

Minutes of Meeting  
Board of Commissioners  
Springfield Township

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, February 8, 2023, 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 Commissioners Graham and Maxwell.

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.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any comments were received electronically prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor responded that there were 4 comments received and they were all related to the police department and community policing specifically.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 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 Commissioners Maxwell and Graham.

Please announce that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of their February 6, 2023 workshop meeting to discuss one existing and two potential litigation matters, and that an executive session was held just prior to this meeting to discuss one litigation matter.

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

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

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

Motion (Standish-Cobb) vote 5-0 to reappoint James Mascaro and Gerald Quill to new, four-year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. The new terms of service shall expire on February 16, 2027

Motion (Standish-Cobb) to adopt Resolution No. 1594, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval for the redevelopment of the property located at 910 Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. The project includes the demolition and removal of all existing buildings and site improvements, together with the construction of a new, 3-story, 16,575 square foot mixed use building that will include

5,000 square feet of medical office space on the first floor, and 6 residential units on the second and third floors.

Mr. Wilson expressed his concern for additional stormwater management improvements associated with the new development, and suggested the Board postpone voting on the resolution until there was greater clarity in this regard. Mr. Taylor explained that in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board must render a decision at this meeting. A discussion ensued among the Board with regard to the stormwater management improvements that are being provided versus what is actually required. Mr. Taylor explained that as part of the review process, the applicant has agreed to provide additional stormwater management on the property even though those obligations have been met. However, the exact form of improvement is to be resolved to the satisfaction of the Township Engineer.

Vote on the motion: 4-1; Wilson opposed.

Mr. Standish reported for Mr. Maxwell, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee:

Mr. Standish announced that on January 5, 2023, Springfield Township received bids for the Burton Road Flood Mitigation Project. Bids were received from B. Blair Corporation, of Ivyland, PA and Shearon Environmental Design, Inc. of Plymouth Meeting, PA. The bid specifications included a base bid and two alternates. The base bid is for the construction of a new stormwater detention basin on the grounds of the Sandy Run Country Club golf course, as well as the construction of an overflow relief swale between 405 and 407 Burton Road, Oreland. The two bid alternates were for additional golf features that were requested by the country club. Neither alternate will be exercised. Mr. Standish explained that the project will benefit the properties located in the 400 block of Burton Road that currently experience flood damages during heavy rainfall events.

Motion (Standish-Cobb) vote 5-0 to award a contract to Shearon Environmental Design, Inc. for their low bid for the base project only in the amount of \$173,254.05.

Mr. Cobb commented that it has been a long process to get to this point and thanked the Sandy Run Country Club and the owners of 405 and 407 Burton Road for their cooperation to the benefit of the neighborhood.

Mr. Standish announced that Section 1501.2 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code sets forth the regulations for the sale of Township personal property via electronic auction. The Township Fleet Supervisor has requested permission to sell one used vehicle and one used piece of equipment via electronic auction.

Motion (Standish-Ratsavong) vote 5-0, to authorize the sale, via the Municibid on-line public auction site, of a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 pick-up truck and an Ingersoll-Rand stationary air compressor.

Motion (Standish-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1597, a resolution authorizing application to the 2023 Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program for the acquisition of 2.759 acres of open space on Haws Lane, Erdenheim, and the purchase of up to four stormwater easements in the 300 block of Integrity Avenue, Oreland. The Montco 2040 program supports local projects that advance the goals of the Montgomery County comprehensive plan.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of January 2023, Springfield Township residents recycled 173.4 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 67.6%. The net cost for the month was \$27,279.60.

Mr. Wilson advised all residents that household refuse and recycling containers may not be larger than 32 gallons in size or 50 pounds in weight when full. Mr. Wilson explained that oversized and overweight containers may cause injury to township employees. Township residents were informed that they may purchase appropriately sized containers at any hardware or home improvement store, or on-line retailer. Recycling containers are available for purchase at the Township Administration Building for a fee.

Mr. Wilson announced that Springfield Township is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency to perform water quality improvement activities that are intended to reduce phosphorous and sediment within the Wissahickon Creek Watershed. In 2018, the 13 municipalities and 4 wastewater treatment operators in the watershed formed a coalition via an Intergovernmental Agreement to develop an alternative to the EPA's Phosphorous-based Total Maximum Daily Load plan to improve the water quality within the watershed. The Board of Commissioners wishes to continue participating in the Clean Water Partnership as a means of achieving a more cost-effective and holistic approach to satisfying the EPA's mandates.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1595, a resolution authorizing the appropriate Township officials to execute an extension to the Intergovernmental Agreement to complete a Water Quality Improvement Plan as an alternative to the EPA's Phosphorous-based Total Maximum Daily Load Plan for the Wissahickon Creek Watershed. The new Agreement shall expire December 31, 2023, or ninety (90) days following final approval of the Wissahickon Water Quality Improvement Plan, whichever is later.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1596, a resolution authorizing participation in the new Bird Town Pennsylvania program. Bird Town

Pennsylvania will continue the original mission of Bird Town USA to create a healthier and sustainable environment for birds, wildlife and humans.

Mr. Wilson announced that the Township will be hosting a Stormwater Management Workshop on Saturday morning, February 25, 2023 from 9 AM to 12 PM at the Springfield Township Building. As part of the workshop, residents will hear about the history of stormwater management, basic stormwater terminology, the collection, conveyance and treatment of stormwater, and steps that individual property owners may take to manage stormwater at their home or business to improve water quality and prevent water damage. Interested residents were encouraged to visit the Township website to learn more information and to register to attend.

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

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) vote 5-0 to approve the January check reconciliation in the amount of \$704,347.31, and the February bill listing in the amount of \$619,241.10.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized 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, Chair of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Ms. Ratsavong announced that a position has been created as a non-voting student representative to serve on the Parks & Recreation and Recreation Center Advisory Committees. The purpose of adding a student-representative is to offer a youth perspective to new and existing programs and recreational needs in the Township. Interested candidates must be a resident of Springfield Township. Interested students were instructed to send a letter of interest to the attention of Mr. Michael Taylor, Township Manager.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Evan Klinefelter, Wyndmoor, read into the record an email message he sent earlier to the Board regarding monthly community meetings with the police, the “coffee with a cop” program, and the welcome wagon program. In conclusion Mr. Klinefelter asked the Board if they support open dialog between the residents and the police department.

Terry Cohen Johnson, Oreland, expressed her desire for the police department to schedule regular meetings with the community similar to what is done in other communities.

Angelina Banks, Wyndmoor, asked the Board to rescind Resolution No. 1592. She encouraged the Board to work to restore the relationship between the Board, the Police and the community.

Rob Goldberg, Erdenheim, addressed the Board and expressed his support of Resolution No. 1592 and pointed to the January 6 insurrection as the reason why he is against the use of the thin blue line flag by the local police benevolent association.

Commissioner Cobb thanked everyone for their comments this evening. He made it clear that prior to the pandemic, the police department did hold regular “coffee with a cop” sessions and frequently participated in community events. Mr. Cobb offered the National Night Out program as an example, and that the coffee with a cop events will resume in the next month.

Terry Cohen Johnson, Oreland, expressed her desire for open dialog between the community and the police department to give both parties an opportunity to share their experiences and concerns.

Ms. Ratsavong wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year and encouraged everyone to celebrate Black History Month.

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) vote 5-0 to adjourn at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor  
Township Manager