

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

December 7, 2021

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Kownacki asked for a moment of silence in observance of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day that started World War II.

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, December 7, 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, Lewis, Powers, Ryan and Mayor Kownacki.  
Absent: None.

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

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Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Kelsey Schreibersdors

Mayor Kownacki turned the floor over to Councilman Ryan who invited Kelsey up to the podium and presented her with the Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Mayor and Council. He also acknowledged the Municipal Clerk, Municipal Manager and the Superintendent of Recreation who helped bring her vision of a tennis backboard to fruition.

Councilman Ryan advised that she sent an email to the Council with the size and picture of the backboard she wanted for tennis as well as where she would like it to be located in the Township. And, because of the amazing job she did on her presentation, tonight she is being recognized for the initiative she took in getting the placement of the Tennis Backboard at Veterans Park.

Councilman Ryan further advised that the Municipal Clerk put together a nice package consisting of the Township plaque, pen, tray and cup on behalf of Lawrence Township Council to present to Kelsey on the phenomenal job she did in bringing this matter to the attention of the Council and asked teasingly that she think of them when she is hitting a ball at the backboard and invited her up to the podium to take some photos. Thereafter, Kelsey thanked the Mayor and Council for the special recognition.

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#### Public Participation

Dr. Dennis Waters, 4 Ivy Glen Lane, advised that he is present this evening as the President of The Lawrence Township Environmental Education Foundation and that he has made a little bit of a pivot from history to natural history. He indicated later in the meeting the Council will vote on a Resolution authorizing a Use Agreement between the Township of Lawrence and The Environmental Education Foundation and the Recreation Department to further develop what will soon be known as the Anne Demarrias Nature Center. And, his group, LTEEF, formerly the Lawrence Conservation Foundation, for many years was a great partner in preserving open space, and with that mission largely accomplished in March of 2020 the Conservation Foundation reorganized their focus on environmental education, and where better else to do it then the Nature Center and Drexel Woods. So, they want to help develop the Nature Center into a valuable, sustainable, community resource to support the Recreation Department in engaging residents of all ages and backgrounds with nature, science, and the local environment. And, they will do this through displays and interpreted signage, family and adult programming, school partnerships, stewardships and research which they will take one step at a time.

Dr. Waters imparted that the Conservation Foundation was a great partner for Lawrence Township and the new Use Agreement will allow that spirit of partnership to continue. He thanked the Township Council for all of their support and indicated that they are looking forward to working with them. They are also looking for help. So, if they know of anyone who would like to join them in this effort to please have them contact him.

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## Review and Revisions of Agenda

Councilman Bobbitt requested that the Agenda be amended to move Resolution (H-3), Authorizing the Renaming of the Drexel Woods Nature Center as the Anne Demarais Nature Center of Lawrence Township, prior to the adoption of minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Bobbitt, seconded by Ms. Lewis, 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.

Mayor Kownacki stated that Resolution 361-21 is about Anne Demarais who he has known and worked alongside for many years and that he can remember when they started with the flowers down in Eggert Crossing along the Johnson Trolley Line when the railroad ties were still there. Ms. Demarais would talk to him about other trails she was interested in and explaining to him the plans she and her group were working on and laying out for the different trails they felt the Township could benefit by.

Mayor Kownacki stated throughout the years the Township has benefited from Ms. Demarais' plans. She has made it a better township to live in... a better township for the students... a better township for the kids to play in.... a better place for everything. He indicated tonight he will be reading part of the Resolution; but, Ms. Demarais will receive an official copy with the Township Seal from the Municipal Clerk. So, tonight they will be renaming the Nature Center but the Dedication Ceremony of the building with the plaque being placed on the building will be done in the Spring when the weather gets nicer. So, the presentation tonight is just the formal part.

Mr. Nerwinski noted that the adoption of the Resolution is part of a process that involves the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) who has to approve the renaming as well. So, the Resolution tonight starts the process and once that is approved it will be submitted to NJDEP. And, once they receive the approval back from NJDEP that the renaming of the Nature Center is appropriate then they will schedule a nice ceremony.

