

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

May 5, 2026

The following are the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Lawrence Township Council that was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Bobbitt asked for a moment of silence on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth "Betty" Leedom, former Lawrence Township Recreation Department Administrator. He revealed that she was a longtime resident of Lawrence Township, an active member of various community organizations, and a 2022 inductee into the Lawrence Township Hall of Fame. Mr. Bobbitt shared that Ms. Leedom played an active role in bringing girls' softball to Lawrence Township, and in recognition of her dedication, "Betty Leedom Field" at Villiage Park was named in her honor.

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, May 5, 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 and Mayor Bobbitt.
Absent: Councilwoman Santos.

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

Special Proclamations, Recognitions and Presentations

There were no proclamations, recognitions and presentations.

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 any 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.

Seeing no public comment, Mayor Bobbitt closed public comment on Public Participation.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

Municipal Manager, Mr. Kevin Nerwinski, stated that he sent Council information last week pertaining to Union Negotiations and the Bargaining Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding for their review. He explained that if Council has no need for discussion regarding these matters, then the item *Union Negotiations* can be removed from Resolution No. 181-26 (18-H.6).

Mayor Bobbitt asked if there would still be a need for Executive Session for other items under Resolution No. 181-26 (18H.6), to which Mr. Nerwinski and Municipal Attorney, Arthur Sypek, Jr., both responded no. Per discussion, Resolution No. 181-26 (18H.6) was removed from the Agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Councilman James Kownacki, seconded by Councilwoman Patricia Farmer, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 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					X	
Ms. Santos				X			
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

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On a motion by Mr. Kownacki, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Closed 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   |     |         |        |         | X    |        |
| Ms. Santos    |     |     |         | X      |         |      |        |
| Mayor Bobbitt | X   |     |         |        |         |      |        |

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On a motion by Mr. Kownacki, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Closed Meeting of April 7, 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					X	
Ms. Santos				X			
Mayor Bobbitt	X						

Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

There was no awarding or rejecting of bids.

Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,930,325.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL

IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY."

Mr. Nerwinski stated that this ordinance allows the Township to use approximately \$1.9 million from the Township's Capital Improvement Fund—essentially the Town's savings for major projects—to pay for various infrastructure and equipment improvements. It does not involve new debt or additional taxes. Rather, it uses funds that have already been set aside (as previously authorized by the governing body) for these purposes.

The Ordinance No. 2515-26 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (MILL AND OVERLAY INCLUDING ALL WORK AND MATERIALS) IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,430,000 IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS".

Mr. Nerwinski stated that this is a part of the Township's road improvement program, and does not involve new debt or additional taxes. Rather, it uses funds that have already been set aside (as previously authorized by the governing body) for these purposes.

The Ordinance No. 2516-26 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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### **Adoption of Ordinances**

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2503-26 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2026-2029 – Annual Increase, Deleting Stipend for Fire

Department Liaison and Adding Title Assistant Superintendent of Public Works to Grade 12."

Mr. Nerwinski explained that this is a housekeeping item amending the Ordinance to provide for 2026-2029 Cost of Living adjustment.

Ordinance No. 2509-26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2503-26 SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE – UNCLASSIFIED AND/OR EXEMPT, SEASONAL, EMERGENCY (NON-UNION) EMPLOYEES FOR 2026-2029

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 2026-2029."

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 2026-2029, 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, 2026, January 1, 2027, January 1, 2028, and January 1, 2029:

| Position of Job Title                      | Basis       | 2026                               | 2027                               | 2028                               | 2029                               |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Armed Court Attendant                      | Hourly      | \$30.03                            | \$31.00                            | \$32.10                            | \$32.89                            |
| Emergency Medical Technician               | Hourly      | \$26.58                            | \$27.44                            | \$28.33                            | \$29.11                            |
| Firefighter                                | Hourly      | \$21.79                            | \$22.49                            | \$23.23                            | \$23.86                            |
| Laborer (Seasonal)                         | Hourly      | \$19.90                            | \$20.55                            | \$21.21                            | \$21.80                            |
| Life Guard                                 | Hourly      | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$30.00 | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$35.00 | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$40.00 | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$45.00 |
| Recreation Aide                            | Hourly      | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$42.02 | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$43.39 | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$44.80 | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$46.03 |
| Recycling Coordinator                      | Per Annum   | \$9,887                            | \$10,209                           | \$10,540                           | \$10,830                           |
| School Traffic Guard                       | Hourly      | \$20.88                            | \$21.55                            | \$22.25                            | \$22.87                            |
| Secretary/Board & Committee                | Per Annum*  | \$1,800.00                         | \$1,800.00                         | \$1,800.00                         | \$1,800.00                         |
| Tax Search Officer                         | Per Annum   | \$13,862                           | \$14,312                           | \$14,777                           | \$15,184                           |
| Zoning Officer                             | Per Annum   | \$6,448                            | \$6,658                            | \$6,874                            | \$7,063                            |
| Assistant Director of Public Works-On Call | Per Annum   | \$6,000                            | \$6,000                            | \$6,000                            | \$6,000                            |
| Affordable Housing                         | Per Annum   | \$6,781                            | \$7,002                            | \$7,229                            | \$7,428                            |
| Affordable Housing Resale Representative   | Per Showing | \$100                              | \$100                              | \$100                              | \$100                              |

