

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, June 12, 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 Mr. Morris. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor reported 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-May) 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 announced that Mr. Morris was absent due to illness but would be participating remotely via the live streaming feature.

Please announce that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of their June 10, 2024 workshop meeting to discuss two personnel matters and one real estate matter.

Mr. Cobb introduced Liam Baskin, a local Boy Scout from Troop 177. Master Baskin informed the Board that he is currently working on his "Citizenship in the Community" merit badge. As part of the process, he volunteered his time by collecting over 400 coloring books and crayons and delivered them to the WaWa Volunteer Center at CHOP. Obtaining the "Citizenship in the Community" permit badge is a step towards reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Members of the Board commended Liam on his hard work.

Mr. Lee invited Joy Bergey, a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission, to present the results of an energy savings analysis. The analysis focused on three major areas: municipal campus energy audit and subsequent HVAC adjustments, LED street light upgrades, and converting the police fleet to hybrid vehicles. Ms. Bergey summarized the results of the analysis. In conclusion, the study shows an estimated total savings of approximately \$450,000. Ms. Bergey thanked the Board for its support of the EAC mission to remove pollutants from the environment and to save taxpayers' money.

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

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

Motion (Lee-Cobb) vote 6-0 to extend a conditional offer of employment to Younes Boujida of Secane, PA as a probationary police officer with the Springfield Township Police Department, effective July 1, 2024. The conditions of employment are successfully passing a physical and psychological examination.

Motion (Lee-McNamara) vote 6-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-33 Schedule X, Parking Time Limited, by repealing the existing time-limited parking restrictions on the North side of Lorraine Avenue from 9 AM to 6 PM Monday thru Friday, from a point 280 feet from the Northwest corner of Ehrenpfort Avenue to a point 370 feet Southwesterly thereof. The Springfield Township Traffic Safety Officer has reviewed the existing parking conditions and determined that they are no longer necessary.

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

Motion (Wilson-May) vote 4-2 (Wilson and Cobb opposed) to adopt Resolution No. 1642, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval for the Springfield Township Middle School, 1901 Paper Mill Road, Oreland. The subject of the plan is the construction of 25,000 square feet of new building additions, including a new auditorium as well as renovations to the school administration offices, cafeteria and kitchen. As part of the renovations, the main entrance will be relocated from the east side of the building to the north (rear) side. Additional improvements include vehicular and pedestrian improvements, a retaining wall, landscaping and stormwater management facilities.

Mr. Wilson explained his vote by stating that the addition will be just 35 feet from route 309, and a majority of the addition is the auditorium. Mr. Wilson stated that he was not in favor of placing the improvements in close proximity to a major highway.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1643, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval for the Towns at Pennybrook subdivision/land development plan, 380-402 Haws Lane, Erdenheim. The subject of the plan is the construction of a 16-unit townhome development on two tracts of land measuring 2.03 acres. In addition to the construction of 16 townhomes, the plan requires the developer to construct a driveway, parking area and walking trail through an adjacent Township-owned parcel, and to oversize the stormwater detention facilities on the townhouse tract to reduce stormwater runoff from the site. The developer has also agreed to place an all-way stop controlled intersection for the Haws Lane/Greenhill Road/park driveway intersection upon completion of the park improvements.

Mr. Wilson opined that the Towns at Pennybrook plan is a good one, made better by the community's involvement.

Motion (Wilson-McNamara) vote 6-0, to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance amending the Springfield Township Code Chapter 4 to amend the definition of Amusement Device; and Chapter 114, Article II, to add the term and definition of Amusement Device, and to further amend Article XI, to add Amusement Device as a permitted use, and to further amend Article X, to add Amusement Device as a permitted use when authorized as a special exception and subject to additional requirements.

Mr. Wilson announced that the Board will conduct a public hearing on, and may vote to adopt, the above referenced ordinance at its meeting on July 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the Springfield Township Building.

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

Motion (Cobb-McNamara) vote 6-0 to approve the May check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,942,751.59, and the June bill listing in the amount of \$1,097,811.89.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda and announced that applications and plans 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 the Arthur V. Savage American Legion Post of Wyndmoor will be conducting a flag retirement ceremony in conjunction with Flag Day on Friday, June 14, 2024 at Veterans Park. The ceremony will be conducted at 5 PM at the Veterans Memorial in the 900 block of Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor.

Ms. Ratsavong announced that the Board received a letter from Kerry Boccella resigning her position as a member of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. On behalf of the entire Board, Ms. Ratsavong thanked Ms. Boccella for her service. Ms. Ratsavong noted that the resignation creates a vacancy as a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee and that any residents interested in serving on the committee should send a letter of interest or resume to the Township Manager.

Ms. Ratsavong summarized the discussions at the June 10 workshop meeting with regard to a recent bullying incident involving the Springfield Little League organization. Ms. Ratsavong explained that a plane with a banner calling out a little league parent flew over the little league field. Little league parents were disappointed with the lack of response from the little league board as to accountability. Since the little league utilizes township parklands, the Board of Commissioners felt it was appropriate to provide a forum for individuals to express their concerns.

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

Mr. May announced that during the month of May 2024, Springfield Township residents recycled 190.2 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 73.8%. The net cost for the month was \$14,501.01.

Mr. May reminded residents to locate refuse and recyclable materials a suitable distance from one another and to clearly label containers so that they are easily identified by the proper collection crew.

Motion (May-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to reappoint Gail Farmer and Aaron Stemplewicz to new, three-year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Ms. Farmer's and Mr. Stemplewicz's new terms of service shall expire June 14, 2027.

Mr. May announced there is currently a vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Commission and summarized the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. Residents interested in serving were encouraged to submit a letter of interest or resume to Michael Taylor, Township Manager, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA.

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

Motion (McNamara-Cobb) vote 6-0 to authorize the Township Manager to execute an extension to the existing Listing Agreement with Dan Helwig, Inc. to market and secure tenants for office suites “B” and “F” at the Black Horse Inn, 1432 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, Dan Helwig Realtors shall serve as the Township’s Broker and Agent and shall receive compensation during the term of the Agreement in an amount equal to one month’s rental per unit which shall be shared with any cooperating broker pursuant to the Terms of the Agreement. The Agreement shall expire September 30, 2024.

Motion (McNamara-Cobb) vote 6-0 to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute an employment contract with the Springfield Township Public Works Department for the years 2024 – 2027. The amendments to the existing contract are wage adjustments, vacation and bereavement leave, observance of the Juneteenth holiday, work shoe reimbursement, and signing bonus. In addition, a new graduated wage and vacation schedule will be introduced for individuals hired after January 1, 2024.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Ms. McNamara thanked the members of the Public Works Department for their service to the Township and for their willingness to work with the Township to come to an agreement.

Ms. McNamara announced that as a result of the new agreement, there will be no refuse or recycling collection on Wednesday, June 19, in honor of the Juneteenth holiday.

Mr. Morris, Chairman of the Cultural Resources Committee, reported remotely as follows:

An announcement was made that the Friends of the Library will be conducting their annual Book Sale on Saturday, June 15, from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Free Library of Springfield Township. Suggested donations are \$1 for hard copy books and \$0.50 for paperback books. All proceeds will benefit the Free Library of Springfield Township.

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

Mr. Lee informed everyone that the Monday workshop meetings will now be available on the Township website, and that the Board has adopted a business casual dress code for the June, July and August business meetings.

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) vote 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Secretary

MT:cmt
6/25/24