Mr. Nerwinski further noted when the Municipal Clerk and he started working on the Resolution for Ms. Demarais they both were at a standstill; because when they started to review her bio and information as to how much she had done in her life it was hard for them to put everything together in one resolution. But, they will make up for it at the Dedication Ceremony.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he would first like to say what an honor it is to know Ms. Demarais and that over the years there are so many amazing and incredible people in Lawrence Township he has been fortunate to meet. And, he thinks it is very telling that after receiving this type of honor for doing so many things Ms. Demarais' response when asked if she would like to say anything her answer was 'no', which shows her actions speaks louder than words. He then expressed the Council's sincere appreciation and thanked Ms. Demarais again for all that she has done for Lawrence Township.

Councilwoman Lewis thanked Ms. Demarais for everything she has done for Lawrence Township in terms of open space and stated it has been a pleasure working with her and seeing all of the work she has done over the years. And, as someone who is frequently at the Nature Center with about 40 girl scouts for several hours, they appreciate all of the work she has done over the years so they could have those spaces and again thanked Ms. Demarais for her contributions to Lawrence Township.

Councilman Powers echoed the sentiments of his colleagues with regards to Ms. Demarais being a tremendous advocate for open space and trail development in Lawrence Township and stated he can remember being on the Planning Board when her vision was articulated and has now become a reality in no small part due to her efforts. And, the Council appreciates what she has done and the renaming of the Nature Center is a well-deserved honor and congratulated her again for all her efforts.

Councilman Ryan thanked Ms. Demarais for all her contributions to the Township and congratulated her on a job well done and asked that she keeps up the good work.

Mayor Kownacki then read part of the following Resolution into record:

Resolution No. 361-21

WHEREAS, Anne Demarais is a well-respected and longtime resident of the Township of Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, Anne has given her time, effort and energy to create thoughtful and rewarding recreational and educational experiences throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, with Anne's vision and understanding that to achieve anything of lasting value to a community it was necessary to build coalitions of like-minded residents, business owners, education administrators and township officials to work together to creating such special natural destinations as the Lawrence Greenway, the Trails at Drexel Woods, the Lawrence Nature Center and the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence Township Council is desirous of recognizing Anne's many years of hard work dedicated to preserve open space and create natural treasures within our community for generations of people to walk, jog, cycle, skate and learn; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes that the Lawrence Nature Center be from now and into perpetuity known as the

*Anne Demarais Nature Center of Lawrence Township*

Resolution No. 361-21 (18-H.3) was approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X					X	
Ms. Lewis	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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Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, the Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 5, 2021 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

Same was carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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On a motion by Ms. Powers, seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of October 5, 2021 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: Councilwoman Lewis.

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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of **October 19, 2021** 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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On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Closed Session Meeting of **November 4, 2021** 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

There was no award or rejection of bids.

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#### Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2410-21 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2020-2021"

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Ordinance amends Ordinance No. 2410-21 Salary Ordinance (Non-Union) by adding the title of Emergency Response Specialist to provide compensation as part of the new Fire Ordinance.

The Ordinance No. 2413-21 was 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

Mayor Kownacki read by title, an ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2404-21, THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ESTABLISHING A LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DIVISION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”

Ordinance No. 2412-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2404-21, THE LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ESTABLISHING A LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DIVISION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, fire protection services for the Township of Lawrence is provided through a career fire staff (Station 20) and three volunteer companies: Slackwood Fire Company (Station 21), Lawrence Road Fire Company (Station 22), and Lawrenceville Fire Company (Station 23); and

WHEREAS, the career firefighters and the volunteer firefighters provide an invaluable service to the community by responding to a wide variety of emergencies involving fires, explosions, hazardous conditions, natural and human-made disasters, as well as non-emergency service calls; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services for the Township of Lawrence are provided through a career staff of emergency medical technicians and a supervising chief; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services, also known as ambulance services or paramedic services, provide urgent pre-hospital treatment and stabilization for serious injuries and transport to definitive care for the residents and visitors to our community; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that the community's fire protection services and emergency medical services are prepared, staffed, and equipped to carry out their mission at the level of expectation of the residents and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the governing body requested and funded an *operational audit* of the Township's fire services by a qualified, independent group of fire professionals in which a report was prepared and provided to the governing body in November 2020; and

WHEREAS, the operational audit report (hereafter, the Report) included, among other things, a recommendation (# 19 of 38 total recommendations) to restructure the fire department to create a single, combination volunteer and career fire division that includes the Fire Official (aka, Fire Marshal) and Fire Prevention Specialist, Housing Inspector and Emergency Medical Services and under the authority of a full-time Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator (Chief) (effectively creating a department known as, *Lawrence Township Fire & Emergency Medical Services Division*); and

WHEREAS, it is has become necessary and is appropriate to implement the recommendation described in the preceding paragraph (and more detailed in the Report) to improve the organizational structure of municipal operations and to better serve the community as well as to preserve and improve the longstanding tradition of service by the volunteer fire companies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the following shall be implemented:

1. There shall be created a *Lawrence Township Fire and Emergency Medical Services Division* (hereafter, the "Division"), under the authority of a full-time Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.
2. The Fire Department shall combine the career firefighters (Station 20) and the volunteer firefighters of Slackwood Volunteer Fire Company (Station 21), Lawrence Road Volunteer Fire Company (Station 22), and Lawrenceville Volunteer Fire Company (Station 23), and the Division shall also include the Fire Official (and Fire Prevention Specialists and Housing Inspector) and Emergency Medical Services.
3. The Director of Public Safety (hereafter, the "Director") shall appoint a Chief of Fire & Emergency Medical Services (hereafter, the "Chief"). The Chief shall serve as the ranking executive officer of the Division under the direction and supervision of the Director.
4. The three volunteer fire companies shall maintain their autonomy consistent with their charters and as non-profit organizations in all respects except for fire ground operations.



5. Each volunteer fire company shall consist of the following: 1) One *Deputy Chief* (entitled to a \$2,500 annual stipend paid by the Township), 2) One *Battalion Chief*, 3) One *Captain*, and 4) Three *Lieutenants*. All officers shall be elected by the qualifying members from each fire company (not later than November 1<sup>st</sup> before the terms expire) and conditioned upon approval by the Chief and Director of Public Safety. The Chief shall define responsibilities for each officer.
6. The Career Firefighters, the Fire Official (and Fire Prevention Specialist, Housing Inspector), and Emergency Medical Technicians shall maintain their current form and functions subject to the changes to the overall organizational operations made herein.
7. The Division shall be under the Department of Public Safety of the Township of Lawrence. See the attached *Organizational Chart* as Exhibit A.
8. The Chief shall have the primary responsibility to:
  - a. Establish policy, procedures, and orders for the efficient operation of the Division, and ensure compliance with the same;
  - b. Establish and implement a program for proper training of all members of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services departments;
  - c. Establish orders for the efficient operation of fire ground operation, with advice from the Deputy Fire Chiefs and the supervising officer of the Career staff;
  - d. Provide adequate equipment and materials for the Division to operate. Including, but not limited to, ensuring each member of the Division is properly uniformed and equipped to perform duties professionally and safely;
  - e. Maintain compliance with local, state, and federal laws in the operations of the Division;
  - f. Identify and apply for grant and other funding opportunities related to Division operations;
  - g. Coordinate box alarm plans with each Deputy Fire Chief for approval by the Director;
  - h. Assist the Deputy Fire Chiefs with the development of a volunteer recruitment program;
  - i. Complete any other duties required as a department head and as designated by the Director.

9. Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Lawrence TOWNSHIP Municipal Code inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are now repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

10. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

11. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication and as otherwise provided for by law.

Adopted: December 7, 2021

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 reported that his Manager’s Report now includes topics he plans to discuss with the Council during his report so that the Council could have some idea as to the subject prior to them going into full discussion.

Mr. Nerwinski stated his first item of discussion is concerning Memorials in Community Parks, and advised from time to time he receives calls from residents regarding memorials being put in the parks for love ones whether it is installing a plaque on a bench or having a tree planted in their honor. Further, there are a lot people at Colonial Lake that are deeply attached to the Lake where they spend a lot of their time and that is where he gets most of the requests. Currently, the Township has no formal policy; but, maybe one could be established. He is not seeking anything from the Council at this time; he just wanted to start the conversation and they can follow up at the next Council Meeting to determine what, if anything, they would like to do going forward and proceeded to elaborate on an appropriate approach regarding a set policy.

An exchange of dialogue took place relative to Hamilton Township having a policy as well as other communities that Lawrence could model a formal policy after if they decide to implement one.

Mr. Nerwinski reported with regards to the Cannabis Ordinance the State just signaled that they are now going to start accepting applications from the Cannabis industries for permits for all of the categories involved with March 15 being the deadline for Recreational Marijuana. And, he has been receiving inquiries from cannabis companies wanting to know what the Lawrence Township process is; because they are limiting their licenses and only allowing two cannabis businesses in one designated area. There are no issues with the other cannabis companies involved... just the retail recreational sale where licensees are limited to two; potentially, three if Zen Leaf decides they want to do recreational sales, which they have signaled they would like to do. So, they have to determine the timeframe in terms of prioritizing who is truly interested so that their position is solidified, as number one or two in the process. He then questioned should it be the filing of a Planning Board or Zoning Board Application or should the Township have their own application process requiring some escrow to be held; because he can envision a lot of companies stating their interest but never getting to Lawrence Township because they may be more successful in another town. So, they should try to engage with more meaningful players to signal to them that they are serious, they have a site involved, and they will post the necessary escrow to hold their position.

Mr. Nerwinski asked the desire of the Council in terms of setting a policy for the issuance of a recreational cannabis license. Mr. Roskos stated that they want to see some evidence of the Contract Rights to a property stating that it is in the appropriate zone, as they do not just want to entertain any business desire. They need to show proof that they have a contract with a recorded owner or that they have purchased the property. Mr. Nerwinski stated they can model it after how they handle the Alcoholic Beverage Licenses where the Police Department does the investigation. A general discussion ensued relative to the handling of the Recreational Use License for Zen Leaf and their position being reserved in accordance to the Township's Cannabis Ordinance; minority and small cannabis businesses being beneficial for the community; the use of a bid process being too complex for the issuance of cannabis licenses as well as the Council not wanting a bid war to push out smaller cannabis businesses; prohibitive fees as it relates to some municipalities charging very large fees that are already being challenged in court and establishing an escrow threshold that would be reasonable for small to large cannabis businesses. After the discussion, it was the consensus of the Council for Mr. Nerwinski to move forward with creating a policy for recreational cannabis licenses.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Community Aide position has been filled. The new employee, Craig Dinwoodie, starts tomorrow, December 8<sup>th</sup> in the position that was withheld for the past couple of years because of the pandemic. The vision was to create a unique position within the municipal operations, designating someone to act as the Liaison to businesses and to the residents within the community. He thinks they found someone who is uniquely qualified, and it is a position over time that will develop further

which they are very excited about. He advised that Mr. Dinwoodie will be at the next meeting to formally introduce himself.

Mr. Nerwinski also reported that Mr. Dinwoodie will serve as a member of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee which he has spoken with Councilman Bobbitt about in terms of him figuring out how to really get the Committee going, as he knows the members want to do more. He will also be creating a database of all the businesses within Lawrence Township so that he will have their contact information as he will be a problem solver between the businesses and government. In addition, he will be working on the Senior-Connect Program that they previously started in terms of getting the residents signed up on Nixle and just pushing people to be better connected, and indicated it is a new situation they hope will work out.

Councilman Bobbitt echoed Mr. Nerwinski's comments with regards to the Growth & Redevelopment Committee being very excited about the new Community Aide and having some sort of point person that can help navigate township issues for new businesses opening without having to contact Mr. Nerwinski or the individual departments. Councilwoman Lewis thanked Mr. Nerwinski for his due diligence in continuing his search until someone was found to fill the position.

Mr. Nerwinski reported for the last several years they have had a serious problem with the Crossing Guard Program. And, although the crossing guards do a great job there are times due to their personal situations that they frequently call out at the last minute for whatever reason which puts the Township in a really bad position being they have to use police officers to man the position of a crossing guard that takes them away from their patrol duties. So, there are days that there are no police officers patrolling because they are acting as crossing guards. And, if there is ever an emergency that a police officer needs to respond to then there is nobody to man the crossing guard position.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that it is a real problem and they are not alone in this situation as there are other communities having the same problem with regards to a shortage of crossing guards being committed. He indicated that the position is four (4) hours a day, (2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon) so they would have to find an individual who is able to commit to the whole day which is difficult to do. So, they decided that they needed to outsource this out to a company, as there are now security companies who have offshoot departments for crossing guards. He then discussed a Resolution on tonight's Agenda appointing the School Traffic Guards, consisting mostly of retired police officers with the required certifications, and one company they identified through a bid process that met all the qualifications they are looking for and advised once everything is finalized every crossing guard hired by Lawrence Township has the first shot of getting hired by the new company with the exact same pay. They will also have opportunities to work during the summer time if they so choose. And, when there is a callout the company will be able to provide relief without police officer being diverted from their duties... so this is a new situation that they hope works out. The anticipated start date is January 3, 2022.

Councilwoman Lewis inquired about the cost of outsourcing the crossing guards versus the current pay for crossing guards. Mr. Nerwinski advised that it will cost more money; but, they are not outsourcing the job to save money, they are outsourcing to meet their public safety obligation and not have police officers at premium salaries do the work of a certified crossing guard. Councilwoman Lewis stated the reason there are more open spots is because the schools cut busing without consultation with the Township and then added additional crossing guard spots. So, what saved money in one place, cost money in another, and there is no question that the Township has an obligation and this is a smart way to do it; but she is concerned that they are going to have another school year where there might be a retraction of buses again, and she thinks they should have earlier conversations with the School Administration if the schools are going to make changes that impact the Township's budget and services so that the Township knows before they make those cuts and announce them to the public.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Lawrence Township Volunteer Awards 2022 Nomination Form is up and ready. And, hopefully, they will start receiving applications on the Township website, and the Council should start thinking about the Committee and how they would like to fill those committee spots. He indicated he can make some suggestions to the Council that they can discuss at the next meeting and that they should consider taking in applications from all places...residents, businessowners and people who do charity work. As discussed, this is another situation that Mr. Dinwoodie could be involved in and take on in-house. Councilwoman thanked Mr. Nerwinski for his due diligence in getting this task done.

Mr. Nerwinski reported that the Municipal Prosecutor, Alfred Vuocolo, is retiring and they have to fill that very important spot by January 1, 2022. They have advertised for the position with very limited responses and that Hamilton Township is also looking for a Municipal Prosecutor. He indicated that the Municipal Prosecutor's gig is really difficult and it is a very trying position even though it fits in many retirees schedules... as it is job for a young person. And, unlike the Public Defender they are barred from doing criminal defense throughout the State. The appointment of a Public Defender is a coveted situation being they can actually get private clients and fulfil their mandates as a public defender in court, and do criminal defense in all the other courts within the County or State; prosecutors are completely conflicted out of taking on any cases except for civil cases. So, it is going to be a challenge for the Township, and he just wanted to apprise the Council of the situation.

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**Attorney's Report –**

There was no Attorney's report.

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**Clerk's Report –**

Ms. Norcia advised that the Reorganization Meeting is on Saturday, January 1, 2022, and the first Regular Meeting of the year is Tuesday, January 4, and asked if the Council would like keep the meeting date of January 4 or would they prefer to move it to Thursday, January 6 to give a little more space in between the two meetings. Mr. Nerwinski asked Ms. Norcia whether Mr. Kiriakatis (CFO) signaled to her any budgetary or other need for the January 4 meeting. She replied 'no'. He indicated if it is the pleasure of the Council they can conduct essential business at the Reorganization Meeting and just have the January 18 meeting. The consensus of the Council was for Ms. Norcia to check with the CFO as to the need for the January 4 meeting. And, if there is no need for the meeting, she can cancel the meeting of January 4 and the next meeting of Council will convene on January 18.

Ms. Norcia asked the wishes of the Council with regards to the Reorganization Meeting being moved to the Senior Center where they can socially distance a little better instead of being in the crowded Council Meeting Room at Town Hall. She stated the decision does not have to be made immediately, she is just putting it out so they can give it some thought. Mr. Nerwinski replied that they are almost two years into the pandemic and people are vaccinated and educated on wearing masks so he does not see a need to move the meeting the Senior Center as they will have the same requirements and protocols in place. Members of Council concurred.

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**Unfinished Business –**

There was no unfinished business.

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**New Business –**

There was no new business.

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

There was no public participation.

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Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 355-21 (18-A.1) through 377-21 (18-H.11) with the except of Resolutions (18-D.2), (18-H.3) and (18-H.10) were 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. 362-21 (18-D.2), Authorizing Refund for Cancellation of a Permit for Solar Installation, was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Cited Resolution is spread in its entirety in the Resolution Books of the Township of Lawrence.

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Councilman Bobbitt motioned to **table** Resolution 18-H.10, Authorizing a Use Agreement Between the Township and The Lawrence Township Education Foundation, Inc., for further review.

Mr. Nerwinski stated Dr. Waters reported on the matter during public participation but for the record he would like to elaborate a little more. He explained the Agreement was a draft completed on the administrative end that the Township Council did not get a chance to fully consider. They all are in support of the concept; but presented some valid issues that should be included in the Agreement to prevent future problems, and he would like the opportunity to incorporate those concerns into the Agreement before they approve it. So, he will have the Resolution on for the next meeting to not delay it much further.

Resolution No. 376-21 (18-H.10), was **TABLED** by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	X					X	
Ms. Lewis	X						
Mr. Powers	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 thanked the Public Works Department and the Recreation Department for the awesome Holiday Display and Event they had outside last Friday, and advised that they are planning another event where they will be driving around town to see all the lights and select a winner for the Holiday House Decorating Contest. She also thanked the Municipal Manager for posting the Volunteer Awards and stated she hopes they can generate some really great applications.

Councilman Bobbitt thanked the Municipal Manager for adding some additional help to the Growth and Redevelopment Committee, and advised that the Environmental and Green Advisory Committee is doing well, as they are continuing to work on the Stormwater Management issues and trying to create helpful writeups for the Planning Board and Zoning Board.

Councilman Ryan also thanked the Public Works Department and the Recreation Department for the great job they did on the Holiday Display and extended kudos to the Police Department on the great job they did in collecting food at the Holiday Display for the Food Drive they had on Sunday. Mr. Nerwinski stated that Ms. Bergen, Superintendent of Recreation, advised him that they gave out over 470 bags of food which is not something you normally get from a holiday display drive-thru; but, he thinks with this little pivot from the pandemic they have stumbled upon something really cool that people are really enjoying and something they should consider keeping in the future.

Mayor Kownacki reported Sunday, December 5, Councilman Ryan and he attended the Special Olympics Jingle All the Way 3K Run. It was a well-attended event with a lot of participants, and they had a great time. Also, Amazon had a big sign at the event and one of the representatives informed them that Amazon helped with the publishing of the event in addition to giving them a substantial donation as well as a \$5,000 check.

Mayor Kownacki reported that the Lawrence Township Veterans’ Day Ceremony that took place in front of Town Hall was very good and thanked everyone involved for making it a successful event.



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**Written Communications –**

There was no written communication.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned.

7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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James S. Kownacki, Mayor