

The February 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 7:00 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
Councilman Dayton Lonsdale
Mayor Christopher Campion

Absent:

Councilman William Graetz

Also attending:

John Barrett, Borough Administrator
Krishna Jhaver, Borough Attorney
Megan Kass, Borough Deputy Clerk
Joseph May, Borough Engineer

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.

APPROVE MINUTES - January 20, 2026 Executive

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES - February 2, 2026 Regular

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Casagrande, the February 2, 2026 Regular session minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

AMEND AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, the agenda was amended to add Ordinance 2026-02 and Ordinance 2026-03 by the following vote:

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

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA

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

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

PRESENTATIONS – Spring Lake First Aid Annual Report – 2025

Howard “Rocky” Rockhill presented the end of year First Aid Squad report to the council. He recapped the number of calls responded to and the challenges the squad faces. A major challenge the squad faces is being completely volunteer and volunteerism has been steadily declining over the past few decades. Anyone interested in volunteering will be offered training. Please call 732-449-8810 and leave a message if interested in volunteering.

H2M Cell Tower Rehab Update

Stephanie DeCotiis with H2M Architects + Engineers re-presented the recommendation to the Borough Council for a full rehabilitation of the elevation tank. Mr. Capristo questioned when the project was last done and how long it would last. Ms. DeCotiis responded that with proper preparation and installation the rehabilitation would last approximately 20 years and Mr. May responded that it was last done about 22 years ago. Mr. Casagrande inquired about when this project would be best done. Ms. DeCotiis stated that ideally the project would be started in September and be completed in December. Mayor Campion questioned how water service would be affected with taking the tank out of service. Ms. DeCotiis stated the Borough has options on utilizing interconnections with surrounding towns to maintain water pressure.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Capristo – Mr. Capristo announced that a new Summer Camp Director is being hired, Mr. David Smith. Mr. Capristo provided a background on Mr. Smith and his experience. Mr. Capristo expressed excitement for the upcoming program and encouraged anyone interested in being a camp counselor to apply.

Councilman Casagrande – Mr. Casagrande spoke about the ordinance introductions on the agenda related to affordable housing. He thanked attorney Mr. Bayer, planner Ms. Beam and Mayor Campion for their work on the fourth-round requirements.

Councilwoman King – No report

Councilwoman Degnan-Spang – No report

Councilman Lonsdale – No report

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

Joan Brady, 600 Essex Ave, inquired about the noise ordinance and compliance of decibel levels in the ordinance. She indirectly questioned the Spring Lake Golf Club as she resides near it. Mayor Campion and Police Chief Ed Gunnell responded as to what the decibel levels are and how the Golf Club works with the Police Department to comply.

Joseph May, Borough Engineer, provided an update regarding the traffic calming bid, the status of other projects including a new grant submitted, NJDCA Local Recreation Grant 2026, and lighting at Bicentennial Park. He explained repairs that were going on around town including an emergency generator at Fairway Mews, a building at the Public Works Yard that was damaged in an electrical fire, and a water pipe breaking at the Community Center that caused extensive damage. Mrs. King asked about the damage at the Community Center and if any of the historical items were lost. Mr. May stated that the historical items were spared. Most of the damage was to the kitchen and the storage areas. Mayor Campion thanked Public Works and the Police Department for their work on the snowstorm.

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, Mr. Lonsdale

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Spring Lake Heights Municipal Court Monthly Report – November & December 2025
- Spring Lake First Aid Squad Monthly Report – December 2025 & January 2026

- Spring Lake Heights Police Monthly Report – December 2025 & January 2026
- Spring Lake Heights Zoning Violation Monthly Report – January 2026
- Wall Township Public Notice Ordinance 1-2026 hearing Feb 26 Re: Keeping of animals on parcels 2 acres or more

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS –

- Ordinance 2026-02, An ordinance amending Chapter 22 Article VI, Affordable Housing in furtherance of the Borough's 4th round affordable housing obligation

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

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

The public hearing will be on Monday, March 2, 2026.

- Ordinance 2026-03, An ordinance amending Chapter 22 Article VI, zoning regulations Section 606 (Zoning District Regulations) creating the AH-5 Zoning District in furtherance of the Borough's obligation to provide for its fair share of affordable housing

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

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

The public hearing will be on Monday, March 2, 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R2026-54 to R2026-57

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.

- **R2026-54**, Approving outdoor music at Spring Lake Golf Club
- **R2026-55**, Granting Casey Willms permission to receive firearm at retirement
- **R2026-56**, Authorizing the release of designated escrow deposits
- **R2026-57**, Establish fees for 2026 recreation programs

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

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

RESOLUTIONS

- **R2026-58**, Appointing a summer recreation program director for the year 2026- David Smith

On a motion by Mr. Capristo, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution No. R2026-58 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

- **R2026-59**, Establish the members to the 100th Spring Lake Heights Anniversary Committee
Extensive discussion was held among the council regarding the committee. Mayor Campion listed the criteria that was used to create the committee. Mr. Casagrande expressed his support for the committee while Mrs. King expressed her disapproval of the selection and the committee. Mr. Capristo clarified the role of the committee and how they would not have final say on events and spending. Mayor Campion stated the Borough Council would communicate what is expected of the committee. Mrs. Degnan-Spang communicated her support and offered to help with a time capsule as she has experience. The Council decided to allow the committee to select their officers and not be appointed by the Mayor.

On a roll call vote, Resolution No. R2026-59 was approved by the following vote:

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

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

- **R2026-60**, Approving the payment of the itemized claims as set forth on the February 12, 2026 bills list

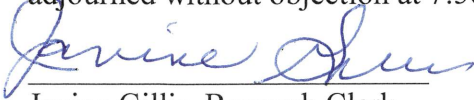
On a motion by Mr. Casagrande, seconded by Mr. Lonsdale, Resolution No. R2026-60 was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Mr. Graetz

ADJOURNMENT

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


Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved: March 2, 2026