

The April 20, 2026 Regular Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, Monmouth County, New Jersey was called to order by Council President Graetz 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 Leonard Capristo
Councilman John Casagrande
Councilwoman Michele Degnan-Spang
Councilman William Graetz
Councilwoman Sara King
Councilman Dayton Lonsdale

Absent:

Mayor Christopher Campion

Also attending:

John Barrett, Borough Administrator
Nick Hession, Borough Attorney
Megan Kass, Borough Deputy Clerk
Joseph May, Borough Engineer and Public Works Director

Council President Graetz 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. Take Notice that pursuant to P.L. 2025, c. 72, the complete text of each legal notice of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, County of Monmouth, including the Boards, Commissions and the like may be obtained or viewed by the public on our official Internet Website: <https://springlakehts.com/public-notice>. Take further notice, that New Jersey Secretary of State legal notice webpage of each entity is <https://www.nj.gov/state/statewide-legal-notice-list.shtml>

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, the agenda was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Casagrande, Mr. Capristo, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Lonsdale

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

APPROVE MINUTES – April 6, 2026

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Mrs. King, the April 6, 2026 minutes were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Casagrande, Mr. Capristo, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mrs. King

Nays: None Abstain: Mr. Lonsdale Absent: None

PRESENTATIONS –

100th Anniversary Logo Award

Mr. Graetz read the proclamations commending Ryleigh Phillips and Hannah Uliano for their participation in the Spring Lake Heights 100th Anniversary logo contest. Ryleigh's design won 1st place and will be used on all promotions.

Brown & Brown - Health Benefits

Jacob Krakower with Brown and Brown, an insurance brokerage firm, presented health benefits options for the Borough of Spring Lake Heights. The current employee benefits cost has increased by 70% by staying in the State Health Benefit program over the past 4 years. This cost impacts both the employees and the budget of the Borough. The proposed benefits would be equal to or better than the current with reduced costs. The proposal is secured through the NJ Solutions Joint Health Insurance Fund. The proposal saves the Borough \$100,000 over the next six months. July 1st is the proposed start date with May 1st being the 60 day notice to leave the state benefits. Mr. Krakower explained the coverage terms secured as well as savings by offering the same Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance and Delta Dental Insurance.

Councilwoman Degnan-Spang thanked Mr. Sabins for his presentation. She inquired if there are more temporary ways to try speed calming such as temporary speed tables. Mr. Sabins stated yes, they could be installed but they would cause more amplified sound as well as hurting the pavement. Mrs. Degnan-Spang expressed her support for more speed enforcement along Old Mill Road.

Councilman Lonsdale thanked Dynamic Traffic for taking all the resident feedback into account and presented a revised plan. Mr. Lonsdale took the time to travel to other roads with similar speed tables to see firsthand what it is like.

Councilman Graetz thanked Mr. Sabins for his presentation and hard work.

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, the public comment section was opened by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Casagrande, Mr. Capristo, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Lonsdale

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Don Eilenberger – 1213 Pond Road, recapped the online Facebook group comments regarding the speed tables vs. speed bumps. Mr. Eilenberger suggested the objectors should travel through Farmingdale to see the experience of traveling over speed tables. Mr. Eilenberger strongly supports the speed tables as the traffic calming measure and does not want to see more deaths or accidents along Old Mill Road. He also stated that striping would do nothing and a traffic light would be astronomically expensive. He thanked council for their attention to this matter.

Maria Naughton, 1907 Old Mill Road, expressed her discontentment at noticing to residents and the alleged expedited timeline for the project. She stated that excessive striping and signage, as well as the speed tables themselves will decrease the home values along Old Mill Road. She further expressed concerns about exasperated traffic sounds from traveling over the speed tables. Ms. Naughton believes more traffic enforcement should be top priority with more ticketing of speeders. Ms. Naughton questioned the Ordinance from 1968 that limited tonnage along Old Mill Road. This ordinance was never completed and approved by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Ms. Naughton further expressed her disapproval of the proposed traffic calming project on Old Mill Road.

Mike Rubino, 543 Old Mill Road, lives on Old Mill Road between Warren Avenue and Allaire Road and stated that Old Mill Road is incredibly dangerous with speeding traffic. He stated that he cannot safely retrieve the mail from his mailbox due to the traffic and speeding. He stated his disapproval of Old Mill Road having no sidewalks and residents not being able to walk along the road. Mr. Rubino explained how traffic on Route 35 has been disgraceful and how motorists have learned how to travel down Old Mill Road instead of traveling Route 35 to avoid the traffic. Mr. Rubino also offered for the police to sit in his driveway to ticket speeders.

