

The August 17, 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 7:06 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
Councilwoman Michele Degnan-Spang
Councilwoman Sara King
Councilman Dayton Lonsdale
Mayor Christopher Campion

Absent:

Councilman John Casagrande
Councilman William Graetz

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 Mrs. King, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, the agenda was amended to add resolution R2026-166 by the following vote:

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

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

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA

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

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES - July 20, 2026

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

Ayes: Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mrs. King, Mr. Lonsdale

Nays: None Abstain: Mr. Capristo Absent: Mr. Casagrande, Mr. Graetz

PRESENTATIONS – None

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Capristo – Mr. Capristo recapped the success and overall positive feedback of the Spring Lake Heights summer camp. He also mentioned upcoming recreation programs that more details can be found online at springlakehts.com. Mr. Capristo expressed his excitement regarding the opening of the new pickleball courts at Joseph E. Robertson Park and reminded all that Bicentennial Park will be closed on August 19th and 20th for lighting improvements.

Councilman Casagrande arrived at the meeting.

Councilman Casagrande – Mr. Casagrande thanked everyone for National Night Out and the success of the event. He also echoed the sentiment of excitement for the improvements at Joseph E. Robertson Park. Mr. Casagrande updated the council on the 100th Anniversary Committee meeting set for September 10, highlighting a forthcoming town-wide sponsorship request. On finance, he mentioned the salary and wage ordinance, a minor 2025 audit line-item budget amendment, and the capital improvement ordinance.

Councilwoman King – No report

Councilwoman Degnan-Spang – Mrs. Degnan-Spang reported that water system valve repairs on 6th Avenue (Warren to Monmouth) and on Essex and Sussex would run through Thursday, potentially causing dirty water. She also noted cell tower work starting that morning, adding that Old Mill Road between Ocean and Warren Avenue would be closed the following day.

Councilman Lonsdale – No report

Mayor Campion – Mr. Campion echoed praise for the summer recreation program, noting it received no complaints and was highly commended by the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Any Item)

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

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

Kristin Gillies, 615A Essex Ave, raised concerns regarding parking, traffic gridlock during the Fire Department's event, and sound mitigation for the Shore Club's upcoming event on August 29. Administrator Barrett affirmed the Shore Club agreed to sound monitoring logs, and inspections would be completed of the sound logs.

Chief Ed Gunnell responded that the police have not received any complaints regarding The Shore Club. Chief Gunnell asked the residents what driveways were blocked.

Joan Brady, 600 Essex Ave, expressed her annoyance about blocked driveways on Essex Avenue during the arrival of vendors for the Fire Department's event but confirmed that the Police were not notified of the issue.

Chief Ed Gunnell thanked the Public Works Department for all their assistance and work towards National Night Out and making the event a success.

John Sullivan, the Shore Club, stated that the Cornhole Event will be similar to the same event last year. He also said the organization is open to feedback and more of the parking lot will be open than the previous event. Chief Gunnell stated that officers will be patrolling the area to aid in any issues. Mr. Casagrande spoke positively about attending the event last year and the fundraising impact it had for the Chamber of Commerce.

Karen Burke, 606 Shore Road, asked the council to consider a mulberry tree for the Nancy Maclearie Memorial Tree as it will be beneficial to animals.

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

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

• R2026-140 - 2026 Budget Amendment

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, the public comment section for the amended budget was opened by the following vote:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

Mr. Barrett reviewed the amendment to the budget and questions that were raised.

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

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mrs. Degnan-Spang, the 2026 Municipal Budget was approved as amended by the following vote:

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

• **Ordinance No. 2026-11** Bond Ordinance providing various 2026 Capital Improvements, appropriating \$2,000,000 & authorizing the issuance of \$1,900,00 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the cost
Mayor Campion read the ordinance by title into the record.

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, the public hearing for Ordinance 2026-11 was opened by the following vote:

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

None presented

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded Mr. Graetz, Ordinance 2026-11 was adopted by the following vote:

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

REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Independent Fire Co. No. 1 Monthly Report – June & July 2026
- Spring Lake First Aid Squad Monthly Report – July 2026 & ½ year report
- Spring Lake Heights Municipal Court Report – July 2026
- Spring Lake Heights Zoning Violation Monthly Report – May 2026
- Monmouth County Dept. of Transportation Public Hearing Re: application for FY 2027 funding for SCAT
- Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. 2026- declaring Sept. 11, 2026 as a County holiday
- Letter from SLH Environmental Commission request for planting of memorial tree for Nancy Maclearie

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS

- **Ordinance No. 2026-12** Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages for the year 2026

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, the ordinance was introduced by the following vote:

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

The public hearing will be on Tuesday September 8, 2026.

- **Ordinance No. 2026-13** Ordinance Authorizing extinguishment of easement over Block 24 Lot 27, commonly known as 555 Old Mill Rd and authorizing related actions

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Capristo, the ordinance was introduced by the following vote:

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

The public hearing will be on Tuesday September 8, 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R2026-156 to R2026-161

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.

- **R2026-156**, Approving issuance of an Alcoholic Beverage Control one (1) day extension of premises for 700 Highway 71 LLC- Special Event 8/29/2026
- **R2026-157**, Approving outdoor music permit at The Shore Club 700 Highway 71– Special Event 8/29/2026
- **R2026-158**, Confirming the appointment of school crossing guards for the 2026-2027 school year
- **R2026-159**, Authorizing the release of designated escrow deposits
- **R2026-160**, Authorizing the acceptance of the designated maintenance guarantee Block 77 Lot 1
- **R2026-161**, Authorizing the release of the designated performance guarantee Block 77 Lot 1

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

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

RESOLUTIONS

- **R2026-162**, Approving payment in Workers' Compensation Matter & Authorizing related actions

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, Resolution No. R2026-162 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

- **R2026-163**, Certifying members of Governing Body reviewed annual report of audit for the year 2025

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, Resolution No. R2026-163 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

- **R2026-164**, Approving the payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the July 30, 2026 bills list

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, Resolution No. R2026-164 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

- **R2026-165**, Approving the payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the August 13, 2026 bills list

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, Resolution No. R2026-165 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

- **R2026-166**, declaring September 11, 2026, as a Holiday and Day of Remembrance

Mr. Casagrande stated he would like the Borough to host a service or ceremony in remembrance of the September 11 attacks. Borough Clerk Gillis responded that she would organize a ceremony at Borough Hall.

On a motion by Mr. Capristo, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, Resolution No. R2026-166 was approved by the following vote:

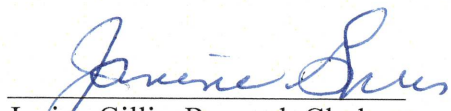
Ayes: Mr. Casagrande, Mrs. Degnan-Spang, Mr. Graetz, Mrs. King, Mr. Lonsdale

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Capristo

Joseph May provided a reminder that street sweeping will happen on August 31, 2026 and to please park in driveways. Mayor Campion stated when school is back in session on September 3, 2026 and to watch for kids and crossing guards.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Capristo, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:35 p.m.


Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved: September 8, 2026