

JULY 14, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice President Kelly at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2020 in the Township Building.

REGULAR MEETING

The following Commissioners were present: Mmes. Sage, and Hoffman, Messrs. Wechsler, Layden and Lanciano. Also present was Mr. Byrne.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Wechsler asked to pause for a Moment in Silence for Carole Janiczek, the wife of former Commissioner, Lee Janiczek, who passed away this week.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Invocation was given by Mr. Wechsler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

On motion of Mr. Lanciano, the minutes of June 9, 2020 was approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

MINUTES

Mr. Kelly asked if anyone in the audience wished to comment on any of the agenda items. Mr. Byrne stated that he has not received any questions from the public via email. Mr. Kelly announced if the viewers have questions on the issues to be voted on to email their questions to: questions@springfielddelco.org . The meeting continued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kelly called for Reports of Committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Wechsler reported the Finance Committee met last week to start work on the 2021 budget. The pandemic and the circumstances affect us all individually but also as a community. There has been so far no loss of services to the community of Springfield. Trash was still collected twice a week, our highway department was active, as well as issuing permits for building projects. The Township is being proactive in projecting what revenue losses may occur through mercantile tax reductions due to the closure of

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businesses. Also, the uncertainty of the new tax assessment that took place that would affect 2021. Primarily, it should be neutral on residential properties, but we are concern about commercial properties. We have worked with the department heads to make sure our budgets are tight, there is no excess where we can cut expenditures if at all possible without affecting services, and we will do so. Our objective is to be fiscally responsible when you are paying your property taxes. Mr. Kelly noted that there has not been an increase in Township taxes six of the six last 8 years.

Pool

Mrs. Sage reported the total pool revenue for the month of June was \$53,167.00, which brings the year-to-date total to \$106,497.00. The pool was open for 29 days in June. She read the monthly maintenance report and noted that they pool continues to follow the CDC Covid guidelines.

Library

Mrs. Hoffman announced on July 6th the Library opened back up to the public. All items being returned to the Library must be quarantine for 72 hours. If anyone does not feel comfortable coming inside, the Library still offers curb-side pick-up.

Zoning

Mr. Layden reported the Zoning Hearing Board convened via Zoom to hear and render decisions of the following: denial of a variance for Mission BBQ to permit a wall sign on the west side of the building; granted approval of a rear yard setback variance for Wawa to permit a walk-in freezer; and approval of a Use variance to permit a pet hospital in the Old Springfield Shopping Village.

Golf Course

Mr. Layden reported for the month of June, total rounds were 4,317, bringing the year to date total to 10,834 rounds. Total revenue for the month of June was \$227,040.00, bringing the course year-to-date revue to \$526,727.00. The golf shop total revenue for the month of June was \$15,427.00, bringing the shop's year-to-date total sales to \$33,594.00.

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Mr. Layden read the monthly maintenance report. The staff has been working extremely hard managing the golf course during this time of drought and heat stress.

Mr. Lanciano read the monthly Parks report. The Parks crew installed all basketball hoops on backboards in all parks, replaced a damaged playground piece in Church Road Park, completed landscaping on Parkview Drive, next to the entrance to Memorial parks, installed equipment for the in-line hockey rink in Crowell Park, as well as grass cutting and clean-up of a fallen tree in Memorial Park.

Parks

Mr. Kelly stated that before the pandemic hit, the Board of Commissioners undertook the start of unbiased and sensitivity training. After our session, the pandemic hit and locked everything down and the conversations that happened during that training is nonconductive to a zoom call. Now that we are able to gather in smaller groups, the Township will be resuming those sessions next week.

Sensitivity Training

Mr. Kelly gave an explanation of the County's reassessment that is currently occurring. He said this reassessment is by Court Order as a result from a lawsuit that was filed in Haverford Township. It went through the court system and the court ordered a County-wide reassessment. Mr. Kelly noted that Springfield Township did not initiate or participate in the reassessment program. The statute is the assessment cannot be a windfall for the Township, County or School District. It has to be revenue neutral across the board. The new assessment should reflect 100% of the market value of your property as of July 1, 2019.

County Reassessment

Mr. Kelly reported the Township continues to be targeted for sporadic overnight thefts from unlocked vehicles. These steps can easily be prevented by simply locking your car doors and refraining from leaving keys personal identification, credit cards, cash and visible items of value in the car.

Public Safety

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- Mr. Kelly reported there are groups of juveniles that are gathering on private and public properties that are continuing to present a problem and concern for residents abutting those properties. There have been several incidents of costly vandalism to equipment in Township parks and obscenities being directed at adults while questioning their behavior. Additional patrols have been assigned specifically to address these issues and those found in violation will be cited. To avoid the need for police action, we are seeking parental assistance in advising your children to be respectful of others and to distance themselves from those kids committing offenses. The Township recognizes the frustration associated with the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, but disruption of the quality of life for all residents will not be tolerated.
- Fire Company
- Mr. Kelly reported the Fire Company continues to have their COVID-19 precautions in placed to protect their crews so that they can protect the residents. In June, the Fire Company responded to 61 fires, 15 non-fires, 21 mutual aids, 4 EMS assistance and 6 drills/work sessions. Mr. Kelly read a list of safety tips for outdoor grilling.
- Health
- Mr. Kelly reported for the month of June, the Health Officer inspected 7 restaurants, 9 retail establishments, and 2 reinspections. He reminded dog owners that dogs must be on a leash and kept under full control at all times. Spotted lanternflies have been seen through the Township. He suggested residents contact the PA Department of Agriculture for additional information.
- Public Works
- Mr. Kelly reported the Public Works Department hired 5 part-time summer employees, 4 of which are returning employees. The regular scheduled days for the collection of trash brush became effective on July 8th.
- BILLS SUBMITTED
- Mrs. Sage moved that all bills approved for payment by the appropriate chairperson be paid. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

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Mr. Layden moved for the adoption of Ordinance #1609 creating a new Chapter 90, entitled "Park & Recreation; Special Events." A special event is any meeting activity, gathering of persons, animals or vehicles upon a public facility, street, sidewalk, park or other place open to the public. A special event shall include a festival, celebration, concert, parade, block party, athletic event which is expected to have 100 people or more. If a special event occurs on private property, and is sponsored by a nonprofit agency, the associated fees may be waived. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

ORDINANCE #1609
Park & Recreation
Special Events

Mr. Wechsler moved for the adoption of Resolution #11-20 offering a one-time early retirement incentive for employees with 42 years of service as of July 31, 2020 to retire with no reduction for early commencement prior to age 65. The benefit will be equal to 1.75% times final average earnings for all years of service. Decision to retire from Township employment must be made by September 1, 2020 and voluntarily retire from employment on or before September 1, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

RESOLUTION #11-20
Civilian Pension Plan
Early Retirement
Incentive

On motion of Mr. Lanciano, Commissioners Sage and Rudolph were reappointed to a two year term on the Civilian Pension Plan Committee. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

CIVILIAN PENSION
PLAN COMMITTEE

Mrs. Hoffman moved to reappointment of Joseph Arrell, 603 Farmhouse Circle, to a four year term on the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

PLANNING
COMMISSION

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Byrne if received any public comment via email. Mr. Byrne replied that none were received.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wechsler moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

ADJOURNMENT
(8:40 P.M.)