|                                                  |           |                                                           |                                                           |                                                           |                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| [Fire Department Liaison]                        | [Hourly]  |                                                           |                                                           |                                                           |                                                           |
| Deputy Registrar Vital                           | Per Annum | \$2,500                                                   | \$2,500                                                   | \$2,500                                                   | \$2,500                                                   |
| Municipal Court Attendee                         | Hourly    | \$26.94                                                   | \$27.82                                                   | \$28.72                                                   | \$29.51                                                   |
| SLEO Class III                                   | Hourly    | \$38.96                                                   | \$40.22                                                   | \$41.53                                                   | \$42.67                                                   |
| Park Attendant                                   | Hourly    | \$17.94                                                   | \$18.52                                                   | \$19.12                                                   | \$19.65                                                   |
| Security Guard                                   | Hourly    | \$27.05                                                   | \$27.93                                                   | \$28.84                                                   | \$29.64                                                   |
| Records Management                               | Per Annum | \$2,000                                                   | \$2,000                                                   | \$2,000                                                   | \$2,000                                                   |
| Grant Coordinator                                | Per Annum |                                                           | \$3,000                                                   | \$3,000                                                   | \$3,000                                                   |
| Emergency Response Specialist                    | Hourly    | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$50.00 per                    | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$50.00 per hour               | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$50.00 per hour               | Federal Minimum Wage up to \$50.00 per                    |
| Volunteer Incentive Plan (VIP) Uniform Allowance | Per Call  | Minimum \$2.00 up to a Maximum of \$100.00                | Minimum \$2.00 up to a Maximum of \$100.00                | Minimum \$2.00 up to a Maximum of \$100.00                | Minimum \$2.00 up to a Maximum of \$100.00                |
| Volunteer Deputy Fire Chief                      | Per Annum | \$2,500.00                                                | \$2,500.00                                                | \$2,500.00                                                | \$2,500.00                                                |
| ADA Compliance Officer                           | Per Annum | \$5,175                                                   | \$5,343                                                   | \$5,517                                                   | \$5,669                                                   |
| All Others                                       | Hourly    | Federal Minimum Wage up to Step 1 In Applicable Job Title | Federal Minimum Wage up to Step 1 In Applicable Job Title | Federal Minimum Wage up to Step 1 In Applicable Job Title | Federal Minimum Wage up to Step 1 In Applicable Job Title |

\* Denotes title paid monthly. All other titles are 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 twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption.
- B. All salary or compensation provided for and by this ordinance shall be effective the first day of January.

Adopted: May 5, 2026

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

Deletions are [ ]

The Ordinance No. 2509-26 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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### Manager's Report –

There was no manager's report.

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### Attorney's Report –

There was no attorney's report.

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### Clerk's Report –

Municipal Clerk, Tonya Carter, reported that financial disclosures were distributed on April 1<sup>st</sup>, with a deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>. She relayed that the Local Finance Board will start imposing fines on June 10<sup>th</sup> ranging from one hundred to five hundred dollars.

Ms. Carter stated that she has given Council two board applications; one application for the Health Advisory Board and the other for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. She requested that they let her know when they would like to make the appointments.

Ms. Carter informed Council that there will be an Election Meeting sponsored by the County that will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2026. She stated that the following are upcoming Election dates that she would like to share with Council: **May 12, 2026** - Deadline to register to vote, **May 26 through May 31<sup>st</sup>** - Early Voting period, **April 20, 2026** - Ballot box officially opened for Vote By Mail votes, **May 29, 2026** - Deadline for Vote By Mail ballots for the Primary Election, **May 31, 2026** - County will have extended hours for those who would like to apply for a Vote By Mail ballot, **June 2, 2026** - Primary

Election Day, and finally, **June 2, 2026** - Nominating Petitions for Independent candidates must be filed by 4:00 p.m. with the Mercer County Clerk.

Ms. Carter shared that Councilwoman Giglio would like to present two proclamations—one pertaining to National Gun Violence Awareness for 2026 to be presented in June, and the other to congratulate Lawrence Township resident Jaime Ding on his 31-game winning streak on the Jeopardy television game show. She explained that if Council agrees, it will be prepared for the next Council meeting. All present were in favor of the proclamations.

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### **Unfinished Business –**

There was no unfinished business.

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### **Old Business/New Business –**

Mayor Bobbitt stated that Council has recently discussed restructuring the Boards and Committees, so he advised that he will work with Council in June, in conjunction with both Mr. Sypek and Mr. Nerwinski, to revisit the existing committees and figure out how they can be streamlined, or whether they need more or less people.

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

There was no public participation.

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### **Resolutions**

Resolution Nos. 171-26 (18-B.1) through Nos. 180-26 (18-H.5) were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Ms. Farmer wished a "Happy Early Mother's Day" to all of the mothers present tonight, and especially to her fellow Councilwomen and the Municipal Clerk. She also reported that May is *Mental Health Awareness Month*, and stated that #988 is the Suicide Crisis Lifeline number, which is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and provides confidential support for individuals in need within the United States and its territories.

Ms. Giglio reported that the Memorial Day parade will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Bobbitt shared that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee is currently working on the Community Forest Management Plan, and the Environmental and Green Advisory Committee is continuing to study storm water regulations and turf fields.

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**Written Communications –**

There were no written communications.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tonya D. Carter, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor