

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP**

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, July 8, 2020, at 7:30 PM for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. Due to social distancing guidelines in effect at the time of the meeting, the meeting was conducted utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish asked everyone to join the Board of Commissioners in a moment of silent reflection honoring the service men and women who place themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety at home and overseas.

Mr. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Graham/Wilson), carried unanimously, dispensing with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and approving same as written and recorded in the official minute book of the Township.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted a special executive session meeting on July 1, 2020 for the purpose of interviewing police promotional candidates. The Board also conducted an executive session meeting on July 6, 2020 as a part of the regularly scheduled workshop meeting held on that date to discuss one personnel matter and one potential litigation matter.

Mr. Standish made an announcement with regard to the COVID-19 virus and Montgomery County's transition to the "Green Phase" of Governor Tom Wolf's re-opening plan for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Standish noted that as a result of this transition, the Township Administration/Police Building and the Free Library of Springfield Township are now open to the public, with accommodations in place to safeguard the public health and the well-being of staff. All visitors to any Township facility are asked to wear a face mask while in the building in order to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Mr. Standish noted that all public playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, restrooms, and fishing areas have also reopened, and that outdoor field permits will be considered with restrictions on the total number of people per field and facility. Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners and Advisory Board meetings will continue to be held virtually using the Zoom conferencing platform out of an abundance of caution for public health, and to ensure that public gathering restrictions do not unintentionally inhibit the ability of any member of the community to participate in a Township meeting. Mr. Standish encouraged all members of the community to exercise caution and adhere to public health guidelines issued by state, local and federal agencies to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Mr. Standish announced that as part of the advertising for tonight's business meeting, an effort was made to solicit public comment in advance of the meeting. Public comment was accepted via e-mail up to 5 PM prior to the meeting but there were no comments received.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was also open to receiving public comment as part of the current meeting, and that the Board drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda.

Shantia McCoy-Jones, Newbold Lane, addressed the Board regarding the Laverock Hill subdivision and specifically the process by which residents are notified of pending development projects. Messrs. Standish and Taylor informed Mrs. McCoy-Jones that notification is provided to residents upon the initial review of the plans by the local planning commission. Mrs. McCoy-Jones was encouraged to subscribe to the Township's website subscriber list to receive notification of all public meetings by e-mail. Mrs. McCoy-Jones changed the subject and thanked the Board for issuing a statement condemning the death of George Floyd by Minnesota Police Officers, and questioned how the Township intends to respond to potential racial tension within the community. Mr. Graham informed Mrs. McCoy-Jones that he intends to schedule additional Town Hall meetings to address this issue, and encouraged her to contact him for this purpose. Mrs. McCoy-Jones concluded her comments by suggesting that Township residents might benefit from a list of helpful tips for surviving the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of the Community Development Committee, reported:

Motion (Standish/Maxwell), carried unanimously, to accept a letter dated April 17, 2020 from Amit Azoulay, Sole Member and President of 225 Northwestern, LLC, extending the 90-day subdivision/land development review period, without limitation as to time, for the project known as the 225 Northwestern Avenue Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan. The extension of time will allow the applicant the opportunity to revise its land development plans to be in compliance with the Springfield Township Code.

Mr. Standish announced that under cover letter of June 19, 2020, Michael Bruce announced his resignation from the Springfield Township Planning Commission effective immediately. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Standish thanked Mr. Bruce for his service to the Springfield Township community and announced that as a result of Mr. Bruce's resignation, there presently exists a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Motion (Standish/Harbison), carried unanimously, to appoint Gerald Quill, of Wyndmoor, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. The unexpired term of service shall expire on February 16, 2024.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of the Internal Affairs and Library Committees, reported:

Motion (Harbison/Lee), carried unanimously, to approve the June check reconciliation in the amount \$432,629.90 and the July bill listing in the amount of \$1,130,533.20.

Motion (Harbison/Graham), carried unanimously, to authorize the engagement of Wiesner Consulting, LLC to serve as the Township's transitional and interim Finance Director in accordance with a letter of engagement dated June 26, 2020. Mr. Harbison explained that Mr. Wiesner's services are necessary due to the retirement of the Township's current Finance Director on September 11, 2020.

Mr. Harbison announced that under cover letter of June 19, 2020, Michael Bruce announced his resignation from the Springfield Township Library Advisory Committee,

effective immediately. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Harbison thanked Mr. Bruce for his contributions to the Springfield Township community. As a result of Mr. Bruce's resignation, Mr. Harbison indicated that there presently exists a vacancy on the Library Advisory Committee. Mr. Harbison encouraged anyone interested in serving on the Library Advisory Committee or any other advisory board or commission, to forward a letter of interest or resume to the attention of the Township Manager.

Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the Cultural and Environmental Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of June 2020, Springfield Township residents recycled 199.61 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 84.8%. The net cost for the month was \$26,463.90.

Motion (Wilson/Cobb), carried unanimously, to authorize participation in the 2020 Clean Energy Planning for Prosperity and Resilience program in order to support the development of a Clean Energy Transition Plan for Springfield Township. Mr. Wilson noted that the cost of the program is \$50 and includes an intensive, 12-week training program that will be attended by representatives of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of the Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Graham/Cobb), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1498, a resolution authorizing a grant application to be submitted to the Montgomery County Transportation Program for the project known as the Walnut Avenue Walkway/Pedestrian Trail. Mr. Graham explained that the project seeks to construct a pedestrian trail on the south side of Walnut Avenue, from Orelan Mill Road to Sandy Run Park. The estimated cost of the project is \$245,022.

