

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

October 6, 2026

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

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

Mayor Christopher Bobbitt shared that the Lawrence Township High School Class of 1986 will hold their 40th High School Reunion this Saturday. He will prepare a proclamation to announce that Saturday, October 10th, 2026 will be declared "Lawrence High School Class of 1986 Day," and noted that former Councilman, Mike Powers, and current Councilwoman, Patricia Farmer, are proud members of this graduating class.

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, October 6, 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.

Mayor Bobbitt stated that, additionally, notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Lawrence Township website.

The roll was then called as follows:

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

Also in attendance were Christopher Longo, Acting Municipal Manager/Deputy Municipal Manager, and 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 seeking 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:

Chapter 10-22 Manner of Addressing Council: *A person may address the Council upon recognition by the Chair. A person addressing the Council shall write down their name and address on the sign-up sheet, shall step up to the microphone, shall 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 the Council, without permission of the Chair. No question shall be asked of Councilperson except through the Chair.*

Chapter 10-23 Decorum at Council Meetings: *Any person making impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous while addressing the Council shall forthwith be barred from further audience before the Council by the Presiding Officer unless permission to continue or again address the Council be granted by the majority vote of Council.*

Mr. Gary Fityere stated that he had been employed as a crossing guard in Lawrence Township since 2023, prior to his recent resignation. He relayed that he loved his job; however, his company was taken over by "Golden Building Maintenance," and he was unhappy with the changes that were implemented. One change, he explained, was to designate the crossing guards as "private contractors" instead of "Lawrence Township employees." He then explained to Council the differences between the two distinctions, and the adverse impact they had on his job.

Acting Municipal Manager/Deputy Municipal Manager, Christopher Longo, stated that the Township has received several complaints, and Mr. Fityere was not the only crossing guard who was unhappy with the situation. He explained that Captain Joseph Lech of the Lawrence Township Police Department serves as the liaison between the crossing guards and Golden Building Maintenance, and is working to resolve the issue. Mr. Longo praised Mr. Fityere as an asset to the Township and asked whether he would reconsider his resignation, to which Mr. Fityere responded that he would.

Councilwoman Bonnie Giglio stated that she recognized Mr. Fityere, as she and her children would often cross at his intersection, and thanked him for his service to the community.

Mr. Dominick Maisto stated that he is also a crossing guard, and shares Mr. Fityere's concerns. He relayed that promised raises were never given to the employees, and both sick and vacation time were lost in the transition to the new company. Mr. Maisto expressed that he hopes this issue will be resolved, and felt it necessary to come to tonight's Council meeting to voice his concerns.

Review and Revisions of Agenda

Municipal Clerk, Ms. Tonya Carter-Jones, stated that the agenda should be amended to include the addition of Resolution No. 346-26 (18-H.11) regarding a contract for veterinary services.

On a motion by Councilwoman Amanda Santos, seconded by Councilwoman Patricia Farmer, Resolution No. 346-26 (18.H-11) "Authorizing a Contract with Cats Only Veterinary Hospital for Veterinary Services" was added to the agenda.

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

Adoption of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 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 Session Meeting of September 15, 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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### Awarding or Rejecting of Bids

On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, Resolution (9-A) Authorizing Award of Bid 26-15: 2024 NJDOT Trust Fund Improvements Princess Road Connectivity Improvements (Gres Paving Company, Inc.) was presented for adoption.

Mr. Longo, stated that this is a bid award for pedestrian and roadway improvements on Princess Avenue for \$561,313.13. He relayed that five (5) bids were received and the lowest responsible bidder was Gres Paving Company.

#### Resolution No. 321-26

WHEREAS, on Thursday, September 24, 2026 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as Bid 26-15: 2024 NJDOT Trust Fund Improvements Princess Road Connectivity Improvements; and

WHEREAS, five (5) bid were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Gres Paving Company, Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$561,313.13; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged are;

| Acct.           | Ord. No. | Name          | Amount       |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| G-02-41-261-299 | -        | Princess Road | \$561,313.13 |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Engineer, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a contract with Gres Paving Company, Inc., 2475 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08619, in the amount of \$561,313.13; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this contract is awarded pursuant to a fair and open process and is subject to New Jersey Department of Transportation approval;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to draft the necessary agreement, subject to the approval of the Municipal Attorney as to form and content thereof.

Adopted: October 6, 2026

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

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On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, Resolution (9-B) Authorizing Award of Bid 26-16: Lawrence Township Ecological Facility Stormwater Improvements (TC Landscape Construction Group, Inc.) was presented for adoption.

