

**The May 18, 2026 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 Leonard Capristo  
Councilman John Casagrande  
Councilwoman Michele Degnan-Spang  
Councilwoman Sara King  
Mayor Christopher Campion

### Absent:

Councilman William Graetz  
Councilman Dayton Lonsdale

### Also attending:

John Barrett, Borough Administrator  
Michael Collins, Borough Attorney  
Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk  
Joseph May, Borough Engineer and Public Works Director

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. 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-notices>. Take further notice, that New Jersey Secretary of State legal notice webpage of each entity is <https://www.nj.gov/state/statewide-legal-notices-list.shtml>

## **AMEND AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. King, the agenda was amended to add Ordinance No. 2026-09 by the following vote:

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

Nays: None          Abstain: None          Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

## **APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None          Abstain: None          Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

## **APPROVE MINUTES - April 20, 2026 & May 4, 2026**

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. King, the April 20, 2026 and May 4, 2026 minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None          Abstain: None          Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

## **PRESENTATIONS – None**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS – Old Mill Road Speed Tables**

Mayor Campion reviewed the timeline of the Old Mill Road Traffic Calming. He stated that the Borough needs to follow the recommendations of the experts in traffic engineering. He stated he is open to discussion and feedback but would like to move forward on a base bid and be able to add additions in the future.

Councilman Capristo agreed that something does need to be done and feels the adjustments to the project are reasonable. Mr. Capristo took the time to travel Old Mill Road to experience what the perspective of pedestrian traffic was. He stated that it is nearly impossible to be a pedestrian on Old Mill Road. He proposed looking into adding sidewalks along portions of the road.

Councilman Casagrande thanked Dynamic Traffic for their work on the project and taking comments into account for the revised proposal. He agreed in looking into sidewalks in the future but stated his approval to move forward on the project as proposed to address the speeding problem.

Mayor Champion asked Mr. Sabins with Dynamic Traffic the estimated cost of adding sidewalks or bike lanes. Mr. Sabins stated that the cost would be close to a million dollars to add sidewalks, pave and curb the road but the size of the project would determine the cost. Mr. Sabins also stated that bike lanes are not intended for pedestrians and would not necessarily help with this situation.

Councilwoman King expressed her desire to start slow on this project. She wants the least amount of speed tables installed as possible. She does not feel the current proposal is necessary and proposed doing less. She does not want the Borough to jump ahead and have to backtrack. Mrs. King would like to see a traffic light installed at Ocean Road and Old Mill Road. Mr. Sabins responded that the study was done for a 4-way stop at Old Mill Road and Ocean Road and it is far less expensive than a traffic light.

Councilwoman Degnan-Spang expressed her agreement that something needs to be done to calm traffic and she would be in favor of adding projects down the line like sidewalks. She asked Mr. Sabins how the installation process would go for the speed tables. Mr. Sabins responded that the project would be treating the corridor as a whole. The project would lose effectiveness by not completing the full project.

Mayor Champion further enforced that he is not in favor of taking the project slow and not listening to the recommendations of the professionals. He does not want to see a death along the road from lack of action.

Councilman Casagrande asked Mr. Sabins to review and describe again the spacing of the speed tables. Mr. Sabins described the studied recommendations of the spacing of the speed tables and how spacing encourages the reduction of speed. He further explained how the spacing was selected to feel more natural for drivers and to have the least impact on the residents.

Councilman Capristo inquired about the traffic light on Old Mill Road at Allaire Road and the timing of the light changing. He requested looking into extended the light timing and adding pedestrian cross timing lights. He also recapped all the topics he would like to see addressed and how to comprehensively look at all.

Mayor Champion would like the contractors who install the speed tables to be held accountable to make sure the dimensions and installation are all adhered to. Dynamic Traffic would work with the contractor and be onsite.

There was a consensus that the speed tables should be treated as a single, comprehensive corridor project rather than being implemented in piecemeal sections, as splitting the project could be cost-prohibitive and less effective. The intent is to travel at the posted speed down the roadway and to have the least negative impact on the residents.

## **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Champion – Mr. Champion stated that he went to Joseph E. Robertson Park to see the status of the Pickleball Courts and his happy with how it is turning out. He also commended Mr. Capristo for his vision of the project and how it best fits in the park.

Public Works Director Joseph May – Mr. May provided an update regarding the Traffic Calming Project on Wall Road. The anticipated installation date is May 27<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned the resolution on the agenda to submit an application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Ocean Road. He also provided an update regarding the capping and remediation of the monitoring wells at the Public Works Yard.

Administrator John Barrett – Mr. Barrett addressed complaints residents near the Shore Club had with noise and outdoor music. Mr. Barrett stated that a meeting with the owners of the establishment as well as the police chief was held and agreement was derived. The establishment is looking to create a more upscale experience and are implementing changes.

Councilwoman Degnan-Spang – No report

Councilwoman King – Mrs. King informed that there will be an exhibit on the Revolutionary War at Thompson Park in Middletown, NJ as part of the country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. More details can be found at [monmouthnj250.org](http://monmouthnj250.org)

Councilman Casagrande – Mr. Casagrande stated that the 2026 budget introduction is on the agenda and how the process with the Local Finance Board will go with budget adoption. He also explained how the budget will affect tax billing. The budget workshop meeting will be noticed for public discussion.

