

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

February 13, 2017

MINUTES

7:03 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 Rey presiding.

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

Others Present:

Tad Davis, Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Tom Cooney, Public Works Director	Sam Jones, Recreation Director
Tim Garner, Interim Director of Water Resources	Rosa Henegan, Human Resource Officer
Charles Kimble, Police Chief	T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director	Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation

Alderwoman Sutherland 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 O'Garra

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 January 23, 2017 Regular Meeting
- b. Resolution (2017) 1, Accepting Report of Unpaid Taxes

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes of January 23, 2017 Regular Meeting and Resolution (2017) 1, Accepting Report of Unpaid Taxes.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

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

7. Public Forum

Regina Thompson-Xadu, 200 Scarborough Street, Spring Lake, spoke representing The Lakers, a Senior Club, who encouraged the Board to reconsider hiring Heather full time for the Senior Enrichment Center. Ms. Thompson-Xadu stated many of the seniors visit later in the day and Heather leaves at 1 p.m. which does not provide the opportunity for many seniors to have interaction with and instruction from Heather. She also stated that when Carmen is driving the van many times there is no one there to cover for her and it would be a tremendous help if Heather could be there all day.

Kristy Sykes, 507 Carteret Place, Fayetteville, promoted the Dr. Seuss Parade. She stated this will be the Inaugural Dr. Seuss Parade and its focus is on literacy and education. She stated this will be a signature event for Spring Lake. This has never been done in North Carolina and she is proud to have it in Spring Lake. She stated the City of Charlotte, Bladen and Sampson Counties have all asked her to bring the event to their location and she declined. She hopes the Town will embrace this event.

Sergeant McCormick, Spring Lake Police Department, promoted the NC Special Olympics and requested the Town's support. He stated the Police Department is selling t-shirts and hats. He also stated they accept donations. There will be a Law Enforcement Torch run/walk and the date is still to be determined. He stated Spring Lake is currently #39 on the list printed on the t-shirts last year and that is based on how much money you raised. He stated we would like to move up on the list this year. He also advised that Officer McGeachy will be taking over as the lead to promote the NC Special Olympics in Spring Lake.

8. Presentations

a. Spring Lake Community Appearance Commission Annual Report for 2016

Ms. Hash provided the Board of Aldermen with an overview of the Commission's activities during 2016. It included Earth Day/Spring Litter Sweep on April 23, 2016 and America Recycles Day/Fall Litter Sweep on November 19, 2016. She stated they continue the Yard of the Month program which is from May through December. She explained the Giving Together Community Challenge and urged everyone to spread the word about our challenge because the Cumberland County Foundation will match dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. She reported that Spring Lake won 4 out of the 15 categories of awards presented this past year by the Joint Appearance Commission. They were Best Existing Single-Family Residential Property, The Ellison Property; Best Revitalization of a Non-Residential Property, River Bark Veterinary Clinic and Pet Resort; Best Residential Green Project, Balsawood Circle; and Best Non-Residential Green Project, The Club House at Stonegate Apartments.

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

b. Spring Lake Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2016

Mr. Nilsen provided the Board of Aldermen with an overview of the Committee's activities during 2016. He stated in 2016 they initiated two projects and are still working to make them a reality. One project is to provide drop boxes at various locations throughout the Town for retired flags and the other project is a Veteran's Benefits Fair scheduled for November 3, 2017. He reported they meet the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Senior Center.

c. Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Economic Development Update

Mr. Worthy reported the following businesses are interested in coming to Spring Lake: Five Guys Famous

Hamburgers, Biscuitsville, Inc., and Popeye's Chicken. He stated that Cook Out Grill should open in 30 days and Freedom Plaza should open in 60 days. He also reported that we should be working on a survey for the potential family water park.

Alderwoman Sutherland inquired about how he plans to contact stakeholders to determine interest. Mr. Worthy stated that he inquires of people everywhere he goes to determine indicators of what they want to see in Spring Lake. He stated he would not presume to tell the Honorable Board how to proceed in contacting stakeholders, only that he advises not to skip this step. Alderwoman Sutherland stated she would like to see a Public Forum.

