

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE ADOPTED OCTOBER 2, 2007, BY MODIFYING THE E27 - FIREARMS TARGET RANGE USE, ADDING A NEW E28 – INDOOR FIREARMS TARGET RANGE USE, AMENDING USE C11 – PRIVATE ORGANIZATION AND ADDING A NEW H16 ACCESSORY FIREARMS SHOOTING RANGE USE.

BACKGROUND

- A. On or about October 2, 2007, the Board of Supervisors of Springfield Township enacted a new Zoning Ordinance establishing Zoning Districts, use regulations for land use types and establishing general zoning regulations for the entire Township.
- B. The Board of Supervisors finds that it is in the interest of the Township to modify the requirements pertaining to firearms target ranges and accessory shooting range uses.
- C. In compliance with the requirements of Section 609(c) and (e) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (“MPC”), a copy of this Zoning Ordinance Amendment was forwarded to the Bucks County Planning Commission and the Springfield Township Planning Commission on February 3, 2020 for review and comment.
- D. In compliance with the requirements of Section 609(b)(1) of the MPC, this Ordinance was duly advertised in The Intelligencer on March 10, 2020 and on March 17, 2020.
- E. A public hearing was held on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment on March 24, 2020 in compliance with Section 609(b)(1) of the MPC.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved and enacted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Springfield that the Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 01:

Section 404.E.(27), is deleted and replaced with the following:

(27) E-27 Outdoor Firearms Target Range. A for-profit or non-profit establishment designed to provide opportunities for outdoor skeet, trap, target shooting or other shooting sports. A firearms target range does not encompass incidental target practice by a property owner and invited guests on private property.

(a) Outdoor shooting ranges shall be permitted by conditional use only in the PI, RR and AD Zoning District.

(b) For an outdoor shooting range, a minimum lot area of 25 acres shall be required. A minimum of one acre shall be required per shooting stall.

(c) No retail sales shall be conducted from the property without a proper permit for such.

(d) An outdoor range shall not be lighted for night use. Security lighting shall be permitted at the outdoor range.

(e) The hours of operation shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors at the time of the conditional use hearing.

(f) No alcoholic beverages may be sold or consumed on the property.

(g) The safety of adjoining properties shall be the primary consideration in the location of the firing range.

(h) No shooting range shall be permitted where the operation of which would constitute a public nuisance in accordance with Springfield Township Ordinances, this chapter, or any other applicable noise standards.

(i) Buffer plantings shall be provided along property lines of the range in accordance with section 503 of this chapter and township SALDO requirements. A type 4 buffer shall be installed along the rear of the target range beyond the targets. Additional buffers may be required at the direction of the Board of Supervisors.

(j) The perimeter of the property shall be posted clearly to warn persons regarding the activities on the property.

(k) Perimeter fencing and a gate shall be provided to restrict unauthorized access.

(l) Parking: No less than one off-street parking space for each employee plus 1 parking space for every two persons of total design capacity for the facility. Parking shall be buffered and screened in accordance with Section 503 and SALDO requirements.

(m) Owners of the shooting range shall abide by a range maintenance and clean up plan concerning lead mitigation and an end use plan. Owner shall post a bond or financial security in an amount determined by the Board of Supervisors during the conditional use hearing to remediate any site contamination revealed during the use or upon cessation of the operation.

(n) Owners shall obtain an independent assessment of the site at least once every five years at the owner's expense to demonstrate compliance with the lead mitigation plan. The results of the assessment shall be submitted to the Township.

(o) All firearms target ranges shall be designed by an architect or engineer licensed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(p) Outdoor firearms target ranges shall not be located within 1,000 feet of a school, church or child care facility.

(q) All firearms target ranges shall be subject to the performance standards enumerated in Section 508 of this Ordinance. Ranges shall be designed to minimize off-site noise impacts.

(r) All outdoor target ranges shall be designed such that all projectile and shot shall fall within the property of the target range. Additionally, the siting of the outdoor target range shall be so that the shot fall area is not located over water bodies or wetlands.

(s) Spectator areas shall exist only behind the shooting line to prevent harm to observers.

(t) Restrooms for patrons shall be provided within an enclosed building.

SECTION 02:

Section 404.E.(28), is added as follows:

(28) *E-28 Indoor Firearms Target Range*. A for-profit or non-profit establishment designed to provide opportunities for indoor target shooting or other shooting sports.

(a) Indoor shooting ranges shall be permitted by conditional use in all zoning districts.

(b) Indoor shooting ranges shall be designed so that projectiles cannot penetrate the walls, floor and to prevent ricochet or splatter injuries. Proper air ventilation systems shall be installed that meet OSHA standards.

(c) Walls and partitions shall be designed to stop all projectiles fired on the range by containing or redirecting bullets to a backstop.

(d) Floors, walls, backstops and ceilings must be able to contain the sound in addition to the bullet being fired and be made of an acceptable engineering standard.

