

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

January 27, 2014

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
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderwoman Densie Lucas
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Ken Metcalf, Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Allen Coats, Finance Director	Rosa Henegan, Human Resource Officer
Paul Hoover, Public Works Director	Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Gail Elder White, Recreation Director	Jason Williams, Asst. Fire Chief
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk	

2. Invocation

Alderwoman Lucas gave the invocation.

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: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

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 13, 2014 Special Meeting
- b. Minutes of the January 13, 2014 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items for the January 13th Special Meeting and the January 13th Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Steve Starnes, 415 A Tolbert Court, announced that Shops on Main Street will open on February 1, 2014 and a grand opening and ribbon cutting on February 8, 2014. The Shops on Main Street is a privately owned business incubator created to help small businesses expand and grow. On behalf of Josie and Rob Miller, he invited everyone to attend.

8. Presentation

a. Recognition of Mr. Jong, Glam-O-Rama

Chief McDuffie presented Mr. Jong with a plaque of appreciation for the support that he and his family give to the Police Department. Mr. Jong provides dry cleaning services for all the officers' uniforms which helps the uniforms last longer. Chief McDuffie wanted to recognize Mr. Jong and his staff and publicly tell them thank you for all they do.

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

b. Proposed Ordinance Amendment, Electric Fence

Ms. Gsell from Electric Guard Dog formally known as Sentry Security Systems, LLC requested the Board's consideration of a Code amendment to allow electric fences. Electric Guard Dog installed an electric fence on the property of Tucker's Auto two years ago. At that time they were unaware that a prohibition existed in the Nuisance section of the Code. Ms. Gsell stated they only checked the Zoning section as that is where they usually find regulations on fences in the zoning section of codes. She advised there have been no incidents since the fence was installed. Once they learned the fence was prohibited, they cut the power to the fence so that it currently is not electrified. She advised the electric fence is always installed behind another fence. She also stated that Electric Guard Dog will file a hold harmless agreement with the Town if the Town wanted them to do so. She advised this is a burglar alarm type fence and is monitored at all times. Ms. Gsell clarified that Electric Guard Dog maintains all liability for the fence. The voltage comes from a 12V battery and produces a 1/10,000th of a second shock. She assured the Board that the shock cannot cause ventricular defibrillation. She also explained the process for emergency personnel to enter the area safely. The Board stated they will take some time to review her request and make a determination in a few weeks.

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

c. Salary and Benefit Survey

Ms. Henegan provided the Board with information about the Town's salary and benefits as they compare to the Town of Pinehurst, the Town of Hope Mills and the Town of Smithfield. She advised that the salary and benefits comparison information came from the various towns' web sites and salary information provided to the North Carolina League of Municipalities. She further stated that

the Town's benefits are well in line with other municipalities in the area. She reported that most positions are pretty much in line with other municipalities of similar population when it comes to salaries.

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

d. Industrial Park Property Update

Mr. Macon Thompson from Grant-Murray provided the Board with an update on the interest in the Industrial Park property. He advised most calls have been about churches looking for land. There is one prospect but he has not been able to speak with the interested party and was instructed to contact them in February. He advised Grant-Murray will follow up on every lead they are given. There have been six hits on their web site in the 4th quarter regarding the property. He advised industrial land is not a hot item right now and stated it may help sell the property if the Town would consider owner financing. The Board requested a quarterly update on the property and Mr. Thompson stated he will be happy to report on this property quarterly and more often if there is interest from a potential buyer.

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

9. New Business

a. Ruth Street PARTF Grant Application and Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Elder White presented the PARTF grant application and comprehensive plan for the Ruth Street Park. The grant application is due on Friday. She advised the comprehensive plan had to be updated for the application process and requested the Board approve the updated plan.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the Comprehensive Recreation Plan.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Elder White also requested that the Board authorize the Mayor to sign the grant application. She stated the application is authorizing \$317,500 from the Town and \$317,500 from the grant.

Action: The Board approved a motion to authorize the Mayor to act on our behalf.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, draft comprehensive recreation plan, PARTF grant application and park estimated cost is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

b. Board to Consider Creation of Human Relation Board

Mayor Rey requested the Board's consideration to create a Human Relation Board. Alderman Christian stated Fayetteville and Cumberland County has a Board like this and he would like to explore the Town becoming a member of that Board instead of creating another Board. He

advised he would volunteer to serve on their Board and found out that there are four County representatives who can serve on the Board. He advised they also have three military representatives (one civilian and two military) who serve on the Board and we may qualify to fill one of those slots since we annexed Pope and portions of Fort Bragg. He stated he does not want to see us duplicate a service that already exists in Cumberland County and if we are going to spend money creating a new organization, he would like to see us spend it on promoting Coach Fitch's Police Athletic League.

