

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in public hearing on Wednesday evening, June 8, 2011 in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of receiving public comment on a proposed Zoning Code amendment creating regulations for operating and maintaining seasonal sidewalk cafés.

Mr. Harbison announced that the public hearing was being held in compliance with Section 609 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to consider an amendment to the Springfield Township Zoning Code providing regulations for operating and maintaining seasonal sidewalk cafés.

Mr. Harbison noted that the legal requirements associated with the public hearing procedure had been met by publishing a notice of the proposed ordinance in the Springfield Sun issue of May 26, 2011, and notice of public hearing in the May 19 and 26, 2011 issues of the Springfield Sun. Notice of the public hearing was posted in the both the Springfield Township Building and the Free Library of Springfield Township. Copies of the full text of the ordinance were available in the Springfield Township Building, in the offices of the Montgomery Newspapers and in the Montgomery County Law Library.

Mr. Harbison suggested that the Board of Commissioners was conducting the public hearing on the proposed Zoning Code amendment for the purpose of receiving public comment. No action would be taken on the Zoning Code amendment, however, official action by the Board of Commissioners is anticipated at their business meeting to be held on July 13, 2011 in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Harbison summarized the ordinance by providing the definition of a seasonal sidewalk café which is an accessory and subordinate activity of the services provided by an existing restaurant, eating establishment, or food preparation business wherein the exterior seating area is used solely for the purpose of consuming products also available within the primary establishment on the premises. The purpose of the ordinance is to allow portions of private premises and the public sidewalk adjacent to an eating establishment to be used as an accessory service to promote an attractive pedestrian environment and a distinctive ambiance within the Township. The proposed ordinance requires an annual permit to conduct the seasonal use. The proposed ordinance states that the public sidewalk may be used with certain restrictions related to public access, hours of operation, size of the café area, maintenance of equipment, and sanitation. The revocation of the license and penalties for violations of the regulations are also included.

Mr. Harbison noted that both the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the Springfield Township Planning Commission were asked to review the Zoning Code amendment establishing seasonal sidewalk cafés. The Montgomery County Planning Commission letter dated May 13, 2011 recommended enactment of the ordinance with

recommended points to be clarified in the draft ordinance. The Springfield Township Planning Commission letter dated May 18, 2011 also recommended the enactment of the ordinance.

Mr. Harbison called on those persons in attendance who wished to express an opinion on the proposed ordinance. No such comments were received.

Mr. Harbison called on individual Commissioners who wished to comment on the proceedings or present a particular point of view on the proposed amendments. No such comments were received.

An announcement was made that the Board of Commissioners will consider the enactment of the Zoning Code amendment as a part of their July 13, 2011 business meeting.

Motion (Harbison-Heller) carried unanimously to close the public hearing on seasonal sidewalk cafés and to open a public hearing on a draft ordinance creating a Human Relations Commission in Springfield Township.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt
6/16/11