Mr. Longo stated that this is a bid award in the amount of \$133,000.00 for stormwater improvements at the Township Ecological Facility. He relayed that seven (7) bids were received, and the lowest responsible bidder was TC Landscape Construction Group.

Resolution No. 322-26

WHEREAS, on Thursday, September 24, 2026 bids were received and publicly opened for the project known as Bid 26-16: Lawrence Township Ecological Facility Stormwater Improvements; and

WHEREAS, seven (7) bid were received and reviewed by the appropriate Township Officials; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was TC Landscape Construction Group, Inc. who submitted a bid in the amount of \$133,000.0; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:50-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the accounts to be charged are;

Acct.	Ord. No.	Name	Amount
C-04-55-528-250	2516-26	Various Road Improvements	\$100,000.00
C-04-55-526-247	2516-26	Various Road Improvements	\$33,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Engineer, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a contract with TC Landscape Construction Group, Inc., 156 Grand Central Parkway, Bayville, NJ 08721 in the amount of \$133,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to draft the necessary agreement, subject to the approval of the Municipal Attorney as to form and content thereof.

Adopted: October 6, 2026

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

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On a motion by Ms. Santos, seconded by Ms. Farmer, Resolution (9-C) Authorizing Award of Bid 26-17 to RJM Landscape and Design for Snow Plowing Services for the Period of November 1, 2026 through April 15, 2027 was presented for adoption.

Mr. Longo stated that this is a bid award for Snow Plowing Services for the coming winter season, with a total bid amount of \$278.99 per hour, per truck. He relayed that one (1) bid was received by RJM Landscape & Design.

#### Resolution No. 344-26

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, bids were received for Bid No. 26-17 - Snow Plowing Services; and

WHEREAS, one (1) bid was received and reviewed by the Municipal Manager and Director of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was RJM Landscape & Design, who submitted a bid in the amount of \$278.99 per hour per truck; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-14, a Certificate of Availability of Funds has been provided and the account to be charged is:

| Acct.           | Ord. No. | Name                     | Amount      |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 6-16-56-849-299 | -----    | Reserve for Snow Removal | \$17,500.00 |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Lawrence, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to the recommendations of the Municipal Manager and Director of Public Works are hereby authorized to execute a contract with RJM Landscape & Design, 821 Parsonage Hill Dr., Branchburg, NJ 08876 for the period of November 1, 2026 through April 15, 2027 with a contract amount not to exceed \$17,500.00.

Adopted: October 6, 2026

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

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### Introduction of Ordinances

Mayor Bobbitt read by title, an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §§ 104 AND 201 OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE TO DEFINE AND EXPRESSLY PROHIBIT DATA CENTERS IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS."

Ms. Giglio stated that she wrote this Ordinance to define and prohibit the development and operation of data centers in Lawrence Township. She advised that it is not an Ordinance against technology, innovation, artificial intelligence or economic development, but rather to ensure that decisions regarding certain types of extremely intensive land use are appropriate for Lawrence Township. Ms. Giglio explained that data centers can place significant demand on electrical infrastructures, require a substantial amount of water, generate noise and heat, have environmental and land use impacts, and may increase resident utility bills. She believes it is important to have this discussion transparently and carefully, and review the issues through the normal Ordinance process, including review by the Municipal Attorney, Planning Board, and—if appropriate—through public hearing. Finally, Ms. Giglio remarked that Council's goal is to make a thoughtful, legally sound and transparent decision about the future of Lawrence Township.

Municipal Attorney, Arthur Sypek, stated that if it is passed by Council tonight, it will be referred to the Planning Board for their review and comment. He cautioned that it is a controversial issue, and relayed that he has already begun to research the topic to provide Council with further information prior to the next Council meeting.

Ms. Farmer stated that she looks forward to hearing what the Planning Board has to say on the matter, regarding land use, and how this will impact the Township.

The Ordinance No. 2528-26 was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

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## **Adoption of Ordinances**

There was no adoption of ordinances.

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## **Manager's Report –**

Mr. Longo reported that the Fire Study Public Presentation of the Lawrence Township Public Safety Committee took place on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. He explained that the meeting provided information regarding the findings and key recommendations resulting from the Fire Study, and it was very well attended. He stated that the Fire Study is now in the internal review stage, and it is available on the Township Website and social media outlets for anyone who is interested in viewing the document.

Mayor Bobbitt expressed that he thought the meeting went well, and that the Fire Study is definitely worth reading, as it is very detailed with regard to the fire services, the location of the buildings, the EMS needs, and the demographics of the community.

