

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
7:30 PM
MARCH 24, 2021

1. Meeting called to order by the Mayor
2. Reading of the Sunshine Notice
3. Salute to the Flag
4. Roll Call: Mr. Eaton, Mr. Frank, Mr. Marinello, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Sobotka
5. 2021 Budget Discussion
6. Public Comment*
7. Adjournment

**TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2021**

The meeting of the Springfield Township Council was called to order by Deputy Mayor Frank with Council Members Andrew Eaton, Denis McDaniel and Peter Sobotka present. Absent was Anthony Marinello. Also present were Manager Paul Keller, CFO Yolaika Medina, Auditor Evan Palmer and Auditor Michael Cesaro.

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 January 6, 2021:

- a. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Municipal Building, Jobstown, NJ
- b. Transmitting written notice to the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times
- c. Filing written notice with the Clerk of Springfield Township
- d. Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charges fixed for such services.”

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Keller explained there was a summary with a 2.7 cent tax impact and he added that fund balances are being utilized. Mr. Keller asked for questions from Council.

Mr. Sobotka asked how this will affect the average homeowner. Mr. Cesaro responded that it would be a \$75 a year increase to the average homeowner. Mr. Cesaro added that we are not sure how the American Rescue Plan may affect the budget but the State is not extending deadlines for budget. Mr. Sobotka asked if there any recommendations for changes to this budget and Mr. Keller responded cuts were already made and this is the budget being recommended for Council to proceed with introduction next month. Mr. Sobotka asked if there are sufficient funds for gasoline and Mr. Keller responded yes.

Mr. McDaniel stated that for the past 20 years the Township has received \$25000 for Safe and Secure and this year it has been reduced to \$13,500 and Ms. Medina responded that there was no explanation for the cut and Mr. Cesaro added that all Townships received the same cuts. Mr. McDaniel commented that the police pension contribution went up and there is nothing the Township can do and the State never offers an explanation. Mr. McDaniel commented on the ground lease payments going up and down and Mr. Cesaro responded that this is not different from any other Township and oftentimes it has to do with mergers causing some leases not to

be renewed. Ms. Medina stated that payments from the cell companies are usually paid about five days prior to the due dates so there may have been some money deposited in December for January's payment. It was discussed that the CFO should create a journal of all companies and amounts due including the contracted increases in payments. Mr. Sobotka added that this should be developed for PILOTs too and Ms. Medina responded that she does have that breakout.

Mr. Eaton asked if the Bank CAP Ordinance actually takes action or just authorizes the Township if necessary and Mr. Cesaro responded it just authorizes the Township. Mr. Eaton asked about transfers and whether there is a form that needs to go to the State and Ms. Medina responded the transfers are done by resolution and Mr. Cesaro added that the Township is only allowed to do a transfer in November and December. Mr. Eaton also questioned line items where we have much larger amounts budgeted then were spent and he gave the example that there is \$7,000 budgeted for recycling but we only spent about \$500 each year for the past two years and Mr. Keller explained we use that money to purchase buckets which we don't need to do every year but we currently have an outstanding order now for \$3,000 for new buckets. Mr. Eaton stated that he would like to just see explanation for items like this and Mr. Keller responded he meets with department heads and they need to detail their expenditures. Ms. Medina added that she gets these numbers from Mr. Keller and the Department Heads and after the Auditors review the information they tell her when she needs to make cuts and Ms. Medina will then go back and make cuts where she can. Mr. Eaton asked about insurance and Ms. Medina responded that those numbers come from JIF and Mr. Keller added the JIF is pool insurance so the risk is shared with other entities and there was an increase and he added they go back five to six years to do the analysis. Mr. Keller added that the Township's experience is good because we have very few liabilities. Mr. Eaton asked if the Township has reached out to the schools to see where they are with their budgets and Ms. Medina responded the schools have not provided an actual budget to us yet. Mr. Eaton suggested reaching out to the school to see if they have an idea of what their budget will be and the tax impact.

