. And indicated in 2015 the Governor passed a law that allowed municipalities to make it clear that the resident where the hydrant is

situated is responsible to clear the hydrant just like they are responsible to clear their sidewalk; but Lawrence Township has never adopted that ordinance so they need to take action to do that. Currently, they have the career and volunteer firefighters go out and clear the hydrant as they have in the past but he does not feel it is a big request to ask a resident who has fire hydrant on their property to be responsible to do so. And, in his opinion, it is an appropriate law as the fire hydrant is there to service the resident and their neighbors and they can all pitch in and clear it and the Township will help as needed. So, he has prepared a preliminary Ordinance that he will send to the Township Attorney for review if there is no objection from Council. There was no objection from members of Council to proceed.

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**Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos reported that the Mount Laurel Builders in Hopewell has sued Ewing-Lawrence Sewage Authority (ELSA) which Lawrence Township is familiar with and essentially asked not to be involved in the case being they are not seeking any affirmative relief against the Township; but, the Builders view Lawrence as a dispensable party because they are part of ELSA. He thought there was a Settlement and that the whole case was going to resolve itself when Judge Carchman remediated the case but they are now asking Lawrence Township to sign a Consent Order acknowledging certain things if they are not going to participate in the case. After a quick review of the Order he thinks he and Mr. Nerwinski need to sit down and discuss the contents of that Order as some of the things in there are a little troubling and he thinks there are other things that should be in the Order. So, he is just apprising the Council of the situation that may be a topic for the next meeting.

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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. Eric Barash, 17 Allwood Drive, advised of the excellent snow removal service provided by Lawrence Public Works Department and indicated that the plows were dead on during the snowstorm. And indicated he formerly resided at 16 Allwood Drive and now lives across the street and there is a fire hydrant right in front of his property that he basically clears if he is able to do so and proceeded to discuss in the early 2000s when the sidewalks on street were last done and how impressive the program was in terms of residents being able to replace their sidewalks at a great cost saving. Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Sidewalk Assessment Program is still in existence and recommended Mr. Barash go under the Engineering page on the Township website to find out how to participate in that really great program.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 59-21 (18-A.1) through 84-21 (18-H.10) with 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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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Councilwoman Lewis thanked Mr. Whitehead and his staff for the wonderful job they did plowing the roads during the latest snow storm and for continuing in making Lawrence Township the shining star when it comes to roads. Mr. Nerwinski noted that he received so many emails thanking the Township for the good work that was done after the snow storms more so than before and snow plowing is just one of the Public Works Department things they like the opportunity to do well.

Councilwoman Lewis noted the Trails, Open Space and Stewardship Committee is working on several things but she thinks one of the things residents can see right away is they have partnered with the Recreation Department to start to highlight some of the Trails on social media and she has already seen a couple of them. So for residents who are looking for some place to get out she thinks that is a really great

resource. Also, there is going to be a walk with Recreation on Friday around Colonial Lake as well as a Moonlight Stroll for Valentine Day with a Happy Ending Cupcake Truck.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he does not know if it was the Planning Board hearings about the new the Stormwater Management Ordinances that have sparked an interest; but, the Environmental and Green Advisory Committee is very excited about helping the Township work on a few things and speaking with the Watershed Association about storm water regulations. As for the Growth and Redevelopment Committee they are currently meeting so he cannot wait to hear what is going on with that committee.

Councilman Ryan stated he could not get online at the last meeting. But as for the Human Relations Committee in speaking with Lieutenant Drew about Diversity Day they are putting steps in place with selecting a chair (Teresita Bastides-Heron), co-chair (John Gaskins) and also taking minutes and he did speak with Ms. Bastides-Heron advising her to keep planning...however, plans may change due to the pandemic.

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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.

7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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