

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

June 11, 2018

**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 Larry Dobbins presiding.

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

**Others Present:**

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager  
Chief McDuffie, Police Chief  
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director

Jason Kimble, Town Attorney  
T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief  
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

**2. Invocation**

Alderman Christian gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Dobbins 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 as is.

**Motion by:** Mayor Pro Tem 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 May 14, 2018 Special Meeting
- b. Minutes of the May 14, 2018 Regular Meeting
- c. Minutes of the May 29, 2018 Special Meeting

d. Minutes of the June 1, 2018 Special Meeting

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes of May 14, 2018 Special Meeting, Minutes of the May 14, 2018 Regular Meeting, Minutes of the May 29, 2018 Special Meeting and the Minutes of the June 1, 2018 Special Meeting.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Vote:** Unanimous

**7. Public Forum**

Tony Burgess, 208 N. Main Street, spoke concerning the new boxing gym on Main Street. He stated he has three more fights and wanted to provide the Board of Aldermen with tickets to the upcoming fight. He stated that he does work with a few youths but Coach Fitch usually works with the youth.

Regina Xadu, 200 Scarborough Street, Spring Lake, spoke about how dark the Poe Avenue Bridge is. She stated she would like to see two solar globe lights at each end of the bridge. Mr. Gerald stated we are working with NCDOT to get lighting in that area.

Patricia Ann Archie Jackson (Patty Ann Adams from 1978), spoke about the Town of Spring Lake Flag. She gave everyone in the room a packet with information containing "the whole truth" as stated by Ms. Archie-Jackson. She stated that in 1978 the Town of Spring Lake ran a flag and motto contest. She, along with another 127 students from Pine Forrest, Manchester Elementary and Spring Lake Junior High entered the contest. She stated that she attended Spring Lake Junior High at the time and when Mr. Breeden Blackwell got the notice, he called her to the office and said Patty I have a nice little project for you to do. She stated that Mr. Blackwell told her that they were going to do a flag and motto contest and if anyone knows more about Spring Lake it should be you. She stated that he said this will be something you can take into you adulthood as well as something for your children. She said Mr. Blackwell told her when she got ready to design the flag and motto that she not do it for herself but for the Town. He also told her that she needed to makes sure she could explain everything that she put on that flag because later you are going to have to explain it. She stated that she then interviewed everyone and the last person she interviewed was Mayor Vernon Hobson. She stated that she sat down in his office and he said to her, so you want to be a flag designer and she said yes sir. She stated that she told him it was her ambition, like it is now, to be a future Mayor of Spring Lake. She stated that she put so much hard work into everything she has done, including playing softball for Mr. Crowe, working and doing Girl Scouts. She stated that she told him she just loves the Town and it has so much spirit. She said Mayor Hobson told her to make sure she designed something that is fitting for this Town and is something she would be able to stand behind for the rest of her life. She stated that's exactly what she did. She stated that she is 56 years old and she designed the Town of Spring Lake Flag and wrote the motto when she was 15 years old. She stated she moved away to New Jersey in 1989 because her father got shot in the line of duty as an officer. She stated that she has been flying back and forth ever since. She then stated that she now has made her husband quit his job in New Jersey, she has transferred herself back here to North Carolina and even made my daughter go to school here, and now I'm here. She stated that it is her intention to find herself a home here in Spring Lake to be able to run for Mayor for next term, but under some certain circumstances she could not find a house that she could afford because of the taxes. So, she and her husband bought a house in Fayetteville. She stated that inside the packet you will see a picture of herself when she went to Spring Lake Junior High in 1978, mayors and aldermen that were there during that time, you will also see in there a letter from Vernon Hobson because in 1978 right after the flag was made, the motto that Spring Lake had originally chose was "Progress for Prosperity" and in October when the flag flew, they switched it to "Unity for Prosperity". She stated you can

also see how she emailed Ms. Clark several times and she has had to file a racial discrimination law suit with the NAACP because when my daughter wrote an essay calling me the black Betsy Ross of Spring Lake someone here in the township of Spring Lake told the teacher that the designer of the flag was Caucasian. She stated she is here tonight after 40 years, fighting again for the Town over my flag. Not one time, not once ever has the Board set it to motion, it has never gone to vote and there is a picture of the original flag posters that have been in this building for 40 years. She stated that it had gotten removed. After 40 years this picture was given to me by someone who told me enough is enough. She stated they said I am going to give you what the township would have never given you, a picture of my flag at the top in the middle. Juanita and Jay Byrd's pictures of their flag is also in there. The poster on there, the Unity for Prosperity, the eagle and all. So, I don't understand after 40 years would it take so long and so hard for somebody to come back and have to fly back and forth, move their family to this Town, especially where all the history and information for the flag was right here in the building the whole time. She stated she is asking the Board tonight to put a cease to this nonsense. She said she does not understand what the situation was or the reasoning way the Board has never voted on the Town and motto, but after tonight, you have everything that I can possibly give you to show, as well as the people in Spring Lake, the proof of what the Town of Spring Lake flag was at the beginning, to the middle to the end. She stated that two books have been written about the Town of Spring Lake and not one of those books mentioned the flag. And, Mr. Pate, God rest his soul, put my motto and my flag on the front of his book and dare not to even mention me or this flag in this book. The Town of Spring Lake has written a book and it is in the Public Library and on page 73 of this one that says Image of Spring Lake is exactly where that picture came out of, out of the first scrap book out of this Town. It was her the whole time, right in this building and that is not mentioned in this book as well, not one word about the Town of Spring Lake flag. Mr. Pate writes in 1976 in his book that there was a bicentennial in 1976 and it says that the Town logo contains the United States Flag, the North Carolina Flag and a Spring Lake flag and I didn't write the motto until 1978, so I don't understand why this says 1976.

Mayor Dobbins told Ms. Jackson that he does not know if tonight the Board is ready to take up this issue on her behalf or however it may turn out. He ask her to allow him a couple of days to look at the packet and he stated he will send her a written response. She then stated that she received an email from Mr. Ben Clark today stating that he had done an investigation about this flag and shows, without a shadow of a doubt, that she is the sole designer of the Town of Spring Lake, as well as the sole designer of the motto of the Town of Spring Lake. Mayor Dobbins stated that it is his hope and prayer, as well as this Board's, that this can be resolved.

Rita Perry, 1013 Karen Circle, Spring Lake, spoke expressing her gratitude to the Board and Town management regards to the hard work and due diligence put forth in generating the FY 2018-2019 budget proposal. She stated that after reviewing the proposed recommendation, it is obvious that a new era has transpired within our Town management and Board. As a Spring Lake taxpayer, your efforts in being fiscally responsible with our tax dollars is greatly welcomed. She stated municipal governing and management are demanding tasks which often require difficult decisions to ensure tax dollars are not being wasted. She stated the attention in addressing unnecessary expenses is sincerely appreciated and respected. She thanked the Board for making logical, instead of emotional, evaluations when facing difficult decisions and for your continuous public service.

Mayor Dobbins stated that as is our custom, he will be making written responses to all the comments made during public forum and he thanked Ms. Perry for her positive comments.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. FY 2018-2019 Annual Audit Contract**

Mr. Watson presented the annual audit contract with S. Preston Douglas. He stated the only difference is that

the fee for the upcoming year will be \$15,500 as opposed to \$14,500 last year but that was in the original proposal. He stated staff recommends approval of the contract.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2018) 8.

**Motion by:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2018) 8 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

**b. Ordinance (2018) 7, FY 2018-2019 Budget**

Mayor Dobbins highlighted the 2018-2019 Budget and stated it saves the Town approximately \$400,000 with no compromise in the quality nor quantity of work. It funds one police vehicle, two bus stop shelters and an aerator for the Waste Treatment Plant. This budget eliminates some top heavy salaries in some of the departments. The splash pad construction will begin this year, as well as the resurfacing of the basketball court and new goals. It includes a 1.5% COLA beginning in January. The water bills will increase by a modest 5.1% with no increase in the sewer rates. He stated we are passing along an increase less than what we received from PWC. He stated we will fund a new Economic Development Coordinator and will continue to provide funds to the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce. This budget also provides funds for employee performance increases based on evaluations.

Alderman Christian stated the only thing that he objects to in this budget is not funding a separate HR position.

Alderwoman Cooper stated she thought at one time we had promised the Police Department three vehicles for the next five years the last time it was 2 vehicles and now it is one police vehicle. She stated her biggest problem with this budget is that we don't have an HR person. Mr. Gerald stated that we have funds in the budget for one police vehicle. We have funds in the budget for the second police car and will come back to the Board later and ask for the second car.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2018) 7, FY 2018-2019 Budget.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** 3-2

Yes

No

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Alderman Christian

Alderman Christian

Alderwoman Cooper

Alderwoman Jackson

(A copy of the agenda memo and FY 2018-2019 Budget Ordinance (2018) 7 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

**9. Last Word**

Alderwoman Jackson said she would like to thank everyone for coming out today. It is good to see everyone. She stated if you have any concerns, please let us know.

**10. Adjournment.**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29

p.m.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderman Christian

**Vote:** Unanimous



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

ATTEST:

*Larry G. Dobbins*  
Larry G. Dobbins  
Mayor