

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

June 8, 2015

MINUTES

7:04 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

Others Present:

Andrew Wilkison, Interim Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager	JC Combs, Asst. Recreation Director
Rosa Henegan, Human Resources Director	Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief	Tony Porter, Code Enforcement Officer
Butch Watson, Interim Finance Director	Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra requested a moment of silence for Alderman Richard Higgins.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rey led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda.

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

Motion by: Alderwoman Lucas

Second by: Alderman Christian

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 May 5, 2015 Special Meeting
- b. Minutes of the May 11, 2015 Regular Meeting
- c. Minutes of the May 20, 2015 Special Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items minutes for May 5, 2015 Special Meeting, May 11, 2015 Regular Meeting and May 20, 2015 Special Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

No one spoke at the public forum.

8. Public Hearing

a. Case P15-19, Initial Zoning of 5.50 +/- Acres to C(P) Planned Commercial or to a More Restrictive Zoning District

Mr. Scott presented Case P15-19.

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against Case P15-19.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing on Case P15-19.

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 two.)

b. Case P15-20, Initial Zoning of 3.84 +/- Acres to C(P) Planned Commercial or to a More Restrictive Zoning District

Mr. Scott presented Case P15-20.

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against Case P15-20.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing on Case P15-20.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

c. Proposed FYE 2016 Budget

Mr. Wilkison provided an overview of the proposed FYE 2016 budget and stated that he has presented a balanced budget. The proposed budget maintains the current tax rate of \$0.70 per \$100 valuation. He stated staff looked for opportunities to lower the rate but found that was not possible for this proposed budget. The recommended budget totals \$12,627,157 which is a decrease of 7.5% from the current year's budget. Should the Board approve the proposed budget as is, the recommended initiatives include establishing a Neighborhood Improvement Team in the Police Department which will require three additional positions. The internal controls study to be conducted by Cherry Bekaert, the Water and Sewer rate study to be conducted by McGill Associates, the Courtyard by Marriott incentive grant should it come due in the FYE 2016 year, the conversion of financial accounting software and the pay increases proposed in the Mercer Group's Compensation and Classification study. The proposed budget utilizes \$95,000 of appropriated fund balance to balance the budget which will leave a fund balance in excess of 25%. The proposed budget keeps the water and sewer rates the same but he recommended having a rate study done in the upcoming budget. The proposed budget includes making the Fire Department Administrative Assistant full time. Mr. Wilkison suggested that in the long term the Town needs to increase capital expenditure amounts. He commended Mr. Watson for the hard work and diligence he put into the budget.

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. Patricia Dean advised she is disappointed there was not a presentation that citizens could see as the proposed budget was presented. She also expressed concern that the bus service will not be extended to include service on Saturday. Alderwoman Sutherland asked if they considered lowering the tax rate and Mr. Wilkison advised they did look at it but it was not feasible to lower the rate while incorporating the neighborhood improvement team and employee pay increases. He also stated that when the tax rate is decreased ongoing operating

expenditures need to be reduced at the same rate.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing on the proposed FYE 2016 budget.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

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

9. Presentation

a. Spring Clean Up Appreciation

Mayor Rey and Ms. Hash recognized the kids who participated in the Spring Clean Up and presented them with a certificate of appreciation.

b. Employee Recognition

Mr. Steve Wing was recognized for his hard work on Town property. Mayor Rey presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

c. Fire Department Update

Chief McLamb presented the Board with an update from the Spring Lake Fire Department. His presentation included organizational accomplishments for the current fiscal year, Fire Department statistics, a dollar and loss value analysis, staffing needs, work cycles with schedule comparisons and a potential property location for a second fire station.

Alderwoman Sutherland expressed concern about the 48/96 schedule and suggested if we decide to try this that we should do so on a 6 month trial basis. Mayor Rey requested a 6 month update on how the schedule is working.

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

d. YMCA

Mr. Houp from the YMCA requested the Board consider a partnership with the YMCA. He stated they want to support existing services, programs and partner agencies. They bring multiple programs and services to people ages 6 weeks to 109 years old. He stated current staff would stay as is and a YMCA employee would serve as the Parks and Recreation Director. He proposed a YMCA executive re-locate to the Spring Lake Recreation Center full time. Existing programs would continue to exist as is with no competition from YMCA programs. He stated they can offer senior adult group exercise services, arthritis and diabetes classes, cancer survivor support groups and numerous other programs. He advised after staff and marketing expenses are recuperated, the Town and YMCA would share the net revenue 50/50. He also advised the fee for this service is \$70,000 for the first year with an option for a second year is so desired.

Alderman Christian expressed concern about protecting the current employees and requested that the Town's HR Director look at the proposal and weigh in on it. Mr. Houp advised the person would be a Town employee provided to the Town by the YMCA.

Alderwoman Sutherland commended Mr. Houp on what the YMCA does but expressed a desire to get citizen input on the proposal. She also expressed concern about the cost to citizens. Mr. Houp advised the Town's recreation rates remain the same but the YMCA programs are fee based however, they do have scholarships for low income people.

The Board's consensus was to hold off on hiring the Recreation Director and hold a public forum on the proposal.

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

attachment six.)

e. Manager's Updates

The Manager had nothing to report tonight.

10. New Business

a. Case P15-19 Initial Zoning

Mr. Scott advised County staff, the Joint Planning Board and Town staff recommends denying the C(P) Heavy Commercial and instead approving R6 Residential.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case P15-19 as R6 Residential.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department Action Memorandum and Site Profile is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

b. Case P15-20 Initial Zoning

Mr. Scott advised County Planning and Town staff recommends approval of Case P15-20

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case P15-20 to C(P) and CD Conservancy.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department Action Memorandum and Site Profile is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

c. Case 15-051 Site Plan Review

Mr. Scott presented Case 15-051 and advised County Planning and Town staff recommends approval with conditions.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case 15-051.

Motion by: Alderwoman Lucas

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department Action Memorandum and Site Profile is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

d. Resolution (2015) 30, Revision to Amend Cooperation Agreement to Participate in the Cumberland County Community Development Block Grant Program

Mayor Rey requested that the Board approve Resolution (2015) 30 so we can continue to be a part of the Cumberland County Community Development Block Grant program.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2015) 30.

Motion by: Alderwoman Lucas

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2015) 30 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these

minutes – see attachment ten.)

Mayor Rey stated that Mr. Higgins was truly a good man and will very much be missed. He announced the funeral arrangements for Mr. Higgins. He stated our Facebook page and Town's web site have pictures and slide shows honoring Mr. Higgins and stated that he was a man who personifies what service is and stated "I know I speak for all my colleagues when I say that it was a honor and privilege to serve with him and if there was ever anyone who would be an example of service it would be Richard Higgins and I am thankful for having known him and to have served with him."

10. Adjournment.

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

Motion: Alderman Christian

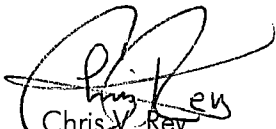
Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Chris V. Rey
Mayor