Ms. Farmer stated that she attended the meeting and expressed that it was very well-run and informative. She commended the Public Safety Committee for all of their hard work in presenting a very well-run meeting.

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## **Attorney's Report –**

There was no attorney report.

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## **Clerk's Report –**

Municipal Clerk, Ms. Tonya Carter-Jones, informed Council that "Early Voting" signs have been posted throughout the Municipal Building, and information has been displayed on the Electronic Board, which has been placed in front of Town Hall. She reported several dates to be aware of, such as:

- **Voter's Registration Deadline for General Election:** *Tuesday, October 13, 2026 (Clerk's Office will be open until 7:00 p.m. for registration)*
- **Early Voting:** *October 24, 2026 – November 1, 2026*
- **Deadline to Apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for General Election:** *Tuesday, October 27, 2026.*

**– Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for General Election:**  
*Monday, November 2, 2026 by 3:00 p.m. at the Mercer County Clerk's Office*

**– General Election: November 3, 2026**

Ms. Carter-Jones disclosed that sample ballots have been posted on the Township website under the Municipal Clerk's page, located in the "Election Information" section, and additional voter information can be found on the Mercer County Superintendent Board of Elections website. She also stated that, with regard to Early Voting, Lawrence Township voters can go to any of the Early Voting locations, not just the Mercer County Library location in Lawrence Township.

Ms. Carter-Jones noted that she has given Council information regarding the Rutgers Center for Government Services, "The Powers and Duties of the Municipal Governing Body" courses. She asked that any Councilmembers who are interested in the courses to please let her know so that she may register them for the classes.

Ms. Carter-Jones relayed that she has registered Council for the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Annual Conference that will take place on November 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, and will inform them when their tickets have arrived.

Finally, Ms. Carter-Jones indicated that she has finished both the Municipal Clerk's Office and Council Budgets, which she will be presenting to the Municipal CFO, and next week she will begin work on the Boards and Committees.

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**Unfinished Business –**

There was no unfinished business.

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**Old Business/New Business –**

There was no old business/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. 323-26 (18-A.1) through Nos. 346-26 (18-H.11) 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.

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## Council Initiatives/Liaison Reports –

Ms. Santos wished to congratulate the new and long-standing Lawrence Township businesses who were presented with the Business and Economic Growth Awards, which were presented at Community Day on October 3, 2026.

Ms. Farmer relayed that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) will be hosting a Fair Share in Housing Act Zoom meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome to participate, with more information to be made available on the Township website. They DEI Committee also posted a survey on the website to gather feedback from the community.

Ms. Farmer stated that she had the opportunity to attend the Lawrence Alcohol and Drug Alliance Committee on behalf of Councilwoman Santos, and information regarding online gambling was shared with those present, with discussion pertaining to this being a problem on the rise.

Ms. Farmer received feedback from the Lawrence Public School counselors regarding a cell phone-ban policy implemented in the schools, and reported that it has been successful.

Ms. Farmer reported that she attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development in Atlantic City, and felt that the conference provided a tremendous amount of information on what is happening state-wide pertaining to the issue of affordable housing.

Ms. Farmer stated that she attended the Central Jersey Transportation Committee and received updates regarding issues of safety, and how it pertains to ideas connected to Lawrence Township's Trails and Open Space Committee.

Lastly, Ms. Farmer commended the Recreation Committee for their hard work regarding Community Day, stating that it was a beautiful day, there were many residents in attendance and everyone had a great time.

Ms. Giglio wished to thank the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Recreation Department, and Public Works for a wonderful Community Day, which took place on October 3, 2026. She shared that the weather was great, and the beer garden was a wonderful addition to the festival.

Lastly, Ms. Giglio announced that the Halloween Decorating Contest is taking place now, and residents can sign up to have their homes included in the contest. She reported that "Trunk or Treat" will take place on October 22, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Township High School.

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#### **Written Communications –**

Mayor Bobbitt reported that Council received a letter from the County of Mercer reporting that a milling and resurfacing project is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026 pertaining to Spruce Street from Princeton Avenue to Arctic Parkway due to deteriorated pavement surface conditions. The anticipated completion time will be ten (10) business days, and Spruce Street will be closed to traffic from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Motorists will be directed to instead use Princeton Avenue, North Olden Avenue and Arctic Parkway.

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There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Tonya D. Carter-Jones, Municipal Clerk

Attest:

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Christopher Bobbitt, Mayor