Motion (Graham/Lee), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1499, a resolution authorizing a grant application to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program for the project known as the Cisco Park Improvement project. Mr. Graham noted that the project is to construct a new playground and recreation pavilion at Cisco Park in Erdenheim. The estimated cost of the project is \$256,536.

Mr. Maxwell, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Maxwell/Cobb), carried unanimously, to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-35, Schedule XII, Special Purpose Parking Zones, in order to establish a handicap parking space on the south side of Mermaid Lane, from a point 287 feet west of its intersection with Queen Street, to a point 20 feet thereof.

Motion (Maxwell/Lee), carried unanimously, to reappoint Edward H. "Ted" Bell to a new, six year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Police Civil Service Commission. The new, six year term of service shall expire July 16, 2026.

Mr. Maxwell announced that the Board of Commissioners was also planning to reappoint Marc Perry to a new, six year term of service as a member of the Police Civil Service Commission. However, Mr. Perry has indicated that his professional and personal obligations will prevent him from continuing as a member, and has declined the Board's invitation to be reappointed. On behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, Mr. Maxwell thanked Mr. Perry for volunteering his time and talents to the Springfield Township community as a Township Commissioner from 2002-2005 and, more recently, as a volunteer member of the civil service commission.

Motion (Maxwell/Lee), carried unanimously, to appoint Glenn A. Schaum, to a new, six year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Police Civil Service Commission. The new, six year term of service shall be effective July 17, 2020, and shall expire July 16, 2026.

Mr. Maxwell announced that Pennsylvania Act 43 of 2017 authorized the sale and use of certain consumer grade fireworks by adults. The law also preempts municipal authority to regulate fireworks at the local level. Since enactment, public safety personnel have reported a significant increase in fireworks-related incidents and injuries, as well as significant constituent complaints, which are of concern to the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Maxwell/Wilson), carried unanimously, to authorize a letter to the Pennsylvania General Assembly requesting an amendment to the present law in order to permit local municipalities to regulate the sale and use of consumer-grade fireworks.

Mr. Maxwell announced that earlier this year Lieutenant Lee Allan retired from the Springfield Township Police Department after 30 years of distinguished service to the community. As a result of Lt. Allan's retirement, there presently exists a vacancy as a police lieutenant.

Motion (Maxwell/Graham), carried unanimously, to promote police sergeant Rebecca Mersky to the position of police lieutenant effective August 31, 2020. Mr. Maxwell noted that Lieutenant Mersky is a seventeen year veteran of the Springfield Township Police Department and was recently evaluated through a written examination and oral interview conducted by Safe City Solutions LLC, and also received an outstanding performance evaluation from the Chief of Police.

Motion (Maxwell/Lee), carried unanimously, to promote police corporal Nelson Whitney, III to the position of police sergeant effective August 31, 2020. Mr. Maxwell explained that Sergeant Whitney is a seven year veteran of the Springfield Township Police Department, and was evaluated for the promotion through a written examination and oral interview conducted by Safe City Solutions LLC. Sergeant Whitney also received an outstanding performance evaluation from the Chief of Police.

Motion (Maxwell/Wilson), carried unanimously, to promote police officer Christopher Calhoun to the position of police corporal effective August, 31, 2020. Mr. Maxwell indicated that Corporal Calhoun is a six-year veteran of the Springfield Township Police Department, and was evaluated for the promotion through a written examination and oral interview conducted by Safe City Solutions LLC. Corporal Calhoun also received an outstanding performance evaluation from the Chief of Police.

Mr. Maxwell commented on the outstanding qualities of all of the candidates who interviewed for the three positions and looks forward to meeting with them in the future should additional promotional opportunities arise.

Mr. Graham indicated that he was pleased that the Board of Commissioners was able to promote a female candidate to a command staff position. Mr. Graham encouraged any interested female or minority candidate to consider a career in law enforcement in order to enhance diversity.

Mr. Standish noted that the August 31 appointment date was to allow for pre-scheduled vacations to occur and to secure the necessary uniforms and equipment for each of the officers.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board meeting scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2020 has been cancelled as no new petitions have been received. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board will be conducted on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of the Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Motion (Lee/Harbison), carried unanimously, to reappoint Tom Pryzblinski to a new, three year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. The new, three year term of service shall expire July 13, 2023.

Mr. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners was also planning to reappoint Ken Ferguson to a new three year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. However, Mr. Ferguson has indicated that his professional and personal obligations will prevent him from continuing as a member, and has declined the Board's invitation to be reappointed. On behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Ferguson for volunteering his time and talents to the Springfield Township community as a volunteer member of the shade tree commission. Mr. Harbison encouraged anyone interested in serving on the shade tree commission or any other advisory board or commission, to forward a letter of interest or resume to the attention of the Township Manager.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was once again open to receiving public comment.

Tom Cornerly, Paper Mill Road, Oreland, addressed the Board to encourage a reduction to the posted speed limit on Paper Mill Road between Church Road and Country Club Drive. Mr. Cornerly explained that the current 35 mile per hour speed limit is not consistent with the residential character of the neighborhood and should be lowered to 25 miles per hour. Mr. Cornerly acknowledged that the Board considered this same request approximately 3 years ago which led to the painting of shoulder lanes as a traffic calming measure. Mr. Cornerly cited pedestrian safety and poor sight distance for motorists exiting Edann Road as reasons for reducing the speed limit.

Glenn Schaum, Allison Road, thanked the Board for appointing him to serve as a member of the police civil service commission earlier this evening.

Motion (Harbison/Wilson), carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor,
Secretary