

# Springfield Township

## Planning Commission Work Session Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

**Members Present:** Karen Bedics, Bobb Carson, Angela Kelly, Bruce Whitesell, and Nicole Zane.

**Also Present:** Lisa Gerhart.

Chairwoman Karen Bedics called the work session meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 7:01 PM and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

### 1. Business

#### a. Zoning Overlays

- i. Discussed research provided via email by D. Long.
- ii. General discussion on additional regulations and how that won't generate more opportunities for businesses.
- iii. Comparison of Upper Saucon Township zoning and their overlays.
- iv. More discussion needed on how to increase business revenue before we address zoning overlays.
- v. B. Carson comments
  1. Suggested a "hotel tax" on township AirB&B's, VRBO and other short-term rentals. How would this be implemented? K. Bedics will reach out to Scott MacNair for guidance.
  2. Mentioned "event" or "agri-entertainment" taxes. K. Bedics will reach out to S. MacNair for guidance.
- vi. B. Whitesell comments
  1. Tim Arnold, Supervisor for Richland Township, offered to educate the P.C. on solar arrays since Richland Twp. as an array.
  2. Mentioned looking at Monroe County for examples on taxes and zoning.
- vii. General agreement from P.C. that zoning overlays aren't a priority or might be putting the cart before the horse. B.O.S. will need to come up with ideas for generating revenue, not the P.C.
- viii. At May meeting, will have to catch D. Long up with zoning overlays. He can provide insight or P.C. will table zoning overlays for now.

#### b. Revitalizing Our Villages / Comprehensive Plan

- i. Discussion of comprehensive plan and how that P.C. efforts should be a result of comprehensive plan update and goals to assist in revitalizing villages.
- ii. Discussion of Earned Income Tax, local services tax and revenue.
- iii. B. Carson suggested K. Bedics go to comprehensive plan steering committee meeting to speak with committee about goals and meshing with P.C. and B.O.S.
- iv. Parks and Recreation could look into a bike and visit Township trails promotion.

### 2. Approval of March 1 meeting minutes.

- a. None.

### 3. Correspondence

- a. None

### 4. Planning Commission Comments and Project Reports

5. **Comprehensive Plan Update**

- a. General discussion but no real update.

6. **Public Comment**

- a. None

7. **Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn made by B. Whitesell, seconded by B. Carson. Motion approved and meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.