

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

July 11, 2016

MINUTES

7:05 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 James Christian
Alderman Densie Lucas
Alderman James O'Garra
Alderman Fredricka Sutherland (participated via telephone)

Others Present:

Tad Davis, Town Manager
Byron Blumenfeld, Director of Water Resources
Rosa Henegan, HR Officer
Troy McDuffie, Chief of Police
Doris Snider, Senior Center Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
JC Combs, Assistant Recreation Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Public Works
T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director

2. Invocation

Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins 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 Christian

Second by: Alderman 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 June 27, 2016 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes for June 27, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Elaine Cole, 3331 Arrowhead Road, stated we received a 2% tax increase and her wages did not increase and this is a burden on the taxpayers and on her. She stated her water bill is high and it went up \$10 and she would like someone to investigate why her bill increased \$10. She stated if it is because of the tax increase she really has a problem with that because we had a 14 cent tax and now it is 16 cent. She requested that the Town create a diversity committee and this is something citizens should be able to handle instead of lawmakers. She stated we need a swimming pool in Spring Lake and a splash pad is not fair because that is for the youth and we have people of all ages in the community and a pool would be more beneficial. Mayor Rey clarified that the Town of Spring Lake did not increase taxes. Alderman Christian stated she may be getting that confused with the 2% water increase from PWC proposed for next year. Mayor Rey also advised that by September we plan to change the way we bill water to a per gallon billing process.

Jimmy Hobbs, 214 Eppingdale Drive, stated a splash pad would not be as beneficial to the community as a pool.

Rex Perry, 1013 Karen Circle, asked if the Town Manager or the Finance Director contacted the SBI regarding the audit report. Mayor Rey stated the Town Manager has contacted them. Mr. Perry suggested the Town only issue two p-cards and permission should be given prior to any purchase. He also stated travel approval should only be given once agenda has been submitted and approved. He wants to make sure we have a yearly contract with a CPA firm to review our finances. Mr. Perry provided a sheet of concerns.

Betty Sanford, 104 Wapiti Drive, thanked the Mayor and Board for all they do. She said we need a movie theatre, swimming pool and bowling alley. She said all our money goes to Fayetteville. She urged parents and grandparents to go to the schools and volunteer their time and get involved. She thanked the Chief of Police and all the men and women of the Police Department for the work that they do.

Rita Perry, 1013 Karen Circle, clarified that the City Clerk has no authority or power to approve or deny Board Member's travel or expenditures. The Clerk only prepares information provided for processing. She also stated that to the Mayor that belittling the value of Spring Lake homes was an insult to all Spring Lake home owners. She stated she felt the Mayor's comments at the Community Forum about things that would have to be cut to fund other things was a scare tactic and she offered suggestions on items that could be cut from the budget: extend the current agreement with Cumberland County Planning and Inspections Department eliminating the need for the Inspections Department, outsource the Human Resources services, and unite with the Fayetteville/Cumberland County Recreation Department as other County municipalities have done. She stated exploring avenues to be fiscally responsible with our tax dollars is the duty of the Town Manager and the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen and should not be sarcastically passed off to the citizens to address. She stated she does not see the need to create a panel to review transactions that the State Auditor's panel of experts have already reviewed. She believes employees, the Mayor and Board Members where applicable, should submit documentation on the questionable purchases to the SBI to review. She then stated she received numerous phone calls last night from various citizen and church groups who want to start a petition to get rid of the Mayor and various Board Members. At this time Mayor Rey announced Ms. Perry's three minutes are up.

8. Presentations

a. Employee of the Quarter

Mayor Rey, Mr. Davis and Ms. Henegan presented certificates to the employees who were named Employee of the Quarter for the Second Quarter. They were:

Scott Schara – Program Support

Debora Hudson – Administrative Support

Travis Walker – Public Safety, Fire
Paul Titus – Operations Support
Lieutenant Connor – Public Safety, Police

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

b. Mid-Year Update, Spring Lake Transit

Mr. Hoover provided the Board with an update on the Spring Lake Transit System. He stated the number of riders over the last year increased. The bus averages more than 100 riders each month. Alderman Christian asked if the roadway construction has delayed the service. Mr. Hoover stated all trips are running 20 minutes behind schedule due to the roadway construction but we have heard no complaints. Alderwoman Sutherland stated she is pleased to provide this service even though we do not make money from it. Mayor Rey advised the bus operates in a deficit of \$87,637.82 but stated the Board recognizes the importance of this service and wanted citizens to know that it does cost us to provide this service.

(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. Manager's Update

Mr. Davis reported the following:

- The Manager and Mr. Hoover recently met with the director of transportation for the City of Fayetteville (FAST) for opportunities to partner with them. We will maximize any opportunities that present themselves. The now includes services to Fort Bragg and we are looking at ways we may be able to tie into that. The City on behalf of the County is initiating a travel voucher program for low income citizens and senior citizens and that is something we want to look at as well and possibly piggyback off of that.
- Congratulations to Sergeant Brown for earning the designation of Officer of the Year at the Annual Crisis Intervention Team Awards Ceremony.
- Farmer's Market property security update: The light that was out is now operational which helps with security for this location. The Police Department is working with them to revive the barricade that was there previously which will keep people from being able to drive onto the property after hours.
- July 16th the Farmer's Market will host a Kids Day Focus from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Organizations like Sustainable Sandhills and the Arts Council will be there to provide activities for the youth of our community.
- Continuing "Screen on the Green" this past Friday. Due to the weather threat it was moved inside and there was a great turnout. We will do this again in August and September.

Alderwoman Sutherland thanked Mr. Davis and Sergeant Brown on the work done at the Farmer's Market and for being proactive.

9. New Business

a. Appointment, Community Appearance Commission

Ms. Webb advised that Ms. Dedra Parker submitted an application to serve on the Community Appearance Commission and if appointed will serve a three-year term expiring July 30, 2019. She requested the Board determine the appointment of Ms. Dedra Parker.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Dedra Parker to the Community Appearance Commission for a three-year term expiring July 30, 2019.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

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

b. Appointment, Recreation Advisory Committee

Ms. Webb advised that Mr. Rex Perry submitted an application to serve on the Recreation Advisory Committee and if appointed will serve a three-year term expiring July 30, 2019. She requested the Board determine the appointment of Mr. Rex Perry.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Rex Perry to the Recreation Advisory Committee for a three-year term expiring July 30, 2019.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

c. Discussion, Dual Signature Requirement

Alderwoman Sutherland stated G.S. 159-25(b) requires two signatures and the Town's custom has been to have the Mayor Pro Tem sign the checks in the Mayor's absence. She expressed concern with not having the Mayor Pro Tem sign the checks. Mayor Rey clarified that the Town is not out of compliance with the General Statute and stated the only people who sign checks are listed on signature card which is what is required to be able to sign checks. He clarified that he understands Alderwoman Sutherland wishes for the Town to continue the practice of having the Mayor Pro Tem sign checks in the Mayor's absence. Alderman O'Garra stated that he was at Town Hall in a moment's notice since he lives so close and he enjoyed coming to sign checks. He stated the current Mayor Pro Tem lives on the other side of Town and has a handicapped wife. Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins stated the fact that his wife is ill has nothing to do with him fulfilling his duties. He wants to be a team player and will do what is necessary to keep us on course.

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

d. Discussion, Audit Report Review Panel

Mayor Rey stated we told the State Auditor's Office that we would review the questionable purchases. Mayor Rey submitted to Board Members possible scenarios as to how to assemble the committee and from the Board's response it was determined that the committee will be comprised of the Manager, Mayor Pro Tem, 2 citizens from the Town and an official from another municipality. They also decided that the Town's Finance Director will serve as an ex-officio member.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated she asked to be on the panel and one of her colleagues as well as the Mayor previously stated that it would not be appropriate for Board Members to be on the panel. She stated at the Community Forum Mayor Rey stated that Mr. Dobbins was not part of the Board when this happened but in her opinion if Board Members should not be on the panel then no Board Member should be on the panel so our constituents can build their trust back up. Alderwoman Sutherland inquired if the SBI had been contacted and Mayor Rey stated the Town has reached out to them for an initial contact and was told that unless the District Attorney requests their involvement this is not a case that would be turned over to their level.

Action: The Board approved a motion to form an audit review panel consisting of the Manager, Mayor Pro Tem, Two Spring Lake Citizens, an Official from Another Municipality and the Finance Director serving in an ex-officio member.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: 4-1

Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins
Alderman Christian
Alderwoman Lucas
Alderman O'Garra

No
Alderwoman Sutherland

The Board's consensus was to fill the citizen positions by an application process. They requested an application be created and published tomorrow with a due date of Friday, July 15, 2016 at noon. They decided to hold a special meeting on July 18, 2016 at 6 p.m. to review applications from citizens who submit an application to serve on the panel.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 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
Mayor