

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 8, 2023 at 7:40 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. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. No such 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-Ratsavong) 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. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of its November 6, 2023 workshop meeting to discuss one real estate matter and one matter of potential litigation.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment was received.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, had no report.

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

Motion (Standish-Ratsavong) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1620, a resolution establishing the Springfield Township Open Space Donation Program and the creation of an Open Space Fund to be used for any purpose designated by Pennsylvania Act 153 of 1996 including, but not limited to, the acquisition of Real Property for open space benefits, transactional fees and professional expenses associated with the acquisition of Real Property, conservations and easements, construction of green infrastructure improvements to provide recreational and environmental benefits and to provide and improve public access to those lands, engineering and professional expenses associated with the design and implementation of green infrastructure improvements, and the maintenance of open space.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of October 2023, Springfield Township residents recycled 141.2 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 67.4%. The net cost for the month was \$25,880.18.

Mr. Wilson reminded all residents to remove all packing materials from cardboard boxes prior to placing them out for collection. Cardboard that is contaminated with packaging materials costs the Township \$70 per ton to dispose as residue while “clean” corrugated cardboard presently has a sales value of \$70 per ton. Mr. Wilson also encouraged residents to flatten all cardboard containers so that they take up less room in the Township’s collection vehicles and require fewer trips to the processing facility.

Motion (Wilson-May) vote 6-1, Maxwell opposed, to enact Ordinance No. 976, an ordinance amending Chapter 85 to revise the definitions of “Exempt Bag” and “Single Use Plastic Carry-Out Bag” by eliminating the exemptions for plastic bags utilized in connection with food delivery and takeout orders, as well as any bags provided for use by a Retail Establishment operated by the federal government, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or local government or department agency thereof.

Mr. Lee clarified the purpose of the subject ordinance is to clarify language in the original ordinance that was contradictory to its intent.

Ms. Ratsavong stated her interest in receiving a status report from the Environmental Advisory Commission on their work in this regard.

Mr. Maxwell, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, had no report.

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

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) carried unanimously to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,746,867.30, and the November bill listing in the amount of \$385,272.59.

Mr. Cobb announced the 2024 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Presentation	Wednesday, November 8, 2023	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	Wednesday, December 13, 2023	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Wednesday, December 13, 2023	7:30 PM

All meetings will be held at the Springfield Township Building, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor PA 19038.

Mr. Cobb read into record the 2024 Budget Statement. In summary, the projected 2024 budget proposes a balanced operating budget for 2024 of \$19,646,947 with a real estate tax rate of 4.516 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2024 budget projections, the typical taxpayer will realize no change in their 2024 real estate tax, and an increase of \$13.98

in the annual refuse service fee. The typical household in Springfield Township with a \$175,400 property assessment will pay \$792.10 in real estate taxes in 2024, which is the same as in 2023 and 2022. Mr. Cobb announced that the 2024 preliminary budget will be available for inspection in the office of the Township Manager and in the Township library beginning on November 9, 2023, and will be posted on the Township website. The Board of Commissioners will consider comments on the budget during their workshop meeting on December 13, 2023, and as part of a budget hearing and budget adoption on December 13, 2023.

Mr. Cobb thanked township management for their efforts to put the budget together. Mr. Taylor reviewed a Powerpoint presentation on the key points of the 2024 budget.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Cobb read into the record the Zoning Hearing Board agenda and announced that copies of all applications are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Ms. Ratsavong, Chairwoman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Ms. Ratsavong announced that a Draft version of the Springfield Township Trails & Connectivity Plan is currently available for review on the Township website. The plan was recently amended to include a new segment profile for Stenton Avenue with broad-based ideas to improve the pedestrian and bicycle experience, while acknowledging that additional studies will be required to generate specific recommendations. Ms. Ratsavong encouraged residents to take the time to review the plan and announced that written comments on the draft Plan will be accepted through December 1, 2023. The Board of Commissioners is expected to vote to adopt the plan on December 13, 2023.

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

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

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Manager/Secretary