

REGULAR MEETING
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – UPPER LEVEL

April 7, 2026

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Bobbitt stated that Dr. Martin Luther King has greatly influenced him in his life of service, and April 4, 2026 marks the anniversary of his assassination. He shared the following excerpt from his speech, *A Proper Sense of Priorities*, "Ultimately a genuine leader is not a searcher of consensus but a molder of consensus. On some positions cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience asks the question, is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor Bobbitt read the following statement of proper notice:

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE: "Adequate notice of this meeting of the Lawrence Township Council being held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 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 12, 2025.

The roll was then called as follows:

Present: Councilmembers Farmer, Giglio, Kownacki, Santos and Mayor Bobbitt.
Absent: None.

Also in attendance were Kevin Nerwinski, Esq., Municipal Manager, Arthur Sypek, Esq., Municipal Attorney.

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

Mayor Bobbitt read into record the 2026 Arbor Day Proclamation:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our Township increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor of the Township of Lawrence, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2026 as

Arbor Day

in the Township of Lawrence and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

Dated: April 7, 2026

Public Participation

Mayor Bobbitt read into record the following statement:

The focus of the Public Comment Period is for members of the public to inform the Governing Body of their views. This time is an opportunity for Township Council to listen with care to the public and to consider what we hear in our deliberations. It is not a time for back-and-forth dialogue, as that can be difficult for us to give accurate responses to

critical and complex issues on the spot. Rather, one can call or email members of Council, Manager or Clerk for additional information or response to an issue.

Mayor Bobbitt also read two excerpts from the Lawrence Township Administrative Code regarding the manner in addressing Council:

A person may address the Council upon recognition by the Chair. The person addressing Council shall write down their name and address on the sign-up sheet, step up to the microphone and give their name in an audible tone of voice, for the record, and shall have the right to address the Council for the amount of time designated by the Chair. No person having the floor shall be permitted to enter into discussion, either directly, or through a member of Council, without permission of the Chair. No question shall be asked of Councilperson except through the Chair. Also, decorum at Council meetings: any person making any impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous while addressing Council shall forthwith be barred from further audience before Council by the presiding officer unless permission to continue or again address the Council is granted by the majority vote of Council.

Mr. John Gregg stated that he was surprised when he entered the Township building to see Ordinance number 2508-26 posted on the bulletin board. Although this is appropriate, he explained that when he searched online, he did not see the full Ordinance posted on the Township website. He admitted that he may have missed the posting, but suggested that if it was not placed on the website then it should be, for transparency purposes. Mr. Gregg also wished to discuss the *Statement of Proper Notice*, as he stated that it has been bothering him for a number of meetings. He explained that by the Township stating, "Said Notice was forwarded to The Trentonian, The Times and The Princeton Packet on December 12, 2025" the Township is trying to convey that proper notice was given according to the Open Public Meeting Act of New Jersey. However, he relayed that, in addition to the fact that the Trenton Times ceased publication in 2025, a series of three laws relating to the Open Public Meeting Act have been passed, and it is his contention that they are not being followed by the Township. In addition to suggesting that the Township's website be compliant with the new law, Mr. Gregg also proposed the Township send both outbound mail and emails to residents related to meeting information and various Township issues. Finally, Mr. Gregg asked several tax exemption questions relating to various charitable organizations within Lawrence Township.

Discussion was had between Mayor Bobbitt and Municipal Attorney, Arthur Sypek, with respect to not having a quick answer to address the *Statement of Proper Notice* issue this evening, but being able to providing an answer at a later date after researching the issue.

Ms. Jennifer Knill stated that she is present tonight regarding the Ordinance for acquisition of the private property located at 840 Pretty Brook Road. Last summer, she indicated, she and her husband received what was perceived to be a threatening letter from the Township whereby an offer of ten thousand dollars was made to acquire her land. Ms. Knill explained that they have spent more than ten thousand dollars to maintain

their property, including clearing the fields and installing a brand-new split rail fence with a gate that swings out toward the proposed path. She relayed that the Township has not discussed the issue of the gate or the legal ramifications if someone is struck by the gate as they are walking or cycling down the path. Ms. Knill reported that her attorney has been waiting six months for a response from the Township to discuss both a fair appraisal and the issue of the gate.

