

The **October 21, 2019** regular session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, Monmouth County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor O'Brien at 7:00 p.m. in the Frank E. Adams Municipal Building with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Councilman Christopher Champion
Councilman Leonard Capristo
Councilman William Graetz
Councilwoman Sara King
Councilman James Shuler
Councilman Christopher Willms
Mayor Thomas O'Brien

Also attending:

Dennis Collins, Borough Attorney

Mayor O'Brien announced: Pursuant to the requirements of New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk; posted on the Borough website and in the Municipal Building; published as a legal notice in the Coast Star newspaper; and mailed to those requesting notice and providing payment.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Champion, seconded by Mr. Shuler, the agenda was amended to include R2019-175, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Graetz, the amended agenda was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

APPROVE MINUTES - October 7, 2019

On a motion by Mr. Champion, seconded by Mr. Willms, the minutes were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: Mr. Shuler Absent: None

PRESENTATIONS - None

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda items only)

On a motion by Mr. Champion, seconded by Mr. Graetz, the public comment section was opened, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

No comment

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Champion, the public comment section was closed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Annual Best Practice Inventory

Mr. Willms explained requirement to discuss at public meeting; municipality is assessed compliance with various laws and evaluated on implementation of best practices; 84 questions; we scored well on everything: good control, practices & financial stability.

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Graetz, the November 4, 2019 council meeting was cancelled due to timing with Election Day by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Capristo – no report

Mr. Willms – no report

Mrs. King – reported on compiling of code book on 3 sections of Chapter 22/Municipal Land Use; will present to council. Mr. Collins will be sending track changes format, what we've done and why; any questions, please call; public hearing will explain to public. Mrs. King also mentioned the Veterans Luncheon on Monday November 11th.

Mr. Shuler – reported we added 2 picnic tables to Veterans Park; Community Center work has been completed, good job.

Mr. Champion – reported working on Emergency Operations Plan for borough, due by end of month; will be ready for review soon, thanked Police Chief Gunnell & his team for their involvement. Also reported Police Dept. had 902 calls for service in September, & First Aid had 106 calls. First Aid Squad is volunteer, we truly appreciate them. Meeting tomorrow with environmental specialist from DEP on Shore Road regarding what we can do right now to get area cleaned up. Wine-tasting event on Friday, October 25 at Spring Lake Manor, get tickets from Police Dept.

Mr. Graetz – reported that Recreation basketball is coming up, sign up on Community Pass, \$50/child until November 11, \$60 after that, 3 divisions for girls and boys: grades 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8; basketball clinic for K-2 children, \$30/child till November 11, \$40 after that; practices will start week of November 18; games start on December 14. Trunk or Treat October 26 at Allaire Road Park, open to all, register car on Community Pass if you want to be entered in contest. Reminder – free chair yoga for residents at Community Center 11am-12pm, bring ID. Pickle board court has been lined at Joseph Robertson Park on Allaire Rd.

Mayor O'Brien – reported that construction has been completed at SLH School: There is an Open House on October 26, 10am-12pm, feel free to attend.

Mr. Graetz – added that Police Dept. has training exercises at the elementary school on Wednesday, October 23rd after dismissal.

REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Spring Lake Heights Police report – September 2019
- Spring Lake First Aid Squad Monthly report – September 2019

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS - None

RESOLUTIONS

- **R2019-172**, Borough Council establishing a Halloween Curfew

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Champion, Resolution No. 2019-172 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2019-173**, Authorizing a contract for the purchase of a Police Vehicle from Mall Chevrolet via Educational Services Commission of New Jersey

Mayor added it is a state contract that we budgeted for in our capital plan last year.

Mrs. King asked how many cars we have purchased this year; Mr. Campion responded this is 2nd one this year; old ones will be reassigned elsewhere; one more this year – pick-up truck.

On a motion by Mr. Campion, seconded by Mr. Graetz, Resolution No. 2019-173 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2019-174**, Approving the payment of claims as set forth on the October 18, 2019 Bills List

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Graetz, Resolution No. 2019-174 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2019-175**, Approving payment of claims as set forth on the October 21, 2019 Bills List

On a motion by Mr. Graetz, seconded by Mr. Campion, Resolution No. 2019-175 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Any item)

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Willms, the public comment section was opened, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Karen Burke, 606 Shore Rd., asked for results of tomorrow's meeting at Shore Rd. with DEP. Mrs. Gillis will get her contact information.

Karen Fairhurst, 604 Shore Rd., stated that mosquitos are enormous problem, her son was hospitalized with mersa from contact with water there; it's stagnant dirty water from west. The poison ivy growth is wild; the dock & gazebo seem frivolous right now compared to magnitude of other problems there. Mr. Campion took notes and will bring to attention of DEP.