Jason Strap, 2104 Old Mill Road, commends the council for addressing the speeding on Old Mill Road. He has lived on Old Mill Road and agrees traffic and speeding have gotten worse. He believes the proposed plan is reasonable and will have the intended impact. He believes something must be done to address the problem.

Gina Torry Robertson, Spring Lake, married to Joseph E. Robertson III and founder of the Citizen for Road Safety organization. Ms. Robertson shared the story of her sister being killed as a pedestrian in a crosswalk in Texas. She thanked the council for addressing this topic in Spring Lake Heights. Ms. Robertson explained how her organization has a tagline that is “safe to live free” which is about the quality of life and the ability to not be afraid to go outside or to get the mail or go for a walk. She explained how problematic intersections and failure to control speed are top issues and should be addressed. She explained how roads that have incidents have lower property values than ones nearby that have better controlled roads. She thanked the Council for their attention to this matter and for allowing her to share her experience.

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

Ayes: Mr. Casagrande, Mr. Capristo, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Lonsdale

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Capristo- No report

Councilman Casagrande – Mr. Casagrande provided an update from the 100th Anniversary Committee. He stated volunteers would be available on Sunday April 26th if anyone has artifacts that could be loaned or scanned for the Historic Open House. The Open House would be open to the public at the Community Center on May 2nd and May 3rd. Mr. Casagrande also stated that the Borough’s annual budget would be delayed in being introduced due to unexpected challenges of health care costs, retirements and employment replacements and a deferred health insurance payment from more than 20 years ago that had come due. The Borough will be applying to the Local Finance Board to exceed the CAP and there is a resolution on the agenda to be able to do that application.

Councilwoman King – Mrs. King reported on the ordinances regarding signage that she and Mrs. Eilenberger are working on, and a draft will be submitted to the attorney for review soon. She also mentioned the ordinances on the agenda for public hearing.

Councilwoman Degnan-Spang – No report

Councilman Lonsdale – No report

Councilman Graetz – Mr. Graetz announced the appointment of Linda Marsh to the Environmental Commission.

Joseph May – Mr. May provided Public Works updates regarding the pickleball courts at Joseph E. Robertson Park. He also stated the Borough is moving forward with additional lighting at Bicentennial Park for the pickleball courts and it will be less light spillage to affect the surrounding residential homes. Mr. May gave updates regarding hydrant flushing, a water main break that was quickly fixed as well as a test shut down of the elevated water tank in preparation for the tank repairs.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Any Item)

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, the public comment section was opened by the following vote:

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

None

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

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

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Ordinance No. 2026-04**, An Ordinance amending Chapter 22 Article III Section 302, 502.1, 505, 507, 512.5 and 531

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, the public hearing for Ordinance 2026-04 was opened by the following vote:

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

None presented

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded Mrs. King, the public hearing was closed by the following vote:

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

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Ordinance 2026-4 was adopted by the following vote:

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

- **Ordinance No. 2026-06**, An Ordinance regulating conducting of special events

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, the public hearing for Ordinance 2026-06 was opened by the following vote:

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

None presented

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded Mr. Casagrande, the public hearing was closed by the following vote:

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

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded Mr. Lonsdale, Ordinance 2026-06 was adopted by the following vote:

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

REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Spring Lake Heights Police Monthly Report – March 2026
- Independent Fire Co. No. 1 Monthly Report – March 2026
- Spring Lake Heights Zoning Violation Monthly Report – March 2026
- 2025 Annual Report – Spring Lake Heights Land Use Board

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- **Ordinance No. 2026-07, Addressing Short-Term Rental Tax Ordinance**

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang the ordinance was introduced by the following vote:

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

The public hearing will be on May 18, 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA - None

RESOLUTIONS

- **R2026-88**, Establish the outdoor dining permit dates, time and fee

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution No. R2026-88 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-89**, Terminate all participation in the State Health Benefits Program

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Resolution No. R2026-89 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-90**, Appointing Brown & Brwon as Broker of Record for Employee Benefits

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Resolution No. R2026-90 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-91**, Authorizing the Borough to join the NJ Solutions Joint Health Insurance Fund

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution No. R2026-91 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-92**, Make application to the Local Finance Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution No. R2026-92 was approved by the following vote:

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


- **R2026-93**, Approving the payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the April 15, 2026 bills list

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Resolution No. R2026-93 was approved by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 9:00 p.m.



Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved: May 18, 2026