

ORDINANCE NO. 964

“COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORDINANCE”

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 35,
CHAPTER 75, OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED
STATUTES, DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY,
AND WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIVE
BIDDING ON A LIMITED BASIS, AND AUTHORIZING
TOWNSHIP PUBLIC MEETINGS BY WAY OF ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATIONS, AND AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO
THE PAYMENT AND FILING OF CERTAIN LOCAL TAXES,
AND ADDRESSING THE HANDLING OF RIGHT-TO-KNOW
LAW REQUESTS DUE TO POTENTIAL DELAYS IN THE
TOWNSHIP'S ABILITY TO RESPOND AS A RESULT OF THE
INSTANT HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, novel coronavirus COVID-19 ("COVID-19") has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control have declared that the goal for mitigation strategies in communities with local COVID-19 transmission is to slow the transmission of the disease and to protect individuals at increased risk from severe illness including older adults and persons of any age with underlying health conditions and to protect the healthcare and critical infrastructure work forces; and

WHEREAS, Governor Thomas Wolf of Pennsylvania closed various gathering places such as all community centers, daycare centers, gyms and schools in Montgomery County for two

(2) weeks effective March 12, 2020, and subsequently issued a “Stay at Home” order for all Montgomery County residents effective March 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the County of Montgomery has issued an Emergency Health Declaration requesting all employers to employ alternative work models such as working remotely and has stated that “[t]his is an evolving situation”.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township (“Board”) does hereby **ENACT** and **ORDAIN** as follows:

1. Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Service Code, in order to meet a public health emergency, the Board hereby adopts this Emergency Ordinance and declares a health emergency within the Township regarding the COVID-19 health emergency as set forth in detail above.

2. This Emergency Ordinance and Declaration shall be retroactive to March 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect until such time as the Board or the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania indicates otherwise.

3. The Board waives the requirement for competitive bidding for such services and materials as may be required by the Township administration for health emergency purposes.

4. The Board, and its duly constituted and enacted committees and citizen groups, may conduct meetings via teleconference, webinar or other electronic method which allows for two-way communication while the Township Administration Building shall remain open during such public meetings, though the public is strongly discouraged from attending in person during the COVID-19 crisis unless it is the only means of access to the “meeting” for a citizen. Where

feasible, the Board, its duly constituted committees and the citizen groups, shall record such meetings for increased public access.

5. The Board requests the public to visit the Township Administration Building by appointment only and refers the public to the Township website for information regarding the mailing of tax payments, the remote application for permits, etc...and related "alternative work models".

6. The Board hereby extends the “discount period” for the payment of local real estate taxes and the refuse service fee from March 31, 2020 to May 31, 2020, and for the filing and payment of Business Privilege and Mercantile Taxes, the Earned Income Tax and Local Services Tax, from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.

7. Due to the health emergency, the Township notifies the public that it may experience a delay in its ability to respond to Right-to-Know Law ("RTKL") requests. In addition, if an agency is closed on a given day, that day shall not be considered a "business day" and will not count towards the five (5) business days referenced in Section 901 of the RTKL. The Township

encourages both its employees and requesters to be considerate and patient while working with the Township on RTKL requests during the declared emergency.

8. This emergency ordinance shall be advertised as soon as possible after the date of enactment.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled, this 26th day of March, 2020.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP**

By: _____
Baird M. Standish, President

Attest: _____
A. Michael Taylor, Secretary

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township, at its first public teleconference meeting on March 26, 2020, voted to adopt an Emergency Ordinance pursuant to Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code declaring a temporary health emergency within the Township due to the COVID-19 emergency, waiving the requirements for competitive bidding regarding services and materials needed by the Township with regard to the emergency, adopting an emergency declaration which shall remain in effect until such time as the Board or the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania indicates otherwise, authorizing Township public meetings by way of electronic communications, with the Township Administration Building to be open during such meetings but the public shall be discouraged from attending the meetings unless it is the only means of access, requesting the public to access the Township Administration and other municipal buildings by appointment only, authorizing an extension to the payment and filing of certain local taxes, and addressing the handling of Right-to-Know Law Requests due to potential delays in the Township's ability to respond as a result of the subject health emergency. The full version of the Emergency Ordinance and information on attending public meetings through electronic communications is available on the Township's website.

JAMES J. GARRITY, ESQ
WISLER PEARLSTINE, LLP
Solicitors for Springfield Township