McDaniel asked about paid/charged on the budget and Ms. Medina responded that paid is already done and charged means that the money is allotted but not yet paid. Mr. McDaniel stated that we could make some minor cuts but those cuts won't make much difference in this budget but might hurt us next year.

Mr. Sobotka asked what one penny is worth and Mr. Cesaro responded \$38761. Mr. Keller indicated that the tax rate collection helped us a lot this year. There was discussion of the impact on assessments on the value of the town and impact on the budget. Mr. Frank stated that there are only appeals and farmland assessments but those impacts would be minimal. There was further discussion of the Wawa projects and how that could help once they are completed and added to the assessment records.

Mr. McDaniel commented that the debt service seems modest in comparison to all the road work done.

Mr. Eaton question why some grants showed no monies and Ms. Medina responded that we did not have final numbers for some of the grants yet and they did not want to assume that the grants would be the same as last year after receiving the safe and secure cut. Ms. Medina added that once we have the numbers we will add as a Chapter 158. Mr. Keller stated that we could possibly have the Recycling grant amounts before the budget is introduced in April.

Council agreed the budget looks good and Mr. Cesaro confirmed he will have the budget document ready for next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present

TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL'S BUSINESS

Mr. Sobotka made a motion seconded by Mr. Eaton to add Township Official's Business to the agenda. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Sobotka would like to bring back Pride in Springfield Day this year and asked for Township Council approval. Mr. Sobotka asked for donations toward bags and supplies and it appears the turnout for the event should be good. Mr. Frank asked if we could fund from the Clean Communities Grant. Mr. McDaniel asked if volunteers could be given a choice to the areas they are assigned and Mr. Sobotka responded they try to do this. Mr. Eaton stated this is a great initiative and he asked if it has always been Council approved event and Mr. Sobotka responded that it has. Mr. Eaton asked what sort of contributions are normally received and Mr. Sobotka responded that it was a late start this year so he hasn't had time to get too many contributions this year but the cost for supplies is minimal. Mr. Sobotka stated the date is April 10th because it is after Easter weekend but before baseball starts. Mr. Eaton asked about if the list of sponsors are recognized in any way for what do they donate and Mr. Sobotka stated that money and supplies can be donated but this year they did not have time to do the tee shirts showing sponsors. Mr. Eaton asked about the process for donations and Mr. Sobotka responded they can contact him and he will let them know what we need. Mr. Eaton asked what is the clean community money traditionally used for and Mr. Keller responded that whatever relates to cleaning up the community, for example, tire clean up and it was discussed that the money could be used for this type of event as well. Mr. Sobotka stated that they will have a rain date of April 11th. Mr. McDaniel made a motion seconded by Mr. Eaton to support Pride in Springfield Day. Mr. Eaton asked if the approval covers insurance and Mr. Keller responded he will take care of liability issues. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Sobotka gave an update that they have the scoreboard and it will be placed in the ballfield and the cost to the Township will be \$900 for materials which will come out of the recreation account. He added that one of the parents will be assisting us in getting a new batting cage and the cost to the Township for materials on this project will be about \$600. Mr. McDaniel made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to approve these two additions to the park. Mr. Eaton asked if Mr. Sobotka was bringing this to the Council in his role as recreation liaison and Mr. Sobotka responded yes. Mr. Eaton suggested recognizing people who contribute and donate for such things once a year. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. McDaniel heard from Mr. Bryan Eggleston that his mother does not wish to have the Township's salt stored on her property any longer and Mr. Keller responded that this agreement was between the contractor and Mrs. Eggleston and the landowner should be reaching out to his office if there is a complaint. Mr. Frank stated that the Township does not want to have to build a facility.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL'S BUSINESS

Mr. Sobotka made a motion seconded by Mr. McDaniel to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Clayton
Township Clerk