Mr. Sypek stated that this pertains to a litigation matter involving Mr. Kevin Van Hise, Esq., Special Counsel for Affordable Housing. Because of this, the Township is unable to provide an answer; however, Mr. Sypek stated he will notify Mr. Van Hise and request that he contact Ms. Knill's attorney.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

Mr. Nerwinski recommended that the agenda be amended to table Ordinance No. 2508-26 (11-B) AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE IN MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 840 PRETTY BROOK ROAD (BLOCK 7801, LOTS 33, 34 AND 35) FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES in order to provide time for Mr. Van Hise to contact Ms. Knill's attorney. Mayor Bobbitt agreed with Mr. Nerwinski's recommendation, stating that he believes this is the right thing to do.

Further discussion was had regarding the fact that there were two previous public presentations pertaining to this issue and, for the benefit of the new Councilmembers, another presentation will be scheduled with the Municipal Engineer, and notice will be sent to the affected property owners as well.

On a motion by Councilwoman Santos, seconded by Councilwoman Farmer, Ordinance No. 2508-26 (11-B) was moved to **table** on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Councilmembers Farmer, Giglio, Kownacki, Santos and Mayor Bobbitt.
Nays:	None.
Absent:	None.
Abstain:	None.

Mr. Nerwinski informed Council that he provided them with information related to Resolution No. 153-26 (18-H.2) *Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Execute a Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement with the AFSCME NJ Council 63, Local 2476, for the Period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029*. If Council is comfortable with the information provided, he explained, then this Resolution can be voted upon in a bloc with the others, and "Labor Negotiations" can be removed from discussion in Closed Session under Resolution 159-26 (18-H.8). The alternative, he explained, is to pull Resolution No. 153-26 (18-H.2) out from the voting bloc, discuss any concerns in Closed Session, and then come back into Regular Session to vote.

After some discussion, through an informal vote, it was decided that Resolution No. 153-26 (18-H.2) *Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Execute a Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement with the AFSCME NJ Council 63, Local 2476, for the Period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029* would be held and voted upon after being discussed in Closed Session.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2026 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Farmer	X						X
Ms. Giglio	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Santos	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2026 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL       | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Ms. Farmer    | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Ms. Giglio    | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Mr. Kownacki  | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Santos    | X   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Mayor Bobbitt | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of December 2, 2025 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Farmer	X						X
Ms. Giglio					X		
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Santos	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of December 16, 2025 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

| COUNCIL       | AYE | NAY | PRESENT | ABSENT | ABSTAIN | MOVE | SECOND |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Ms. Farmer    | X   |     |         |        |         |      | X      |
| Ms. Giglio    |     |     |         |        | X       |      |        |
| Mr. Kownacki  | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |
| Ms. Santos    |     |     |         |        | X       | X    |        |
| Mayor Bobbitt | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of January 20, 2026 were approved without corrections on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Farmer	X						X
Ms. Giglio					X		
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Santos	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no awarding or rejecting of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

There was no introduction of ordinances.

Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF MERCER (NJSA 40a:4-45.14)."

Mr. Nerwinski explained that when a township adopts this type of ordinance, it is creating a bank of unused cap authority that may be used, if needed, for the next two budget years. By determining that it is prudent to increase the 2026 budget by up to 3.5%

over the previous year's final appropriations, we are creating a bank of \$421,990.02. This is NOT an increase in spending or taxation, but a device that allows the Township to plan for the next two years and have safeguards in place.

Ordinance No. 2507-26

CALENDAR YEAR 2026

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND
TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, COUNTY OF
MERCER (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2026 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$421,990.02 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2026 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Lawrence shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$421,990.02, and that the CY 2026 municipal budget for the Township of Lawrence be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Introduced: March 17, 2026

Mr. Sam Baldeo asked if the CAP account will be placed in an interest-bearing account.

Mr. Nerwinski responded that this is not money. It is an amount of money, but not "real" money.