Russell Yeserski, 608 Shore Rd., concerned about changing Shore Rd. area into a park, doesn't want crowds of people coming in. Mayor responded we are interested in cleaning up area first, scope not intended to be a park that draws people in from out of town. Mr. Yeserski wants it cleaned up but no additional boardwalk or anything; added there were migrants living under bridge years ago, called police.

Kathy Kelsey, 624 Jersey Ave., commented on lack of trash can along Wreck Pond from highway to train tracks; good spot would be 6th & Shore Rd.; asked to be noticed on results of tomorrow's DEP meeting as well.

Kerry Murray, 710 Shore Rd., reiterated that Shore Rd. residents' main concern is cleaning up area for health & safety reasons and not for boat launches & extras; original question – she asked what the responsibility of borough in respect to sediment issue is. Mr. Champion responded his understanding was that we don't have authority to clean area, will clarify what we can do according to DEP. Mayor O'Brien explained we applied for a grant to get guidance as to what we can do with land. Ms. Murray went online, viewed DEP list and determined amount of overgrowth is so far from waterline, it cannot be under DEP. Mr. Collins warned of being cautious in respect to state open waters; DEP oversees. Mr. Champion added he may invite DEP to appear before residents so that they can explain their restrictions etc. Ms. Murray added we are cutting the grass up to a certain point, wondering what guidelines we are following now.

Mrs. King added do not get carried away with the extras we've put in grant, which was done to make it more appealing; our main concern is the safety and welfare of everyone there; Joe May is experienced in applying for grants. Mr. Champion added we are not bound by exactly what was listed in grant; goal was to get the grant.

Karen Burke 606 Shore Rd. asked when we get the grant, when can we start work? Mr. Champion answered DPW could do right away assuming there are no permits required. Mr. Collins said permits may be needed. Mr. Champion added that Monmouth County has an open DEP permit for mosquito-breeding/hazardous areas. Ms. Burke asked if we are allowed to dredge; are we willing to do that? Mr. Champion replied he does not know what would be involved, the magnitude of cost. It's a huge undertaking; perhaps we could ask the Army Corps to participate; it's not an easy fix. We would need to establish a framework for what is possible; this involves other towns.

Russell Yeserski, 608 Shore Rd feels feels that speeding is an issue on Shore Rd. maybe speed bumps could be installed. Mr. Champion replied that the speed bumps decrease property values and the vibrations are felt by the homeowners.

Karen Fairhurst, 604 Shore Rd., asked if parking is allowed on left side of street. Mr. Champion said yes. She thinks there is a sign states No Parking. She concerned that parking could be a problem if there is a park. She inquired as to why Spring Lake's area is open.

Russell Yeserski, 608 Shore Rd., added speeding is bad on Shore Rd., asked if speed bumps can be installed. Mr. Champion has researched, speed bumps would destroy snow-plow equipment; also shown to decrease property value, cause vibration in homes, blames resident offenders for not respecting speed limits; need to leave it to police to watch/issue tickets. Mr. Shuler confirmed speeding is bad on Shore Rd. Mr. Champion added that our residents are some of the worst offenders.

Kathy Kelsey, 624 Jersey Ave., traffic on Hwy 71 is heavy, asked of possibility of a crosswalk. Mayor replied yes. Mr. Champion discussed possibility of bike lanes along 71; preliminary discussions with state. Ms. Kelsey proposed possibility of no-left turn out of Dunkin Donuts. Mr. Collins said that is domain of State, not us; we have no authority for any government-owned road.

Russell Yeserski 608 Shore Rd asked if there could be a pedestrian sign on highway. Mr. Champion said State roadway, only DOT has authority; he will inquire. Mr. Champion stated that he was interested in uniform speed all along highway throughout all of the municipalities.

Eileen Eilenberger, 1215 Pond Rd. commented that we use to have a committee run by the Monmouth County Planning Board called Wreck Pond Storm Management: there was opportunity to address issues in

the area with DEP. There were various municipal administrators & residents; she thought it ended 3 years ago. She would be willing to chair such a committee in future. Mr. Collins added it's a regional solution if you don't fix it from the start of the stream it doesn't help any town downstream.

Karen Fairhurst 604 Shore Rd Ms. Fairhurst added area near Old Mill is higher, asked if those areas can be managed, that's where the problem starts with all of the sediment. Mr. Collins replied all is regulated by DEP. Mr. Campion though the group that Ms. Eilenberger mentioned would be great to put back into service.

Karen Burke 606 Shore Rd. asked about geese problem, is it true that having the brush keeps geese away. She asked if cleared how will we keep the geese away. Mr. Shuler stated that geese will not go through the brush.

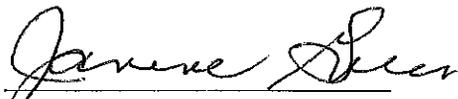
On a motion by Mr. Campion, seconded by Mr. Willms, the public comment section was closed, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mr. Capristo, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Willms

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Campion, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:56p.m.



Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved: November 18, 2019