Action: A motion to move forward with creating that Board was made but was defeated.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Yes

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
Alderwoman Lucas

No

Alderman Christian
Alderman Higgins
Alderwoman Sutherland

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

10. Closing Comments

Alderman Christian

- I would like to see the Town explore Spring Lake becoming a member of the Fayetteville/Cumberland County Human Relations Commission.
- It has been one year since I had my heart surgery and I am feeling a lot better. I would not go touch that electric fence though (stated in jest.)
- My mother wanted me to pass on a thank you for the well wishes.
- I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for putting on such a nice awards dinner.
- I look forward to working with Steve Starnes as the Chairperson of the Appearance Commission.
- Holly Hills will have a community watch Thursday at 7 p.m. and I encourage all of my fellow Board members to attend.
- We have the new On the Record newsletter. It has been really successful and I have heard a lot of good comments about it.
- I appreciate all the hard work the Town employees did during the water line break.
- Coach Fitch is having a boxing tournament May 3, 2014. I would like to volunteer my photography services for the event at no charge.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- I would like to thank you all for coming out. My colleague has stated most of the things that I wanted to say. I thank the employees as well for the job that you do. I'm sorry about the long hours but that comes with the territory. It is a good thing that we are able to pay them.
- I would like to thank Ms. Rosa. I feel 100% better because I knew I wasn't too far off. We always try to say yes when employees bring something to us.
- Chief McDuffie, I think it was great that you recognized Mr. Jong for what he does for you. There are people out there that are not asking for something and just want to do for others.

Alderman Higgins

- Thanks for coming out. The meeting tonight was very productive.
- I wish everybody will have some good snow days tomorrow (stated in jest.)

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- Be safe tomorrow. If you have bald tires – don't drive.
- There is an officer in the Police Department who has shirts for the Special Olympics and Spring Lake is not on it and I would like to see us take up a donation to get our name on the shirt.
- The Human Relations Commission banquet is scheduled for March 20, 2014. I look forward to seeing all my Board Members there.
- I am still pushing for a car show on Main Street.
- I have raffle tickets for the Spring Lake Boy Scout Troop 772 and for the Samuel Council Chapter of the 555th PIA Annual Scholarship.

Mr. Metcalf

- Thank you Board Members for a very good meeting and for adopting the Capital Improvements Plan.
- I want to introduce our new stormwater technician, Timothy Garner.
- I echo what everyone said about the water ops department over the weekend. I thank everyone who worked on getting the water main break
- I congratulate Jeff and the Chamber staff on the Chamber event. It was a great time, great event, great food and great fellowship.
- I am really proud of all the staff. Great presentation tonight Rosa and Gail good job. For everyone else, just keep pressing on.

Mayor Rey

- There is a public meeting on February 25th at the Spring Lake Branch Library. FAMPO will be updating the MTP (multimodal transportation plan) and we want to make sure we get the word out to the community and we would love for as many folks as possible to be there.
- We have a few vacancies on our Appearance Commission and other Town boards. Please see the Town Clerk if you are interested in serving or if you know someone who may want to serve.
- I want to say Thank You to AME Zion for their participation in the MLK weekend. The Pastor and the Chamber did an outstanding job of pushing the Read with the Mayor for an Hour Reading Initiative. A special thanks to Debra Clyde and Debora Hudson. I am really excited about our reading program and I encourage everyone to continue to read to your children and encourage people in the community to read, it will make our community a lot better.
- We consistently receive letters in the mail about your extraordinary service. Folks really appreciate what you guys are doing and what the Town is doing. I cannot echo enough the work that you all do as it relates to service to Spring Lake at every level and every department. It makes our jobs up here easier and allows us to do what we have to do. You all are the faces of the community out there and yesterday was a great example of our resilience and what we are all about. I continue to be proud to be the Mayor and continue to serve in this capacity and I thank you all.
- As we get ready for the snow storm that's coming, please be prepared, go to your local stores, I will not call any particular name or give any endorsements but make sure you stock up really well and I know we will be prepared for whatever comes our way. Please monitor your Twitter, the Town's Facebook and web site and we will make sure we get information out the best way we can to the citizens.
- Thank you all for what you do, we appreciate you.

11. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra


Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous



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

ATTEST:


Chris V. Rey
Mayor