The Ordinance No. 2506-26 was approved on the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Farmer	X						X
Ms. Giglio	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Santos	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

Manager's Report –

Mr. Nerwinski wished to update Council on the status of the Bull Run Road and Federal City Road roundabout and the Federal City Road and Federal Point traffic signal. He explained that Ewing Township has taken the lead in applying for the 2026 grant in the amount of \$800,000.00, which matches the grant of \$800,000.00 that was awarded in 2025. Mr. Nerwinski reported positive feedback from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), stating that it is highly likely that Ewing will secure funding for the upcoming roundabout and traffic light installations. He remarked that the three towns have partnered to enhance Federal City Road safety, which directly benefits Lawrence Township residents, as there will be a traffic light and an extra left-hand turn lane for those entering and exiting the *Traditions* development at Federal Point. Mr. Nerwinski indicated that Lawrence Township has addressed NJDOT feedback on the submitted design plans, bringing their portion of the project close to completion, and hopes to have substantial progress toward the light installation by the end of this year.

Mr. Nerwinski also wished to discuss issues relating to the Lawrence Shopping Center. He recounted that Mr. Charlie Micciche, the young man who attended the March 3, 2026 Council meeting to express concerns about pollution at the Lawrence Shopping Center, has posted related content on social media and, additionally, has been standing

on Brunswick Pike with signs indicating there is a gas leak in the area. In response, Mr. Nerwinski sent the Lawrence Township Public Safety Director, along with the Fire Chief and PSE&G to the site in order to perform an investigation, and they determined that there is no gas leak. He reported that both the Township-owned portion of land along the creek and the Lawrence Shopping Center property have been cleared, but cautioned that illegal dumping is ongoing and the area cannot be monitored around the clock. In addition, the State wildlife officials have indicated that the illegally-dumped deer carcasses are in such an advanced state of decay that there is no reason to remove them, and they present no health or safety risk to the public. Mr. Nerwinski felt that this warranted mentioning as there has been interest by the public on social media, and he assured Council that the Township is being responsive to the problem.

Attorney's Report –

There was no attorney's report.

Clerk's Report –

Municipal Clerk, Tonya Carter, reported that she provided Council with Boards and Committee information for their review, and requested that they let her know by April 15th if they would like to make any appointments

Ms. Carter also stated that she is well aware of the Public Notice law, and indicated that there is a Public Notice section on the Lawrence Township website where an abundance of information can be found, including Ordinances, Minutes, Resolutions, Legal Notices, Advertisements, etc. In addition, pertaining to the Statement of Proper Notice, the Lawrence Township Annual Meeting Notice is distributed to The Times, The Trentonian and The Princeton Packet and advertised in the Trentonian as well as posted on the Township website and on the Town Hall bulletin board. She maintained that it is not the Township's job to individually contact every member of the public and ask them to find interest in what is transpiring in their town; it is the job of the individual to seek out the information that the Township readily provides. Ms. Carter suggested that if she is not in compliance with the law, she will have that discussion with Mr. Sypek, but encouraged everyone to peruse the Public Notice section of the Township website where a wealth of information can be found.

Unfinished Business –

Mr. Nerwinski read the following statement into record, regarding the Recreation Department relocation and Operational Restructuring:

I would like to take a few minutes this evening to explain the process, reasoning, and operational benefits behind the decision to relocate the Recreation Department administrative offices to the Senior Center, as well as the related organizational adjustments.

This decision is part of a broader operational strategy—specifically, our continued efforts to address longstanding challenges associated with the Department of Public Works currently located at the Baker Basin facility.

The Baker Basin facility remains vulnerable to flooding. Over time, significant staff resources have been devoted to preparing for potential flood events—often with uncertain outcomes—to maintain continuity of this critical, resident-facing function. This has created both operational inefficiencies and ongoing risk to our ability to serve the public reliably.

We have explored multiple alternatives to address this situation. A prior proposal to relocate these administrative functions to a property at the corner of West Long Drive and Lawrence Road was discontinued following public opposition. Another concept—relocating the Recreation Department to the former Lawrence Neighborhood Center and moving Public Works administrative functions into the Municipal Building—was also considered but ultimately not advanced due to public opposition. Providing our residents with the ability to conduct Public Works business at the Municipal building, rather than traveling to the Baker Basin Road facility, would be an obvious service benefit.

To be clear, my focus has always been on relocating only the Public Works administrative offices—the office that maintains public records and interfaces directly with our residents for services, requests, and inquiries. This does not involve relocating Public Works operations, equipment, or field personnel.