(e) Firearm use shall be limited to a .50 caliber or less weapon.

(f) For an indoor shooting range, a minimum lot area of 3 acres shall be required.

(g) No retail sales shall be conducted from the property without a proper permit for such.

(h) The hours of operation shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors at the time of the conditional use hearing.

(i) No alcoholic beverages may be sold or consumed on the property.

(j) No shooting range shall be permitted where the operation of which would constitute a public nuisance in accordance with Springfield Township Ordinances, this chapter, or any other applicable noise standards.

(k) Buffer plantings shall be provided along property lines of the range in accordance with section 503 of this chapter and township SALDO requirements. Additional buffers may be required at the direction of the Board of Supervisors.

(l) The perimeter of the property shall be posted clearly to warn persons regarding the activities on the property.

(m) Parking: No less than one off-street parking space for each employee plus 1 parking space for every two persons of total design capacity for the facility. Parking shall be buffered and screened in accordance with Section 503 and SALDO requirements.

(n) All firearms target ranges shall be designed by an architect or engineer

SECTION 05:

Section 404.C.(11), is deleted and replaced with the following:

(11) *C-11 Private Organization*. A private club is a nonprofit association supported by dues or fees imposed on a uniform basis upon all members and paid at least in part for membership status rather than for periodic use of the club's facilities; includes, but is not limited to, fraternal, school, athletic, or other associations, with rules, bylaws, charter, or local or national affiliation and is based on membership of persons with common interests, pursuits, or purposes and is subject to the following additional provisions:

(a) The use of each building shall be primarily for bona fide members and their authorized guests.

(b) Outdoor play areas shall be sufficiently screened and isolated so as to provide a buffer to adjacent residences from inappropriate noise, light and other disturbances. See § [503](#).

(c) In residential districts, any Use C-11 shall be limited to homeowner associations, neighborhood associations and similar organizations that do not provide dining services or the sale of alcohol as part of their regular activities, unless such a club conducted such activities prior to the adoption of this Ordinance.

(d) The use shall not include a tavern, restaurant or vehicle racetrack, unless the requirements for that use are also met.

(e) An outdoor firearms target range shall only be allowed if the club includes a minimum lot area of 25 acres, or if the firearms target range existed lawfully prior to the adoption of this Ordinance or if the firearms target range is allowed by other provisions of this Ordinance.

(f) No exterior lighting is permitted on firearms target ranges with the exception of lighting necessary for security.

(g) Parking—no less than one off-street parking space for every five members of total design capacity of the facility or at least one off-street parking space for each 50 square feet of floor area used or intended to be used for service to customers, patrons, guests, or members, whichever requires the greater number of off-street parking spaces, plus one additional space for each employee.

(h) Firearms target ranges shall require conditional use approval.

(i) Where the C-11 use is permitted by special exception or conditional use approval, the Board may require limits on hours of operation and lighting, which may be more restrictive than is provided in this subsection.

SECTION 06:

Section 601.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(y) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 601.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(c) E-28 – Indoor Firearms Target Range.

SECTION 07:

Section 602.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(cc) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 602.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(f) E-27 – Outdoor Firearms Target Range.

(g) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

SECTION 08:

Section 603.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(cc) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 603.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(e) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

SECTION 09:

Section 604.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(cc) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 604.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(e) E-27 – Outdoor Firearms Target Range.

(f) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

SECTION 10:

Section 605.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(cc) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 605.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(e) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

Existing subsections (e) through (h) shall be re-lettered to become subsections (f) through (i).

SECTION 11:

Section 606.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(ww) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 606.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(c) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

SECTION 12:

Section 607.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(jj) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 607.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(c) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

SECTION 13:

Section 608.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(fff) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 608.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

(h) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

Existing subsections (h) through (j) shall be re-lettered to become subsections (i) through (k).

SECTION 14:

Section 609.A.(1) shall be amended to include the following:

(bbb) H-16 – Accessory Firearms Target Range.

Section 609.A.(2) shall be amended to include the following:

- (i) E-26 – Motor Vehicle Racetrack
- (j) E-27 – Outdoor Firearms Target Range.
- (k) E-28 - Indoor Firearms Target Range.

Existing subsections (i) through (u) shall be re-lettered to become subsections (l) through (x).

SECTION 15: *Repealer.* This Ordinance hereby repeals any provision inconsistent with the Zoning Ordinance now in effect or of other Ordinances, to the extent of such inconsistency. All other provisions of the Zoning Ordinance of Springfield Township, not inconsistent herewith, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 16: *Severability.* The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such determination shall have no effect on the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 17: *Effective Date.* This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after its adoption.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into Ordinance this ____ day of _____, 2022.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP**

Jim Hopkins, Chair

Anthony Matzura, Vice-Chair

Jim Nilsen, Member

Raymond Kade, Member

Bill Ryker, Member

ATTEST:

Jason Wager, Township Manager