

Town of Spring Lake  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen  
Municipal Building  
300 Ruth Street  
Spring Lake, NC 28390

February 9, 2015

**MINUTES**

7 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a regular scheduled meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Chris V. Rey presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra  
Alderman James Christian  
Alderwoman Densie Lucas  
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Alderman Richard Higgins was absent.

**Others Present:**

Ken Metcalf, Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager	Rosa Henegan, Human Resources Director
Paul Hoover, Public Works Director	John Kleinert, Maintenance Director
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief	T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief
Tina West, Interim Finance Director	Gail Elder-White, Recreation Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk	

**2. Invocation**

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra gave a non-sectarian invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Rey led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda**

Recognition of Spring Lake Fire Chief was added to agenda as item 10i.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to add recognition of the Spring Lake Fire Chief as item 10i to the agenda.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Second by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Vote:** Unanimous

**5. Approval of Agenda**

The Board approved the amended agenda.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Second by:** Alderman Sutherland

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment one.)

**6. Approval of Consent Items**

The Board approved the consent items:

- a. Minutes of the January 26, 2015 Special Meeting
- b. Minutes of the January 26, 2015 Regular Meeting

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items for January 26, 2015 Special Meeting and January 26, 2015 Regular Meeting.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

## **7. Public Forum**

Mr. Daniel Goins, 1551 N. Bragg Blvd, stated his family has been in Spring Lake for 70 – 80 years and he thanked staff for helping him during the annexation process.

## **8. Public Hearing**

### **a. Miller Property Annexation**

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against the Miller Property Annexation.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing.

**Motion by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Second by:** Alderman Christian

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

### **b. Goins Property Annexation**

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against the Goins Property Annexation.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing.

**Motion by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

## **9. Presentation**

### **a. NCDOT Update on Odell Road Widening**

Mr. Greg Burns from NCDOT advised he was anticipating a guest from the Raleigh Planning and Environmental Office but they had not arrived. He stated he is unsure if they got lost or what may have happened but offered to provide the Board with some information he brought or reschedule to February 23, 2015. The Board requested that he return on February 23, 2015 to provide the update on the proposed widening of Odell Road.

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

### **b. Annual Audit**

Mr. Stuart Hill presented the 2014-2015 audit results to the Board. He advised the Town's Fund Balance has consistently increased over the past five years. As of June 30, 2014 the Town's Fund Balance is 29.95%. He also stated the Town received a good report. Expenditures exceeded revenues in the General Fund but all other funds operated with revenues

exceeding expenditures. Overall the Town received an acceptable audit.

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

**c. Certificate of Achievement, Grant Williams**

Mayor Rey presented Mr. Grant Williams with a Certificate of Achievement for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Mr. Williams is a member of the Spring Lake Boy Scout Troup 772 and earned his Eagle Scout designation on December 8, 2014.

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

**10. New Business**

**a. Review of Board of Aldermen's Code of Ethics**

Mayor Rey advised Alderwoman Sutherland requested that the Board of Aldermen review their Code of Ethics like the General Assembly does when they begin a session. Mayor Rey felt it was a good idea to highlight some of the portions of the Code and requested the Clerk read the sections he selected, just as a reminder to the members of the community and the Board of some of the standards the Board holds itself to.

(A copy of the agenda memo and Code of Ethics with the sections read at the meeting highlighted is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

**b. Ordinance (2015) 1, Miller Property Annexation**

Ms. Webb advised approving Ordinance (2015) 1 is the last step in annexing Mr. Miller's property and recommend approval.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2015) 1.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Ordinance (2015) 1 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

**c. Ordinance (2015) 2, Goins Property Annexation**

Ms. Webb advised approving Ordinance (2015) 2 is the last step in annexing Ms. Goins property and recommend approval.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2015) 2.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2014) 29 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

**d. Application for Appointment, Community Appearance Commission**

Ms. Webb reported that Ms. Dorothy Brown submitted an application to serve on the Community Appearance Commission. If appointed she will serve a 3-year term expiring February 28, 2018.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to appoint Ms. Brown to the Community Appearance Commission for a 3-

year term expiring February 28, 2018.

**Motion by:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Application from Dorothy Brown is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment ten.)

**e. Application for Appointment, Cumberland County Joint Planning Board**

Ms. Webb reported that Mr. Steve Starnes and Ms. Jami McLaughlin submitted applications to serve on the Cumberland County Joint Planning Board and requested the Board determine who they wish to serve as Spring Lake's representative. Alderman Christian stated that he appreciates everything that Mr. Starnes has done for the Town but believes Ms. McLaughlin will serve the Town well on the Joint Planning Board because she is a past Board Member and has been in the Town for many years.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to appoint Ms. Jami McLaughlin to the Cumberland County Joint Planning Board.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Alderman Christian

<b>Vote:</b> 3-1	Yes	No
	Alderman Christian	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
	Alderwoman Lucas	
	Alderwoman Sutherland	

(A copy of the agenda memo and Applications from Jami McLaughlin and Steve Starnes is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eleven.)

**f. Resolution (2015) 1, Resolution of Intent to Change Mayor's Term of Office and Set Public Hearing**

Ms. Webb advised at the last Board Meeting, the Board requested that staff proceed with the process of amending the Town's Charter to change the terms of office for the Mayor and Board. Resolution (2015) 1 is the first step in the process. This Resolution announces the intent to change the charter, specifically the Mayor's term of office and also sets a public hearing for February 23, 2015.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2015) 1.

**Motion by:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2015) 1 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment twelve.)

**g. Resolution (2015) 2, Resolution of Intent to Change Board of Aldermen Terms of Office and Set Public Hearing**

Ms. Webb advised at the last Board Meeting, the Board requested that staff proceed with the process of amending the Town's Charter to change the terms of office for the Mayor and Board. Resolution (2015) 2 is the first step in the process. This Resolution announces the intent to change the charter, specifically the Board of Aldermen's terms of office and also sets a public hearing for February 23, 2015.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated she thinks this is great because it saves time and money when someone is running a race but she hopes candidates will treat each other with respect and hopes this idea does not create a beast. She urged everyone to be honest, run a fair race and have integrity because we are still representing the citizens.

Alderman Christian echoed Alderwoman Sutherland's comments and clarified that we are not changing the terms right now, we will still have a public hearing.

Mayor Rey further clarified that the entire Board runs as a whole every two years and it has been suggested many times that we create four year terms that will be staggered. That means in the upcoming election, the entire Board will be up for election along with the Mayor. Whoever is elected Mayor, if the Ordinance is approved and stands, will serve a four year term. The two highest vote getters for the Board of Aldermen will serve a four year term. Then, in 2017 the top three vote getters will become Board Members and serve a four year term. At this point, the Board will then all be on four year staggered terms and there will never be a time when the entire Board is up for re-election which could result in all new Board members at one time leaving no continuity on the Board. He advised we will have a public hearing on February 23, 2015.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2015) 2.

**Motion by:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2015) 2 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment thirteen.)

#### **h. Discussion, Board of Aldermen Computer Table Upgrade**

Mr. Metcalf advised that Alderwoman Sutherland requested the Board discuss the need for the Board's computer tablets to be upgraded. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated he has not heard of anyone having problems with the tablets we have now. He stated that he checked with other towns and they upgrade every three to four years. He believes we should be able to use these tablets for approximately five years. Alderwoman Sutherland stated she would like to see this addressed during budget time and would like to have a date inserted in the Resolution for future use. Alderwoman Lucas stated we need to have a process and look at industry standard. Staff was tasked to create a policy incorporating these ideas.

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment fourteen.)

#### **i. Recognition of Chief McLamb**

Mayor Rey recognized Chief McLamb as the North Carolina Fire Chief of the Year. Chief McLamb received a standing ovation. Representatives from the Flat Branch Fire Department thanked Chief McLamb for serving at the Flat Branch Fire Department and for being the person he is and honored him for achieving the Chief of the Year designation. The Board and Manager thanked Chief McLamb for being the person he is and for his leadership. Mayor Rey presented Chief McLamb with a framed memento of the letters written on his behalf. Chief McLamb stated it is an honor and privilege and that it is a group effort and award for everyone.

#### **11. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) – Privileged or Confidential–Approval of Closed Session Minutes and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development**

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) – Privileged or Confidential–Approval of Closed Session Minutes and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development.

**Motion by:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

Mayor Rey invited Mr. Hunt and Mr. Hoover into the Closed Session.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to go back into open session at 8:31 p.m.

**Motion by:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** A motion to reconsider the planning board vote was defeated.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** 3-2

Yes

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Alderwoman Lucas

No

Mayor Rey

Alderman Christian

Alderwoman Sutherland

**12. Adjournment.**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

**Motion:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC

Town Clerk

ATTEST:



Chris V. Rey  
Mayor