When Ms. LaSalle informed us of her intent to retire months ago, Ms. Bergen identified a potential solution to relocate Recreation's administrative offices to the Senior Center. She recognized that this approach would not only help address the Public Works administrative office issue but also provide a direct benefit to her department by improving staffing coverage and enhancing programming opportunities at the Senior Center. As you know, Ms. Bergen, as the Superintendent of Recreation, has administrative oversight and supervision of the Senior Center and its programming, and under our Code, this includes the Office on Aging.

Seeing a win-win situation, I requested Ms. Bergen and Public Works Director, Greg Whitehead, to conduct a thorough assessment of the Senior Center to determine whether it could accommodate the Recreation Department's administrative functions. They concluded it could.

Importantly, I want to be absolutely clear on this point: there has never been any plan to introduce youth recreational programming into the Senior Center or to alter the

facility's core purpose. The Senior Center will remain dedicated to serving our senior population.

From an operational standpoint, this relocation presents several meaningful advantages.

First, it enhances service delivery at the Senior Center. In recent years, the Center has required supplemental staffing support from Recreation personnel based at the Municipal Building—particularly during staff absences or periods of increased demand. By centralizing on-site Recreation staff, we eliminate these gaps and ensure consistent staffing, supervision, and responsiveness for our senior residents.

Second, this restructuring allows us to align staff responsibilities more efficiently. We have determined that maintaining a standalone full-time Executive Director role, as defined under New Jersey Civil Service classifications, is no longer necessary. The Township Code provides for a Director position, and the operational responsibilities historically associated with the Executive Director title can be effectively distributed among existing supervisory personnel. To maintain consistency with our organizational structure and our Code, Ms. Bergen will assume the title of Director, while the historical duties of the Executive Director (a New Jersey Civil Service position) will be assigned to and among various staff. This aligns with our Code and does not present civil service issues.

At the same time, this transition creates an important opportunity for succession planning. I intend to promote a long-time Recreation Department employee who has consistently demonstrated professionalism, leadership, and value to the department into a supervisory role. This is both a well-deserved advancement and a strategic decision relating to succession planning. Retaining quality employees is critical to the success of any organization.

Additionally, Ms. Bergen is actively hiring for a Recreation Leader position to further strengthen staffing capacity and support enhanced programming at the Senior Center.

Taken together, these decisions are guided by several key objectives:

- Improving service delivery—both at the Senior Center and for residents who rely on Public Works administrative services.*
- Addressing longstanding operational challenges associated with a flood-prone administrative facility and providing residents with a more convenient location to do business with the Public Works Department.*
- Enhancing programming and support for our senior population.*
- Retaining and promoting talented employees.*
- Implementing thoughtful and responsible succession planning.*

I am confident that this approach results in a net positive for both the Senior Center and the Township as a whole.

To reiterate: The Senior Center will remain a facility dedicated to our senior residents. This initiative is intended to strengthen operations and improve service—not to diminish or change the Center's purpose.

Councilwoman Bonnie Giglio wished to address an issue that was brought to light at the March 17th Council meeting with regard to public notifications. She suggested that the Township hold public "town hall" style meetings regarding major issues that are affecting the Town, as Council needs to hear as many voices on these issues as possible. Ms. Giglio proposed that two Councilmembers attend these meetings and report back to the Governing Body at the following Council meeting. She believes having more voices heard on important issues, in a more relaxed environment and beyond the five-minute public participation limit, will help resolve the issues surrounding public notification.

Further discussion was had regarding finding information on "The Latest in Lawrence" newsletter, having a dedicated space in the newsletter for noticing the public with a brief description and link to direct them to the Township website, making a concerted effort to identifying resident concerns as quickly as possible, researching information on how to hold town hall meetings in a legally permissible fashion, and the fact that mass mailings would be extremely costly and not an effective way to advertise.

Old Business/New Business –

There was no old business/new business.

Public Participation (3-minute limitation per speaker) –

Ms. Sylwia Kobus shared that she is very glad to see that the Township is installing new trails in many different areas of the community; however, she is once again requesting that her Colonial Heights neighborhood receive this benefit as well. She identified several key areas in her neighborhood where trails could possibly be installed. Ms. Kobus also made several points pertaining to public notice, such as the fact that there is much information that can be found on the Township website, that Master Plan information was sent through the mail along with the tax bills, and, lastly, that Ms. Beth McManus, Planning Consultant for the Lawrence Township Planning Board, distributed a survey to the Township's 34,000 residents and received only 800 responses in return. Finally, Ms. Kobus repeated the popular idiom, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."

Ms. Kathleen Norcia wished to make Council aware that Lawrence Township resident, Mr. Jamie Ding, has had seventeen consecutive wins on the television game-show, *Jeopardy*, and is going for number eighteen tonight. She suggested that the Township recognize Mr. Ding in some way as he has brought national attention to Lawrence Township.

Mr. John Gregg stated he would like to address a few of the items that Ms. Carter noted. First, he expressed that he is familiar with "every corner" of the Lawrence Township website, including eCode 360, but claims that it is still not compliant with the new law. Mr. Gregg relayed that the law requires the information to be prominently displayed in one place on the opening page of the website. He believes the current website is very compartmentalized and needs additional work to link things together. Mr. Gregg also disagrees with the Township's contention that notice was forwarded to The Times and Princeton Packet, as well as the Trentonian, but feels the point is now moot with regard to changes in the law pertaining to advertising.

Mayor Bobbitt thanked Mr. Gregg and asked him to email his concerns to either himself, the Municipal Attorney or the Municipal Clerk, to which Mr. Gregg agreed.

Further discussion was had regarding the Municipal Clerk and Municipal Attorney having a familiarity with the new law due to their training and certifications, possible misinformation by Mr. Gregg pertaining to the requirements of the law, and the fact that Mr. Sypek will update Council regarding the Township's compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Ms. Kathleen Norcia informed Council that Mr. Ding has just completed his eighteenth consecutive *Jeopardy* win.

Resolutions

Resolution Nos. 146-26 (18-B.1) through Nos. 152-26 (18-H.1), and Nos. 154-26 (18-H.3) through Nos. 159-26 (18-H.8) were approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Farmer	X						X
Ms. Giglio	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Santos	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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

Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Ms. Farmer relayed that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) will have a community roundtable on Thursday, April 16th at Town Hall in the lower level chambers from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Topics to be discussed will be immigration equity and building trust in our community.

Ms. Farmer shared that the Trails and Open Space Stewardship Advisory Committee would like to have a discussion with Council regarding the three top priorities that they discussed at the January 20th Council meeting.

Mr. Nerwinski stated that the Lawrence Township Zoning Department consists of two Engineers who are focused on overseeing current projects through to completion. They have received Mr. Mizenko's report and understand what is being asked, and when the opportunity arises where it is deemed appropriate, then these issues will be addressed.

Ms. Farmer stated that the Committee can also look into the comment that was made during public participation regarding wanting to see additional trails in their neighborhood.

Further discussion was had regarding the Brunswick Avenue pedestrian bridge at Colonial Lake being a part of the Township's plan, and the ongoing search for grants to help fund the project.

Ms. Farmer discussed that the Historic Preservation Committee has not yet met, but will be meeting shortly.

Mr. Kownacki relayed that, per last week's Recreation Advisory Committee meeting, Baseball season will begin on Saturday, April 11, 2026 with a parade beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the kickoff starting at 9:00 a.m. He noted that on May 15, 2026, the committee will host an "Old Timer's Game" with athletes who will play the game in uniform, but without the use of gloves, as baseball mitts were not originally in use in the 1800's.

Written Communications –

Mayor Bobbitt advised that Lawrence Non-Profit Housing, Inc. will be providing a brief presentation at the April 21, 2026 Council meeting regarding their Strategic Plan and goals to promote affordable housing for all Township residents.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tonya D. Carter, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor

Re-Opening of the Regular Meeting of Council:

8:44 p.m.

After the Closed Session, the following matter was voted upon:

Mayor Bobbitt stated that Mr. Nerwinski informed Council about the matter of Labor Negotiations in Closed Session, so Council is now prepared to take a vote.

On a motion by Councilwoman Santos, seconded by Councilwoman Farmer, Resolution No. 153-26 (18-H.2) Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Execute a Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement with the AFSCME NJ Council 63, Local 2476, for the Period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029 was approved by the following roll call vote:

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Ms. Farmer	X						X
Ms. Giglio	X						
Mr. Kownacki	X						
Ms. Santos	X					X	
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tonya D. Carter, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor