

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

January 2, 2018

MINUTES

11 a.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a special meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Municipal Complex with Mayor Larry Dobbins presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra
Alderman James Christian
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderwoman Jackie Jackson
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Bill Zell, Interim Town Manager
Rhonda D. Webb, Town Clerk

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Dobbins called the meeting to order.

(A copy of the special meeting notice is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see

2. Invocation

Mayor Dobbins gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Business – Discuss Planning and Goals for 2018

This meeting was held to continue discussing issues moving forward and to learn what Board Members are hearing from the citizens.

1. Mayor Dobbins began by discussing the Mayor Pro Tem vote. Alderwoman Sutherland stated "if we know that we are not doing something right, we need to fix it." She requested that Rhonda help keep the Board on track with the General Statutes and Town Ordinances to make sure that we do our due diligence to be proper in Town business moving forward. Ms. Webb explained what could be done to fix the motions from the December 11, 2017 meeting that did not receive a second. Mr. Zell offered the proper wording that would rectify the issue. He stated a Board Member needs to make a second to the nominations that were made for Mayor Pro Tem. The Board agreed that we would proceed with the recommended corrective action at the next regular meeting.
2. Alderwoman Sutherland expressed the need for us to review our policies and procedures to ensure that all of them are correct. She said Mr. Wilkison was working on updating them and she wants to make sure that was completed and if not that it is resurrected. She also wants to make sure our Ordinances are followed and if any need to be amended we work on getting that done.
3. Alderwoman Sutherland also wants to make sure our Ordinances are followed and if any of them needs to be amended, we work on getting that done. She stated that during the Town Manager assessment it was brought to her attention that we do not follow our Ordinance for picking up white goods and brown goods. Our Ordinance

required pickup once monthly but we are picking them up every week. She stated we do not need to do things that are against our Ordinance and if we discover that we need to do something different, we need to change the Ordinance. Mayor Dobbins suggested that we review our Ordinances and bring back suggested changes. The Board's consensus was to pick these items up twice each month but that will require an action item on an upcoming agenda. Mr. Zell suggested that the Board make a list of items and then set a retreat to hammer out the details and then bring back those items for a vote at a regular meeting.

4. Alderwoman Cooper has had complaints about no lights on the Poe Avenue Bridge. This is a NCDOT issue. The Town has been in contact with DOT and will continue to advocate for additional lighting in this area. Alderman Christian suggested reflective signs. He also suggested we contact NCDOT about the safety of the guard rails at the ends of the bridge.
5. Alderwoman Cooper expressed concern about pedestrian crossing on Bragg Boulevard and the need to address this. Alderwoman Sutherland also agreed that we need to be proactive on this issue.
6. Alderwoman Cooper inquired about the progress of the Town Manager search. Mr. Zell stated that we are waiting on the background check to be finished. He has been in touch with Mr. Gerald who is fully aware of where we are in the process and he hopes to have everything completed this week.
7. Alderwoman Sutherland expressed concerns about the tree at the corner of the Poe Avenue Bridge and Monroe Street. She stated the tree blocks the view of vehicles trying to turn left onto Monroe Street. Mr. Zell stated he will have our guys look at this.
8. Alderman Christian asked for an update on the Overhills sewer project. He wanted to make sure we are prepared for them to tap into our sewer line and our wastewater treatment plant. He also inquired about a natural gas hub.
9. Alderwoman Jackson expressed concern about the water bills being too high. It was determined that this should be a budget discussion item. Mr. Zell stated people need to make sure they do not have any leaks. He stated there are small things that people can do to check their toilet for leaks such as put some food coloring in the tank and if it appears in the bowl, there is a leak. Alderwoman Sutherland suggested having another public forum on water like we did a year or so ago that was hosted by the Water Department. Mayor Dobbins express the need to communicate, as effectively as we can, when we have a water main break and have to turn the water off. Getting the word out is critical. Mayor Dobbins requested that we exhaust every means possible to get the word out. Alderwoman Sutherland stated the Board needs to be informed when there are issues.
10. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated he is concerned with notification when the water is off. He also suggested that people who keep a hose connected may never know they have a leak so they need to take the hose off and check the faucet. He inquired about the fire hydrants and why some are painted black. Chief McLamb happened to pass by and the Board Members were able to find out that hydrants painted black means that hydrant is out of service. Again, the Board Members requested to be informed when things change, especially if the change will make citizens ask questions.
11. The Board Members would like to have a public safety forum similar to the one that was done for the Water Department.
12. Mayor Dobbins would like to see the blue boxes for clothes and shoes removed from Town because people leave furniture and all kinds of items not meant for these containers and that do not fit in the containers and they become a trash dump. He would like an Ordinance to restrict them if possible. Someone needs to monitor these because they are becoming landfills.
13. Mr. Zell and Chief McDuffie are working on security at Town Hall. They are looking for ways to make the building safer without interfering with citizens doing business. They are also going to look at policies for employees.
14. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra inquired about what we are going to do about the Recreation Department being closed when the kids are out of school.
15. Alderwoman Sutherland expressed the need to have a certified Economic Development person who can grant write as well. She inquired when we will try to do this. Mayor Dobbins stated that we will begin to tackle this at the next meeting and will require budget discussions as well.

16. Alderwoman Cooper stated there are people who write grants and they get paid a percentage of the awarded grant.
17. Alderman Christian suggested that staff (the Town Manager and Human Resources) research this and make a presentation at an upcoming Board of Aldermen meeting. Mr. Zell was asked to help define the qualifications for this position.
18. Alderwoman Sutherland would like to see this as a position of the Town. She stated we also need to determine if the grant writer would be full time or part time position.
19. Mayor Dobbins wants to work on revitalization of Main Street. Alderwoman Sutherland stated we need to offer incentives. She stated we have been through this multiple times and there are plans in place and we need to get those and continue where we left off. Mayor Dobbins stated his intent is to not let this die over the next two years.
20. Mayor Dobbins expressed the need to control and contain spending. He stated we need to look at how to control this. Mr. Zell stated we do that through our budget process. Alderwoman Sutherland stated we have a policy in place but we need to make sure we are enforcing it.
21. Mayor Dobbins stated we need transit system improvements. He stated the security of where riders have to transfer to the Fayetteville Transit system is of concern. Citizens have expressed safety concerns and we need to see what other options are available.
22. The Board expressed the need to have NCDOT to assess the traffic flow entering Bragg Boulevard at the end of Main Street by Hardee's. The stop sign should be a yield sign and the right lane should be a free flowing lane onto the Boulevard. This would help with traffic back up during heavy traffic times. Mayor Dobbins stated he will begin by writing letters to NCDOT regarding all the issues that NCDOT needs to address.
23. Mayor Dobbins reported that RULAC gave a presentation this morning. You can go to www.RULAC.com/JLUS to get the land use impact report.

The Board decided to meet on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 5 p.m. if staff is able to have the research ready by then. The Board's consensus was to schedule a retreat to discuss all items from the two planning meetings and begin to tackle them. Mayor Dobbins stated that before his tenure is up, the Board will do their very best to correct every wrong that has been identified.

5. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous



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

ATTEST:

Larry G. Dobbins
Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor