

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 21, 2021

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was then opened with the Inspiration and Pledge of Allegiance, led by the 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, December 21, 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.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Mr. Nerwinski introduced Craig Dinwoodie to members of Council and advised that Mr. Dinwoodie was hired to fill the new Community Service Aide position for Lawrence Township municipal operations which has been in the works for several years; but, suspended due to Covid 19. The purpose of the position is to create a dedicated official in municipal government that will act as a government liaison and assist businessowners and residents on various issues. Mr. Dinwoodie will also serve on Lawrence Township Growth & Redevelopment Committee and will work to expand the reach and impact of this important committee.

Mr. Nerwinski stated as previously explained this is a new position for municipal operations so they are working from a blank canvas. Mr. Dinwoodie will be doing various projects with the Township to include creating a database for all the businesses in Lawrence Township; something they have not done in the past that will create a more fluent situation updating the database at all times. And there are some additional projects they are looking forward to getting him started on as well. He then invited Mr. Dinwoodie up to formally introduce himself to the Council.

Mayor Kownacki and the rest of Council welcomed Mr. Dinwoodie aboard and asked him to tell them a little about himself. Mr. Dinwoodie stated he has a diverse and eclectic background and before Covid 19 he was teaching ELS English as a second language in Shanghai, China. So, his work experience history expands from ELS English to Social Media, and he has been a part of various literary organizations. Both, as an editor reader and as an events coordinator; so, he kind of has a diverse and eclectic skill set that he thinks prepares him quite well for this role and he is really excited to get started.

Councilman Powers stated the business community has really been looking for a ombudsman to help them navigate through the process and with him onboard it is really going to be a tremendous resource to have and thanked Mr. Dinwoodie for coming aboard. Mr. Dinwoodie stated that he is especially excited about the business aspect of the role; because, he thinks that businesses could use resources and also a voice. Councilman Bobbitt stated he has alerted the Growth & Redevelopment Committee about him coming on board and they are looking forward to seeing him at the February meeting. Mr. Nerwinski stated he is looking forward to working with Mr. Dinwoodie, he has his full support and his open-door policy extends to him. Mr. Dinwoodie thanked everyone for the warm welcome and stated he is looking forward to working with them as well.

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Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

The Municipal Clerk requested that the Agenda be amended to add Resolution 393-21 (18-D.2), Authorizing Recreation Fee Refunds.

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.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Minutes of Regular 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 Regular 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

There was no introduction of ordinances.

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## Adoption 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 2021-2021"

### Ordinance No. 2413–21

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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

#### Section I. Short Title

This ordinance shall be known and may be recited as "The Salary Ordinance of the Township of Lawrence – Unclassified and/or Exempt, Seasonal, Emergency (non-union) Employees for 2020-2021."

#### Section II. Salaried Employees

The attached list of salaried positions and job titles, Schedule A and Schedule B, are hereby authorized and assigned the appropriate salary ranges for 2020-2021 and are determined by date of hire as an employee of Lawrence Township.

This ordinance will continue the Township's consistent policy of providing comparable fringe benefits to exempt employees during their active service as that provided to Supervisors, CWA Local 1032, through their collective bargaining agreement. The Township will still maintain the flexibility of granting retiree benefits to exempt employees hired after January 1, 2011. Accordingly, employees covered by this ordinance that are eligible for health and/or prescription benefits shall contribute to the cost of the said health benefit premium for medical and prescription coverage as required by law, specifically Chapter 78, P.L. 2011. All employees hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall contribute based upon the year four rates specified by said law and to be made an Appendix to a successor Agreement.

Section III. Part-Time or Seasonal Employees

The following part-time or seasonal positions and job titles are hereby authorized and assigned the following pay maximums commencing January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021:

| Position of Job Title             | Basis      | 2020                                                           | 2021                                                           |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Armed Court Attendant             | Hourly     | \$26.05                                                        | \$26.57                                                        |
| Emergency Medical Technician      | Hourly     | \$23.05                                                        | \$23.51                                                        |
| Firefighter                       | Hourly     | \$18.89                                                        | \$19.27                                                        |
| Laborer (Seasonal)                | Hourly     | \$12.75                                                        | \$13.01                                                        |
| Life Guard                        | Hourly     | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to \$16.19                          | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to                                  |
| Recreation Aid                    | Hourly     | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to \$36.45                          | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to                                  |
| Recycling Coordinator             | Per Annum  | \$8,576                                                        | \$8,748                                                        |
| Fire Crew Coordinator             | Per Annum  | \$4,415                                                        | \$4,503                                                        |
| School Traffic Guard              | Hourly     | \$18.11                                                        | \$18.47                                                        |
| Secretary/Board & Committee       | Per Annum* | \$1,800.00                                                     | \$1,800.00                                                     |
| Tax Search Officer                | Per Annum  | \$12,024                                                       | \$12,264                                                       |
| Zoning Officer                    | Per Annum  | \$5,594                                                        | \$5,706                                                        |
| Affordable Housing Liaison        | Per Annum  | 5,000                                                          | \$6,000                                                        |
| Affordable Housing Resale         | Per        | \$100                                                          | \$100                                                          |
| Fire Department Liaison           | Hourly     | \$25.00                                                        | \$25.00                                                        |
| Deputy Registrar Vital Statistics | Per Annum  | \$2,500                                                        | \$2,500                                                        |
| Municipal Court Attende           | Hourly     | \$23.37                                                        | \$23.84                                                        |
| SLEO Class III                    | Hourly     | \$28.50                                                        | \$29.07                                                        |
| Park Attendant                    | Hourly     | \$15.56                                                        | \$15.87                                                        |
| Security Guard                    | Hourly     |                                                                | \$25.00                                                        |
| Emergency Response Specialist     | Hourly     |                                                                | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to \$50.00                          |
| All Others                        | Hourly     | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to Step1 In<br>Applicable Job Title | Federal Minimum<br>Wage up to Step1 In<br>Applicable Job Title |

\* Denotes title paid monthly. All other titles bi-weekly.

Section IV. Eligibility

The ranges in Section II of this ordinance shall pertain to individuals employed by the Township of Lawrence on or after the effective date of this ordinance.

Section V. Longevity

- A. Each employee hired before January 1, 2013 and covered by this agreement shall in addition to his/her regular wages and benefits, be paid longevity based upon years of service as of December 31, 2013 with the Township in accordance with

the following amounts. Said amounts to be paid to an employee shall not be adjusted beyond the longevity amount being received by an eligible employee as of December 31, 2013. Longevity shall be pensionable and included as part of the employee's regular pay. Any employee hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall not be eligible to receive longevity pay at any time in the future.

Length of Service

|                                                     |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Beginning in year 8 through year 11                 | \$ 800  |
| Beginning the 12 <sup>th</sup> year through year 15 | \$1,100 |
| Beginning the 16 <sup>th</sup> year through year 19 | \$1,400 |
| Beginning the 20 <sup>th</sup> year through year 23 | \$1,700 |
| Beginning the 24 <sup>th</sup> year through year 27 | \$2,000 |
| Beginning the 28 <sup>th</sup> year and beyond      | \$2,300 |

Section VI. Other Personnel and Working Conditions

All other functions, responsibilities and rights not specifically enumerated in prior sections of this ordinance shall be judged to be within the province of management, subject only to the laws, rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Personnel, the provisions contained in applicable agreements (if any) or policy manuals, and by the issuance of Administrative Directives by the Municipal Manager.

Section VII. Repealer

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances adopted prior to the date of this ordinance that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed insofar as they relate to or concern the job classifications, salaries and benefits listed in this ordinance.

Section VIII. 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 IX. Effective Date

- A. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final adoption as provided by law.
- B. All salary or compensation provided for and by this ordinance shall be effective the first day of January.

Adopted: December 21, 2021

Additions are underlined \_\_\_\_\_

Deletions are [ ]

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 submitted invoice listings for the month December 2021.

Mr. Nerwinski stated at the last meeting he reported that the Municipal Prosecutor, Alfred Vucolo, is retiring and the need for a new prosecutor to be appointed by January 1, 2022. He advised that the position is an appointment of the Municipal Manager and they have had some candidates who expressed interest. And, in reviewing their qualifications, he has narrowed it down to two qualified individuals. They are now going through the vetting process at this point in time, and he will share the information with the Council prior to the appointment. So, they will be in a position to move forward with the appointment on January 1, 2022.

Mr. Nerwinski stated in reference to the Harney’s Corner, Brenda Kraemer, Assistant Engineer, was sitting in a meeting and excited about this project when somebody at the meeting gave claim to the State for the project. She became upset and asked that this project be immediately put on the Agenda as this was the Township’s project.

Mr. Nerwinski advised that the Harney's Corner Sidewalk Extension Project was initiated by Mayor Kownacki who expressed concerns of the inability for pedestrians to walk along that corridor and through the Engineering Department they were able to get the grant to pay for the project that is now complete and they now have a safer area for people to walk. He further reported that the new owner of the Autobody Shop at Harney's Corner immediately refinished and painted his shop located on the corner. And, he thinks there is more to be done in that area; but, the work that has been done is a much-needed improvement. Mayor Kownacki noted that the Township did not have one complaint from any residents regarding that project as they were all happy to see it get done.

Mr. Nerwinski stated it has been two years since Mayor Kownacki was appointed to serve as the Mayor and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with him. He is a man that says few words but the words he does say are meaningful, as he says what he means and means what he says, and that is really important in their job in working together. He stated it has been an honor and thanked him for his service.

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#### **Attorney's Report –**

Mr. Roskos stated he wants to give applause to Brenda Kraemer in the Engineering Department, and indicated they had temporary easements that had to be executed by the residents and Ms. Kraemer must have done a fabulous job because nobody called or questioned it...everybody signed up and got the work done which was nice to see.

Mr. Roskos reported that the Township's Housing Project on Texas Avenue received an award of 9 percent tax credits. So, he assumes the project will be moving forward.

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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) –**

There was no public participation.

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**Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 380-21 (18-C.1) through 393-21 (18-H.9) 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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**Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –**

Councilwoman Lewis stated she has the pleasure tonight of thanking one of her colleagues on Council and she always enjoys thanking all of her colleagues because she thinks they have great team. But, this colleague who received a phone call one night asking him to put his name in to serve on Council but was told he is not really going to be on Council this time, just put your name in to get the ball rolling, and has since served two years as Mayor and has continued to work on Council. And, she is happy to have a partner on Council to work with on so many things and it gives her great honor to present Councilman Bobbitt with a plaque thanking him for his dedicated service.

Councilman Powers stated he can remember two years ago when Mayor Kownacki took over on January 1, 2020 and his biggest concern was revitalizing the Lawrence Shopping Center and nobody could have imagined what was going to happen in the next couple of months. And, he can remember when Mr. Nerwinski and the Health Officer came before members of Council to inform them of the first positive Covid case in Lawrence Township which was a very powerful moment for the Mayor Kownacki to lead them through a period where there was no game plan and navigate them through that process. He also acknowledged Mayor Kownacki’s efforts in helping to bring the Harney’s

Corner Sidewalk Improvement Project to fruition and for his dedication to the Veterans and Military Service which is near and dear to his heart. Also, the pride he has shown when taking them on a tour of the new Museum at the National Guard Armory, the pride he shown at Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the cleanup in front of Town Hall to honor the World War I Veterans. He indicated that is Mayor Kownacki which the military and veterans owe a debt of gratitude and he knows he cannot say 'Semper Fi' to him... but on behalf of the military 'Semper Fi'. He then presented him with a plaque thanking him for his dedicated service.

Councilman Bobbitt stated it has been a real pleasure working with Mayor Kownacki and as a member of Council one of things he likes about serving on Lawrence Township on Council is that they have a really good team. From the Municipal Manager down to the laborers that cut the grass, everyone pitches in to help one another doing whatever it takes to make the Township work which makes the Council's job so much easier and stated it is an honor to work with all of them.

Mayor Kownacki stated it has been a tough two years, but with the help of the Council he got through it. They had his back when he was down, and they had his back today and he cannot thank them enough.

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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.

6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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James S. Kownacki, Mayor