

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, February 14, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. The meeting was also offered in a live streaming feature. All members of the Board were present, with the exception of Ms. Ratsavong. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor responded that no public comments were received.

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

Mr. Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-Cobb) vote 6-0 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. Lee noted the absence of Commissioner Ratsavong due to a family obligation. Mr. Lee also noted that Andrew Freimuth was in attendance from the Township Solicitor's office. Mr. Lee acknowledged the attendance of State Representative Napoleon Nelson in the audience.

Mr. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of their February 12, 2024 workshop meeting to discuss two personnel matters and two litigation matters.

Mr. Lee invited Representative Napoleon Nelson to the front of the room to present a mock "check" in the amount of \$300,000 that will offset the cost of acquiring 2.76 acres of open space on Haws Lane in Erdenheim. It was noted that the grant was awarded from the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnerships Program. Mr. Lee also announced that the Township has received a second grant from the Montgomery County Montco 2040 grant program in the amount of \$200,000 for the same project.

On behalf of the entire Board, Mr. Lee acknowledged the actions of the volunteer firefighters of the Flourtown, Oreland and Wyndmoor Fire Companies, as well as the paid professionals of the Community Ambulance Association of Ambler and the Springfield Police Department who responded to a significant house fire at the Stotesbury Townhome development in the early morning hours of January 22, 2024. Mr. Lee remarked that the fire response is an excellent example of emergency management planning and teamwork among the police, fire and emergency medical personnel who protect and serve the Township every day.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No comments were received.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Lee-Cobb), vote 6-0, to promote police corporal Christopher Calhoun to the rank of police sergeant, and Officer Calvin Wiley to the rank of police corporal effective February 26, 2024. Both individuals were evaluated through a written examination and oral interview conducted by Safe City Solutions, LLC and received outstanding performance evaluations from their supervisors.

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

Motion (Wilson-May), vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1629, a resolution granting a waiver to the land development review process to permit the owner of the property located at 1851 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, to repurpose an existing 2,655 square foot building most recently used as a bank for a new Starbucks coffee shop. The drive-thru canopy at the rear of the building will be removed and a new trash enclosure will be constructed in its place. In addition, a new drive-thru window will be placed on the south side of the building, along with an outdoor seating area and new landscaping.

Mr. Cobb wished to clarify that the waiver of the review process is not a waiver to comply with other code requirements.

Motion (Wilson-May), vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1630, a resolution granting preliminary/final subdivision approval for the properties located at 1500 and 1506 Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. The subdivision will result in the transfer of 10,535 square feet of land from the southwest corner of the property at 1506 Willow Grove Avenue to the rear of the property located at 1500 Willow Grove Avenue. No new construction is proposed, and the new lot configuration will yield two, similarly sized rectangular-shaped lots.

Motion (Wilson-McNamara), vote 6-0, to accept a letter dated February 9, 2024 from Gerald Rath, Esq., on behalf of the owner of 40 and 42 Grove Avenue, Flourtown, extending the 90-day subdivision/land development plan review period through March 14, 2024. The subject of the application is a lot line adjustment that proposes to transfer 2,936 square feet of land from the property at 42 Grove Avenue to the property at 40 Grove Avenue. The extension of time will allow the applicant the opportunity to bring their plans into compliance with the Township Code.

Motion (Wilson-Cobb), vote 6-0, to accept a letter dated January 30, 2024 from Christopher R. Canavan, on behalf of Blecker Acquisitions, LP, extending the 90-day subdivision/land development plan review period without limitation of time. The subject of the land development application is the construction of sixteen townhomes on a 2.03-acre parcel of land at 402 Haws Lane, Erdenheim. The extension of time will allow the applicant the opportunity to revise their plans to comply with the Springfield Township Code.

Motion (Wilson-Cobb), vote 6-0, to reappoint Jeffrey T. Harbison to a new, four-year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Harbison's new term of service shall expire February 16, 2028.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Administrative, Fiscal Affairs and Zoning Committee, reported:

Motion (Cobb-McNamara), vote 6-0, to approve the January check reconciliation in the amount of \$464,536.54, and the February bill listing in the amount of \$615,355.55.

Motion (Cobb-Morris), vote 6-0, that, in accordance with Section 1302-A subsection (b) of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, the Board authorize the execution of an employment agreement with A. Michael Taylor, Township Manager, setting forth the terms and conditions of employment. As required by the Code, the term of the agreement shall expire on the date of the Board of Commissioners organizational meeting following the next municipal election.

