

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, January 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM in 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. Mr. Taylor reported that no remote 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) 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 their January 6, 2025 workshop meeting to discuss two litigation matters.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Joy Bergey, Flourtown, addressed the Board and asked if anyone had questions for her with regard to the Energy Transition Plan that is on the Board's agenda for a vote tonight. There were no questions.

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

Motion (Lee-McNamara) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-33, Schedule X "Parking Time Limited" and Section 107-35, Schedule XII, "Special Parking Zones", by repealing the existing parking regulations on the east side of Oak Road, from Northwestern Avenue to its terminus, and to amend Section 107-32, Schedule IX "Parking Prohibited", Subsection A, Erdenheim, by establishing a No Parking zone on the east side of Oak Road, from Northwestern Avenue to its terminus.

Mr. Lee explained that as a result of the two part motion, a no parking zone will be created along the east side of Oak Road as recommended by the police department to relieve congestion created by cars parking on both sides of the narrow street.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that on December 11, 2024, George Schaefer resigned his position as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Schaefer was a member of the planning commission since 2009. Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Schaefer for his service to the Springfield Township community.

Mr. Wilson announced that as a result of Mr. Schaefer's resignation, a vacancy exists on the Planning Commission. Mr. Wilson provided a brief description of the role of the planning commission. Interested residents were asked to submit a cover letter and/or resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager.

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

Motion (Cobb-McNamara) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$624,845.19 and the January bill listing in the amount of \$465,122.05.

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) carried unanimously to appoint James J. Garrity and Andrew R. Freimuth, of Wisler-Pearlstine, LLP as Township Solicitors.

Mr. Cobb announced that the January 27, 2025 meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board of Springfield Township has been cancelled as no new petitions were received during the preceding month. Mr. Cobb announced that the next meeting of the zoning hearing board is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2025.

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

Motion (Ratsavong-Cobb) carried unanimously 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 terms of both agreements shall be January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Prior to executing the agreements, they shall be reviewed and placed in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor.

Motion (Ratsavong-McNamara) carried unanimously to authorize an amendment to the existing agreement with MKSD Architects to include construction estimating services to be performed by Boyle Construction, Inc. for a fee not to exceed \$9,225. Ms. Ratsavong explained the scope of work that is to be performed and reported that the proposal received from Boyle Construction was the least costly of those that were received.

Ms. Ratsavong also announced that at the February 12, 2025 business meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board will receive a presentation from MKSD Architects on the results of their data collection and community engagement efforts for the Recreation Center Master Plan project.

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

Mr. May announced that during the month of December 2024, Springfield Township residents recycled 176.8 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 79.4%. The net cost for the month was \$17,073.07.

Mr. May reminded residents that household refuse and recycling containers may not be larger than 32 gallons in size or 50 pounds in weight when full. Oversized and overweight containers present a hazard to employees and increase the risk of injury. Appropriately sized refuse and/or recycling containers can be purchased at any hardware or home improvement store. Recycling containers are also available for purchase at the Township Administration Building at a cost of \$25 each.

Motion (May-Ratsavong) to adopt the Springfield Township Renewable Energy Transition Plan for Municipal Operations. The Plan is consistent with the Board of Commissioners' 2019 commitment to make Springfield Township a clean energy community by reducing and eventually eliminating dependence on fossil fuels by transitioning to 100% renewable energy for municipal operations by 2035 and transitioning to 100% renewable energy for transportation and heating by 2050. It is anticipated that the plan will be updated annually to reflect changes in technology and evolving renewable energy markets. Mr. May thanked the volunteer members of the Township's Environmental Advisory Commission for creating the plan.

Mr. Wilson commended the committee for their work on creating the plan. Mr. Wilson explained that he will not be voting to adopt the Energy Transition Plan. He stated that he objects to the concept of the township becoming a utility. He stated the plan outlines the desire for the township to start generating 100% of its own power to light and fuel municipal facilities. He opined that this concept is impractical. Mr. Lee commented that the plan does not include any mandates, and it is merely a roadmap to achieving future goals. Ms. Bergey wished to clarify that the

Township would maintain its full connection with the PECO power grid. A lengthy discussion ensued among the Board and Ms. Bergey on the merits of the plan.

A vote on the motion: 6-1; Wilson opposed.

Ms. McNamara, Chairwoman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, had no report.

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

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Maryellen Reeves, Glenside, applauded the energy savings efforts put forth to date and asked where she might find the cost savings realized by the township to date. Ms. Bergey directed Ms. Reeves to the Fall 2024 Newsletter but cautioned that one number is incorrect and needs to be updated. Ms. Reeves pointed out the disadvantages of electric vehicles for police functions and wanted the Board to be aware of those disadvantages. In conclusion, Ms. Reeves commented on the excessive trash on the on and off ramps of State Route 309.

Motion (Wilson-McNamara) carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Taylor
Manager/Secretary