

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
COUNCIL SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA
10:00 AM
MAY 4, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor McDaniel
1. Reading of the Sunshine Notice

Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Springfield Township Council in the following manner on May 1, 2020

- Posted written notice on the official bulletin board at the Municipal Building, 2159 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Jobstown, New Jersey;
- Transmitted notice to the Burlington County Times and Trenton;
- Filed written notice with the clerk of Springfield Township; and
- Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and has prepaid any charges fixed for such service.
- Posting on the municipal website and municipal building front entrance a notice of electronic meeting and instructing public on how to participate.

2. Salute to the Flag
3. Roll Call: Mr. Frank, Mr. Hlubik, Mr. Marinello, Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Sobotka
4. Resolutions
 - No. 2020-05-01 – Authorizing an Emergency Meeting
 - No. 2020-05-02 – Extending the Grace Period for Collection of 2nd Quarter Taxes Pursuant to Executive Order 130
5. Public Comment*
6. Adjournment

SPECIAL EMERGENCY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING (HELD ELECTRONICALLY)
MAY 4, 2020

The meeting of the Springfield Township Council was called to order by Mayor Denis McDaniel with Council Members John Hlubik, Anthony Marinello and Peter Sobotka were present. Absent was Council Member David Frank. Also present was the Township Manager Paul Keller and Township Solicitor George Morris.

The Sunshine Notice was read:

“Public Notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Springfield Township Council in the following manner on May 1, 2020

- Posted written notice on the official bulletin board at the Municipal Building, 2159 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Jobstown, New Jersey;
- Transmitted notice to the Burlington County Times and Trenton;
- Filed written notice with the clerk of Springfield Township; and
- Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and has prepaid any charges fixed for such service.
- Posting on the municipal website and municipal building front entrance a notice of electronic meeting and instructing public on how to participate.”

Mayor McDaniel led the salute to the Flag.

Mr. McDaniel explained the purpose of this meeting and open to the meeting to public comment. Hearing no one for public comment, Mr. Marinello made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to close public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Hlubik made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to approve Resolution No. 2020-05-01. Roll Call: Mr. Hlubik – Yes; Mr. Marinello – Yes; Mr. Sobotka – Yes and Mr. McDaniel – Yes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2020-05-01
AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY MEETING**

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield conducted a properly held meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act ("OPMA") on April 8, 2020 and the next meeting is not scheduled until May 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, without warning to municipalities, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 130 allowing municipalities to extend the grace period for the collection of taxes; and

WHEREAS, such action must be made by resolution and the Township has not scheduled meetings before the grace period begins to change the dates for the grace period; and

WHEREAS, the Township cannot notice a Special Meeting under the OPMA before the tax collection period commences because of newspaper publication deadlines; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 crisis financial burdens are placed on all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council decision to act may allow some families to maintain financial security through the extension of a grace period and such an extension may alleviate a taxpayers' decision to choose between food and medical purchases or making payroll payments and payment of taxes, the former of which could exacerbate the public health crises; and

WHEREAS, substantial harm to the public's interest is realistic should this issue not be addressed in this emergency meeting; and

WHEREAS, notice was given to two newspapers, posted on the Township bulletin board, and provided in electronic form to those who have requested such notices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Springfield that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-9, an emergency meeting of the Township Council hereby appropriate and that failure to convene the meeting, despite "adequate notice" as defined by the statute is urgent and important and delay would likely result in substantial harm to the public interest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be adopted by a super majority of the Township Council.

Mr. Sobotka made a motion seconded by Mr. Hlubik to approve Resolution No. 2020-05-02. Mr. McDaniel asked about the policy on receipt of payments if residents are using the drop box or mailing payments in and Ms. Clayton responded that payments must be in the drop box by 3 pm June 1st or received in the mail on June 1st to be considered received on that day. Mr. McDaniel also asked about any cash flow issues if Council approves this resolution and Ms. Clayton responded that the Township has already received most of the payments and received payments from the two companies holding the largest number of mortgage escrows so cash flow this quarter should not be an issue. Mr. Keller added that he is not sure how much help it will be to those who are out of work since it does not appear that things will be opening back up soon so those residents will be in the same position on June 1st. Mr. McDaniel stated that on a conference call he participated in this was discussed and it was mentioned that by giving a few extra weeks it is hoped that people will have started to receive their unemployment benefits or their stimulus money.

Roll Call: Mr. Hlubik – Yes; Mr. Marinello – Yes; Mr. Sobotka – Yes and Mr. McDaniel – Yes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-05-02

**EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR COLLECTION OF 2ND QUARTER TAXES
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 130**

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020, Governor Murphy enacted Executive Order 130 as a continued reaction to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order permits, municipalities to extend the statutory grace period to pay property taxes from May 10, 2020 to a date no later than June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council recognizes that citizens of this Township, like those across the State and Country, are experiencing an economic downturn, increased unemployment and other significant financial issues as a result of COVID-19 reactions, market fluctuations and lost income opportunities and enacting this resolution may give those residents and taxpayers who need temporary relief additional time to meet their obligations to ensure that the Township, schools and county have the resources to operate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Springfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that pursuant to Executive Order 130, the Township Council hereby extends the grace period for payment of taxes from May 10, 2020 until June 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this Resolution shall be sent to Director of the Division of Local Government Services in compliance with the Executive Order.

Mr. Sobotka began discussing procedures for disinfecting the building and social distancing once the building reopened and Mr. Morris advised him that this is not in the scope of discussion provided in the notice for the Special Emergency Meeting and this discussion should be held until the regular meeting in May.

Mr. Sobotka made a motion seconded by Mr. Marinello to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Clayton
Township Clerk