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

d. Cumberland County Revaluation of Property Taxes Impact Overview

Mr. Watson stated that Spring Lake's total assessed value decreased by 1.5% or \$6.2M. The residential assessed value decreased 7.6% or \$11M and the commercial assessed value increased by 1.8% or \$2.8M. These changes equate to a \$43,593 loss in revenue for the Town. Options for consideration to offset this decrease is a 1 cent increase on property taxes; increase of any allowable fines; use of Fund Balance; reduce or eliminate General Fund Budget Expenditures by a percentage; reduce or eliminate programs/services; or reduce or eliminate personnel/hours worked per week. Mayor Rey stated this was why he wanted the Board to hold off on making part time positions full time until at least the end of the third quarter because we do not have a true picture of how much of a deficit we will have. He stated we need to take this into consideration as we move forward.

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

e. Overview of Impact of Proposed Disabled Veterans Exclusion Bill

Mr. Watson reported that the impact of HB2, the Disabled Veterans Bill, should it pass will mean an additional \$31,344 loss in revenue. Currently, the exemption is a \$30,197 in lost revenue.

Alderwoman Sutherland inquired about the \$10.00 fee that is on the tax bill and Mr. Watson stated there are two local bills that the Legislature allowed. They are two \$5 fees, one is a motor vehicle fee and the other is a motor vehicle transportation fee. These two fees are the \$10 that is assessed on the tax bill.

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

f. Manager's Update

Mr. Davis reported the following:

- We need to get the word out about the revaluation. The list of potential ways to offset the lost revenue given in Mr. Watson's presentation are just options for the Board to consider. He stated we will discuss this in more depth during the budget workshops.
- The Spring Lake Senior Center has been designated by the State of North Carolina as a Center of Excellence. I regret Doris Snider is not here this evening. He stated he would like to express his tremendous appreciation for the great work that she and her team did. This is not something to be taken lightly. Within our three county Council of Governments there is only one other center with this designation. Our best wishes go out to her.
- Dr. Seuss event is gaining more and more interest every day. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our Town. I will bring the cost associated with this to the next meeting.
- Mr. Davis thanked Laura Hash and Eric Nilsen for all the work that they are doing.
- Mr. Davis thanked Sergeant McCormick and Officer McGeachy for the work on Special Olympics. Contributions really need to be made to the Town so that we get credit for them.

- We will hold a Budget Workshop on February 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.
- Mr. Davis assured the Board of Aldermen and citizens that the officers have been fully trained and will be required to wear their bodycams when they are on duty. He stated it is our commitment to do the right thing.

Alderman Christian inquired about the power outage and Mr. Cooney stated that three transformers blew and needed to be replaced and it took longer than they thought it would.

Alderman Sutherland inquired about the date for the Torch Run/Walk and Sergeant McCormick stated it has not been decided yet but he will let everyone know once a date is determined. She also inquired about why the officer was sitting in the vehicle during the power outage and Mr. Davis stated it just so happens that he was there at the scene and that the officer was sitting in his vehicle in between when he got out to direct traffic at the Odell Road/Highway 87 intersection because the traffic light was out.

Mayor Rey stated the Board of Aldermen will be meeting with our Legislative Delegation this Friday.

9. New Business

a. Appointments, Poe Avenue Bridge Naming Ad Hoc Committee

Ms. Webb advised that the Poe Avenue Bridge Naming Committee should have five members. Currently, one person has been appointed to the Committee. Five people submitted applications to serve on the Committee and Ms. Webb asked the Board of Aldermen to determine which persons they wish to appoint to the Committee. She stated five people submitted applications to fill four positions.

Alderman Sutherland made a motion to approve the first four people. Alderman Christian restated the motion to approve the first four people who submitted an application as regular members and to make Janice Bendure an alternate member.

Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins expressed concern about two people from the same residence being on the committee and proposed a substitute motion to replace Debra Bennett with Janice Bendure. There were no objections to the substitute motion.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Mary Thomas, William Bennett, Carolyn Birts and Janice Bendure as regular members and to make Debra Bennett an alternate member.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins

Second by: Alderman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

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

b. Budget Amendment 2017.8, Fire Department

Mr. Watson presented Budget Amendment 2017.8 to budget \$2,200 from the Walmart Foundation's Local Facility Grant to purchase a Hot Car Display educational tool.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2017.8.

Motion by: Alderman Lucas

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, backup documentation and Budget Amendment 2017.8 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous



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

ATTEST:

Chris V. Rey
Chris V. Rey
Mayor