



Borough of Spring Grove

Mayor Beverly R. Hilt

Borough Committee Meeting Minutes Borough Office – 1 Campus Avenue September 3, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Borough Council

Kevin. E March, *President*

Peter A. Lombardi, *Vice-President*

Robert W. Whyland, *President Pro-Tempore*

Kristina N. Ruby

Phillip M. Klocek

Tyler S. White

Darrell Ledford

The Spring Grove Borough Council met for a Committee Meeting on September 3, 2024. President Kevin March called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT:

Kevin March

Phillip Klocek

Robert Whyland

Darrell Ledford

Peter Lombardi

Tyler White

ALSO PRESENT:

Scott Miller, Operations Manager

Nicolle Ruth, Business Manager

Danielle Robison, Administrative Assistant

Bronson Ritenour, JCP

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

Kristina Ruby

Beverly Hilt, Mayor

Visitors

Garrett Strouse, Friendship Hose Fire Co

Dorian Ritenour

Public Comment

No Comment

Meeting Items

1. **Swearing-in of Junior Council Person:** President Kevin March requested adding the swearing-in of Junior Council Person Bronson Ritenour to the agenda. Danielle Robison conducted the Junior Council Person Pledge ceremony.
2. **August Check Detail Report:** The check detail report for August was presented to the council. Peter Lombardi inquired about Doceo, to which Nicolle Ruth explained that it is the Borough's IT Managed Services company.
3. **I&I Update:** Nicolle Ruth updated the council on the inflow and infiltration (I&I) issue. A crawler camera demo revealed a manhole right off of Pixelle's property containing water. Pixelle staff indicated that water rises through the floor during heavy rain. Staff is working with Pixelle to locate the source of the water and determine its connection to the Borough's sewer lines.

4. **55 South East Street Update:** Scott Miller informed the council that the property is under contract. The property will remain condemned until necessary inspections are completed and the property is brought up to current code standards. Phillip Klocek asked if anyone had applied for a permit, and Mr. Miller confirmed no permits had been applied for. Tyler White asked if construction could begin while the property is condemned, to which Mr. Miller responded affirmatively.
5. **Rutters #50 Update:** Rutters will be submitting a preliminary plan for the store only, as they are awaiting a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) from PennDot. They agreed to fix some ADA ramps near the store. ARRO provided ordinances allowing the council to require Rutters to plant trees and bushes. Bob Whyland stated that the ordinances are contradictory and should be updated. He also expressed concerns about trees growing over the road. Tyler White asked if the plan includes truck parking, and Mr. Miller confirmed that it does not. Mr. White suggested looking into an ordinance to control overnight parking, which staff will review.
6. **Fire Company Repair Estimate:** Friendship Hose Fire Company presented an estimate of repair costs for the council to consider in the 2025 budget. Phillip Klocek inquired if the estimate was for the feed line, and Garrett Strouse clarified that it is for the waterway. Tyler White asked if quotes were obtained from other companies. Mr. Strouse explained the reasoning behind selecting the company that provided the estimate.
7. **2025 Budget Workshops:** The council reviewed the advertised dates for the 2024 budget workshops for Monday, October 21, Monday, October 28, and Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM.
8. **Borough Communication Transition:** Nicolle Ruth announced that the Borough will transition from Facebook to Savvy Citizen, a platform for community communications. Staff believes that, with the number of followers on Savvy Citizen, it is time to make the switch.
9. **Sewer Plant Future Plans:** Due to the landfill nearing capacity and rising hauling fees, staff proposed making the sludge Class B certified. Matthew Bollinger suggested converting an unused tank into a third digester for sludge thickening. Phillip Klocek asked if the tank was large enough, and Nicolle Ruth confirmed that it is. Robert Whyland asked about the progress toward Class B certification. Staff stated that while the Borough is not there yet, they are working toward it. ARRO will be consulted to draw plans up on the sludge thickening tank.
10. **Glatfelter Family Donation Letter:** A draft donation letter to the Glatfelter Family was presented to the council, proposing that the family donate toward the 6.7-acre park, with the park named after them in return. Peter Lombardi and Robert Whyland questioned if the letter had been made public and whether it should be addressed to George instead of Sue. Nicolle Ruth explained it was just a sample and that she intended to send it to both parties. Mr. Lombardi suggested exploring other park names, possibly as an Eagle Scout

project. Overall, the council agreed to send the letter but to remove the portion regarding naming the park after the family.

11. **Pocket Park Grant:** Scott Miller applied for one grant for the pocket park, and Kate King will apply for two more. If awarded, these grants will fund phase one of the project. Staff will meet with an industrial artist next week to review a replica of an old paper machine for the park.
12. **Spring Grove Hotel Update:** The change from a hotel to apartments at the Spring Grove Hotel resulted in a change of use. Upon inspection, the property did not meet apartment building standards, so the owner will revert to short-term rentals without leases exceeding 30 days. Darrell Ledford asked about the number of rooms, and Scott Miller confirmed there are 10.
13. **Caputo Brothers Update:** Tyler White asked for updates on Caputo Brothers. Scott Miller stated that testing would begin to identify any substances from Caputo Brothers entering the sewer system. The staff recommended requiring them to install a grease trap, as other businesses have done. Caputo Brothers is awaiting test results before proceeding.
14. **Jeff Becker's Passing:** Robert Whyland shared that Jeff Becker, former fire department chief, had passed away. He noted Mr. Becker's contributions to rebuilding the fire department.
15. **Executive Session:** The council entered an executive session at 8:07 PM to discuss personnel and returned at 8:21 PM.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Whyland and seconded by Peter Lombardi. President Kevin March adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM. The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Robison, Administrative Assistant