Councilman Capristo- Mr. Capristo stated that the pickleball courts at Joseph E. Robertson Park are anticipated to be completed mid-June. He also confirmed that fencing around the tennis courts will be updated to match the pickleball fencing and be more uniform. The sign up for Summer Camp is still open and encouraged interested parties to go online to sign up.

### **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. Capristo, Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mrs. King

Nays: None      Abstain: None      Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

Tom Brady, 600 Essex Avenue, expressed his appreciation for the administration to address the Shore Club and the outdoor music. He stated that, however, the approval should not be given as they have failed to comply many times in the past. Mr. Brady explained situations he reported as well as a meeting the residents had with the owners and the non-compliance.

John Phillips, 610 Highway 71, recently purchased the residence and requested noise compliance from the Shore Club.

Joan Brady, 600 Essex Avenue, thanked the Council for listening to the residents and trying to implement compliance. She echoed the sentiments of disappointment and annoyance with the Shore Club with non-compliance of noise issues and property maintenance.

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

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

Nays: None      Abstain: None      Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

### **SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Ordinance No. 2026-08**, Addressing Short-Term Rental Tax Ordinance

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. King the public hearing for Ordinance 2026-08 was opened by the following vote:

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

Nays: None      Abstain: None      Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

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, Mrs. King

Nays: None      Abstain: None      Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded Mr. Casagrande, Ordinance 2026-08 was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None      Abstain: None      Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

### **REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE**

- Independent Fire Co. No. 1 Monthly Report – April 2026
- Spring Lake First Aid Squad Monthly Report – April 2026

- South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority Application to NJDEP Interpretation -1235 18<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Wall Township Ord. 10-2026 Public Hearing Re: Application to NJ Dept. of Health
- Wall Township Ord. 12-2026 Public Hearing Re: Redevelopment of Peddlers Village
- Monmouth County Bd of Commissioners Resolution 2026-0331 Declaring Juneteenth as County Holiday

## ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- **Ordinance No. 2026-09**, Establishing parking restrictions upon Jersey Avenue

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

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

Nays: None            Abstain: None            Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

Attorney Michael Collins explained that the parking restrictions are on a trail basis. The ordinance is set to terminate October 1, 2026 and be evaluated if it should be renewed for the next season. The public hearing will be on Monday, June 1, 2026.

## CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R2026-106 to R2026-111

*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.*

- **R2026-108**, Authorizing refund of property tax – Block 13 Lot 296
- **R2026-109**, Authorizing the release maintenance guarantee – Fernandes Construction Inc. – Emerson Ave project
- **R2026-110**, Authorizing the release maintenance guarantee – Fernandes Construction Inc. – 6th Ave project
- **R2026-111**, Declaring June 19, 2026 as a Borough holiday for the year 2026

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Ms. King, the consent agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None            Abstain: None            Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

Mayor Campion asked to remove R2026-106 and R2026-107 from the consent agenda and vote on separately. Councilwoman King made a motion to clarify the resolution to read Solo Guitarist (acoustic only) or duet band (acoustic guitar only) between Noon & 8:00 pm

- **R2026-106**, Approving outdoor music – The Shore Club May-June 2026

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, the amended resolution R2026-106 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None            Abstain: None            Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

Councilwoman King made a motion to clarify resolution R2026-107 to read the same as R2026-106 Solo Guitarist (acoustic only) or duet band (acoustic guitar only) between Noon & 8:00 pm

- **R2026-107**, Approving outdoor music – Spring Lake Tap House May -June 2026

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, the amended resolution R2026-107 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None            Abstain: None            Absent: Mr. Graetz, Mr. Lonsdale

Mr. Casagrande emphasized the fact that the Council is very interested in the compliance of these resolutions and for the Police to monitor enforcement.

## RESOLUTIONS

- **R2026-112**, Authorizing execution of Mutual Releases - McKenna

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, Resolution No. R2026-112 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-113**, Accepting the performance guarantee - Fernandes Construction Inc. – Wall Road

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Mr. Capristo, Resolution No. R2026-113 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-114**, Approving the submission of a grant application with NJ DOT – Ocean Rd East

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, Resolution No. R2026-114 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-115**, Certifying compliance with US Equal employment Commission

On a motion by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution No. R2026-115 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-116**, Authorizing to read the 2026 Budget by title only – *Removed from agenda*

Mr. Collins clarified that the resolution will be necessary in July when the budget is adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Capristo, Resolution No. R2026-116 was removed from the agenda and Resolution R2026-117's title was amended by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-117**, Introduction and Approval of the 2026 Local Budget

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. King, amended Resolution No. R2026-117 was approved by the following vote:

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

- **R2026-118**, Approving the payment of the itemized claims on the May 14, 2026 bills list

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Capristo, Resolution No. R2026-118 was approved by the following vote:

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

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:11 p.m.

  
Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved:  1, 2026