Mr. Cobb stated that continuity in township management is important, and thanked Mr. Taylor for his continued service.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda and noted that copies of the applications and plans are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Mr. Morris reported for the Parks and Recreational Resources Committee:

Motion (Morris-Cobb), vote 6-0, to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute Land Use Agreements with the Springfield Little League Baseball and Softball organizations for the use of specified Township facilities. The Agreements set forth the obligations of the two organizations with respect to permitted uses, maintenance obligations, land improvements, parking, and insurance requirements. The term of both agreements is January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

Mr. Morris announced that on December 1, 2023 the Township received proposals from eleven firms in response to a Request for Proposals that was issued in October, 2023 for Master Site Plan and Design Services for the Springfield Township Recreation Center. The proposals were reviewed by the Recreation Center Advisory Committee and publicly discussed at their December 7, 2023 meeting, following which five firms were invited to interview with the committee and the Board of Commissioners on January 4, 2024. The committee continued their evaluation of firms at their February 1, 2024 meeting and recommended two firms, Kimmel-Bogrette Architecture & Site and MKSD Architects for consideration. The Board may consider an award at their March 13, 2024 meeting.

Motion (Morris-McNamara), vote 6-0, to appoint Chris Hopkins, Erdenheim, and Jillian McGowan, Wyndmoor, as members of the Recreation Center Advisory Committee.

Mr. May, Chairman of Environmental Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. May announced that during the month of January 2024, Springfield Township residents recycled 208.7 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 73.0%. The net cost for the month was \$21,913.76.

Mr. May also announced that due to the relatively mild winter weather conditions, the Township's residential curbside leaf waste collection resumed Monday, February 12, 2024 and will run through mid-December.

Mr. May announced that on December 1, 2023, Desiree Rammon resigned her position as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Mr. May thanked Ms. Rammon for her service and encouraged Springfield Township residents who are interested in serving as a member of the commission to send a letter of interest or resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager.

Motion (May-Wilson), vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1631, a resolution endorsing the creation of a Municipal Consortium to assist with the implementation of the Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan. Mr. May noted that since 2016 the municipalities and wastewater treatment plants located in the Wissahickon Creek watershed have been working together as an informal group to prepare the Water Quality Improvement Plan as an alternative to the phosphorus-based plan created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Wilson commented that the purpose of the resolution is to formalize the process as to how the municipalities and wastewater treatments plans will work together to create a water quality improvement plan and present the solution to the EPA and DEP.

Ms. McNamara, Chairwoman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Ms. McNamara announced that on February 9, 2024, the Township received bids from six contractors for the construction of the Walnut Avenue Pedestrian Trail, Phase 1. The base bids ranged in price from \$365,296.85 to \$612,950, with alternates ranging in price from a deduct of \$16,984 to \$52,526.88. The lowest combined bid (base plus alternate) was received from Ply Mar Construction Company.

Motion (McNamara-Cobb), vote 6-0, to award a contract to Ply Mar Construction Company, Inc, of Plymouth Meeting, PA for their combined low bid of \$361,321.

Mr. Cobb inquired as to a start date for the project. Mr. Taylor answered that the project would begin as soon as possible, depending on weather and the contractor's availability.

Motion (McNamara-May), vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1632, a resolution authorizing an application to the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program for the Walnut Avenue Trail, Phase 2. The proposed trail will connect Sandy Run Park with the Piszek Preserve, and together will create a 1.15 mile trail spanning Springfield and Upper Dublin Townships.

Mr. Wilson inquired as to the amount of funding being requested. Mr. Taylor indicated the maximum amount that can be requested is \$250,000, and the grant application will request that amount.

Motion (McNamara-Wilson) vote 6-0, to authorize the sale of the following vehicles and equipment via the Municibid on-line public auction site:

- 2013 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 pick-up truck
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pick-up truck
- 1999 Simplicity snow blower
- 1985 OTC air-assisted hydraulic press

Motion (McNamara-Cobb), vote 6-0, to authorize the appropriate officials to execute stormwater easement and payment agreements with Mary Ellen Flynn, Marita and Regina Frain, and Paul Ziegler to facilitate the construction of a stormwater detention basin on portions of three properties located in the 300 block of Integrity Avenue, Oreland. The agreements grant the Township temporary construction and permanent drainage easements and set forth the conditions under which the stormwater improvements are to be constructed and maintained.

Motion (McNamara-Cobb), vote 6-0, to authorize the advertisement of bids for the construction of the Integrity Avenue Flood Mitigation Project.

Mr. Cobb thanked the above-referenced neighbors for their cooperation with this project and remarked that this is another example of the Township's commitment to solving stormwater concerns.

Mr. Morris, Chairman of the Cultural Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No comments were received.

Motion (Wilson-May), vote 6-0, to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Secretary

