The July 21, 2025 Regular Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, Monmouth County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Campion 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 John Casagrande
Councilman Leonard Capristo
Councilwoman Michele Degnan-Spang
Councilman William Graetz
Councilwoman Sara King
Councilman Christopher Willms
Mayor Christopher Campion

Absent: None

Also attending:
John Barrett, Borough Administrator
Michael Collins, Borough Attorney
Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Mayor Campion 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.

AMEND AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Graetz, the agenda was amended to add Resolution Nos. 2025-149, R2025-150 to the agenda by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA

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

Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

APPROVE MINUTES – June 16, 2025

On a motion by Mr. Graetz, seconded by Mrs. King, the June 16, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

Ayes:, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King
Nays: None Abstain: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Willms Absent: None

PRESENTATIONS – None

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Degnan-Spang – Reminder that there is no brush pick up in August

Councilman Willms – No report

Councilman Graetz – No report

Councilwoman King – No report

Councilman Casagrande – There is a delay in the mailing of the tax bills, they should be going out on Friday, there is an extended grace period which is reflected in Resolution R2025-149.

Councilman Capristo – No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT (Any Item)
On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. King, the public comment section was opened by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Karen Burke 606 Shore Road asked about the installation of the dock, it is in front of her home. She stated there was no notice and that she reviewed minutes of land use and did not see anything. She knew it was in talks because of a letter she received from EZ project. Mayor Campion asked what notification she should have gotten. Ms. Burke replied that anyone within 200ft should be notified, Mayor Campion replied, no. Mayor Campion added that there was a discussion at council meeting, that the gazebo was removed from the plan and believed Ms. Burke to be present at that meeting, she replied she was.
She asked why it's placed at a different location than shown on original plan. John Barrett replied that the DEP made the change due to tidelands at the original spot. This is a DEP approval.
Mayor Campion announced that this is the public comment period not a public deposition. Borough Attorney, Michael Collins offered that the 200ft list is used for applications before the land use board. He added that a letter sent out by one of Boroughs contractors is not accessible right now, we would look into a copy to review. Mayor Campion was given a copy of the letter from the public. He asked what is the difference in location? Ms. Burke stated that the original location was in front of the smallest house on the street at the intersection at 6th. Mr. Barrett replied that the move was a DEP recommendation. Mayor Campion offered that possibly the sidewalk could start at that location. Chief Gunnell stated that he spoke to Amber about her driveway location.

Kevin Beyer 604 Shore Road stated that the dock is almost in front of his property. He has put a tremendous amount of money into his property and this town. He's done work in the neighborhood and surrounding area. He is totally against what the land use board has done. The impact of parking and traffic to the neighborhood, don't you ask or notify? He asked, "do we have to come to every meeting to know what's happening?" He stated that only notice was received 2 months ago. Mayor Campion stated there was a public meeting about the project with a presentation, it included a gazebo which based on comments was removed from the application, The grant was awarded. The new location was based on DEP comments; the scope of the project remains. Mr. Beyer responded that no notification was given about the change other towns have done it. He asked if a traffic study was done, a parking plan, what about trash clean up, Fair Haven had problems, a million crabbers leaving garbage behind. Other towns require permits. This thing was just dropped in; Mayor Campion responded that it is an unfair comment there was a public meeting. He added we can take those ideas and put them into place.

Laura Beyer 604 Shore Road stated she was not asking for notification on every decision, but this is directly across from my house, we should have been given the courtesy notice of the change and the opportunity to discuss it. She added that she will be locking her doors, "I don't want strangers to come here, when things are free it doesn't necessarily invite the right people. It's the people that don't want to pay to go on the beach in Spring Lake. She added that minutes to meetings were reviewed and there was no discussion about moving it.

Mayor Campion asked about the letter, Administrator Barrett explained that it's part of the DEP application process, that residents would have the opportunity to comment, I don't know if anyone did. He

added that there were discussions with Dep, Joe May. Chuck Stewart about the location. He added that he would get a briefing on the chain of events.

Mayor Campion stated that he hears the concerns but would like to see what the possibilities are and certainly we can put regulations in place as to the usage of the handicap launch.

Karen Burke 606 Shore Road stated that the area has been cleared and maintained by her family, adding if there was miscommunication about the placement, that it actually was placed incorrectly. She added this thing is huge and abrasive, why didn't it go up by the triangle or by the old Jimmy Brynes. Mayor Campion asked what area she was referring to, she replied where it's been placed.

Mayor Campion asked Mr. Barrett to follow up with Joe May on the process, setting some strong rules. registration and parking. Mayor campion asked the participants to provide Mr. Barrett with their contact information.

Kerry Murray 710 Shore Rd stated that she attended the 9 months of meeting for the Dunkin Donuts, she is speaking for herself, although there were residents objecting to the application. She added that the application was pushed through. It was shocking, residents were dismissed or criticized. The applicant has the burden of proof not the residents. She stated that one member was grossly inappropriate, laughing, using a cell phone and laptop. She asked council to review the decision, 2 votes were based on a non-existing police report.

Mayor Campion stated he would investigate, adding that there is an appeal process. He explained that the Borough is looking at establishing parking restrictions at various locations in town. We know there are problems, we're looking into a remedy.

Karen Burke 606 Shore Road stated that when driving in her neighborhood, particularly Jersey Ave. the vehicles at Bennetts Garage are a problem, it seems like Jersey Ave is being used as part of the business. Business trucks are parked overnight on the street, she asked if that is legal. Mayor Campion responded there is a weight limit, and we have seen this at other locations. We currently are engaging a traffic engineer to review and give us options to correct. The last thing we want to do is fix one area and create a bad spot elsewhere. Mayor Campion asked Chief Gunnell to investigate.

Kathy Kelsey 624 Jersey Ave stated that she lives near Dunkin, Bennetts Garage and Shore Rd. She stated that there was a sign at the Dunkin prohibiting the left turn onto Hwy 71, what happened? She also expressed concern over the trucks overnight at Bennetts. She offered that she and other residents are single people and concerned over the owners of the vehicles coming at night to pick up their vehicles.

Mayor Campion stated that there was a plan from NJ Transit that there wanted to close several crossing. Luckly we became aware of it and objected. He believes that that will be coming up again, and that council would stay informed in this manner. He also apologized for sounding aggressive earlier, he does care about our town and only wants what's best for all residents.

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

Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Spring Lake Heights Zoning Monthly Report – June 2025
- Spring Lake First Aid Squad Report – June 2025
- Spring Lake Heights Municipal Court Monthly Report – May & June 2025
- Spring Lake Heights Police Monthly Report – June 2025
- Independent Fire Company No. 1 Monthly Report – June 2025
- Township of Wall Public Notice 07/23/25 Re: Ord. 16-2025 Amend code pertaining to farms & fences

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS - None

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R2025-140 to R2025-143, R2025-149 & R2025-150

Consent Agenda items are considered routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds; any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- **R2025-140,** Approving the designated membership in the Independent Fire Company No. 1 – Thomas Capaci
- **R2025-141,** Authorizing the refund of a property tax payment- Block 35 Lot 3
- **R2025-142,** Appointing an Assistant Licensed Water Operator – Jake Partusch
- **R2025-143,** Requesting the Director of Division of Local Government Services to approve an amendment to the 2025 municipal budget
- **R2025-149,** authorizing the extension of the grace period for the 2025 3rd quarter property taxes
- **R2025-150,** authorizing the balance adjustment of Water-Sewer Utility charges.

  On a motion by Mr. Graetz, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, Resolution the Consent Agenda was approved by the following vote:

  Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
  Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS

- **R2025-144,** Approving the submission of a NJ DOT grant application-Improvements for Passaic Ave.

  On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Willms, Resolution No. R2025-144 was approved by the following vote:

  Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
  Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None
- **R2025-145,** Approving the submission of a NJ DOT grant application-Improvements for Ocean Rd. East

  On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Willms, Resolution No. R2025-145 was approved by the following vote:

  Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
  Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2025-146,** Authorizing a shared service agreement with Wall Township for assessment improvements to Block 723 Lot 4 on the tax map of Wall Township
  On a motion by Mr. Graetz, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, Resolution No. R2025-146 was approved by the following vote:
  Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
  Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2025-147,** Approving the payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the June 26, 2025 bills list
  On a motion by Mr. Graetz, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, Resolution No. R2025-147 was approved by the following vote:
  Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
  Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2025-148,** Approving the payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the July 18, 2025 bills list
  On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Willms, Resolution No. R2025-148 was approved by the following vote:
  Ayes: Mr. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Willms
  Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Mayor Campion would like to have conversation with Joe May to clarify why the dock was moved and the parking situation. Councilwoman King agreed parking by Bennetts Garage is a problem. Councilman Graetz would like to see no storing of kayak/canoes along Shore Rd.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Willms, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:55 p.m.

Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved: September 2, 2025