

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

May 14, 2018

MINUTES

5 p.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
Alderwoman Cooper
Alderwoman Jackson
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Alderman Christian was absent; however he signed a waiver allowing the Board to amend the agenda if needed.

Others Present:

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager
Tom Cooney, Public Works Director
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director
Rhonda 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 attachment one.)

2. Invocation

Alderwoman Cooper gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Addition to the Agenda

The Board approved a motion to add a Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel to the agenda.

Action: The Board approved a motion to add a Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) - Personnel to the agenda.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

4. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) - Personnel

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to go back into open session at 5:23 p.m.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

5. Budget Overview

Mr. Gerald staff's goal is to maintain adequate funding levels to provide basic Town services. He is not proposing a tax rate increase and will review opportunities to lower this rate if possible. He is proposing to contain operating costs while funding infrastructure replacement. He is also going to maintain a general fund, fund balance in the range of 20% to 24% of budgeted expenditures, per budgetary practices. He stated we need to increase water rates by 5.1% because we received a 9% increase from PWC. Alderwoman Sutherland stated "this does not affect the sewer because every time I flush by toilet or do laundry it goes through the system, so it is only going to affect my water," and Mr. Gerald replied "we will bill for both we are going to put more emphasis on paying full cost for the water because really the 9% will cover the cost the sewer cost and the other 4.9% would cover the sewer. He is proposing to fund an evaluation/compression study for effected employee's salaries. The budget has a 1.5% Cost of Living (COLA) for all Town employees, beginning in January 2019; continuation of the 3-year lease agreement with Dell for twenty (20) computers in 2017-2018 to replace aging computers in the current inventory with the option to lease twenty (20) additional computers in Fiscal Year 2018-2019; conversion of financial accounting software as well as updated software to support other Town managerial functions; and the Capital Outlay items. They include two (2) bus stop shelters, two (2) police vehicles, and a new aerator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Alderwoman Sutherland asked if the police vehicles will be marked patrol vehicles or unmarked vehicles. Mr. Gerald stated he believes they will be marked but he will check to verify. Alderwoman Cooper asked what the new vehicles will have that the ones they have now don't have. Mr. Gerald stated we have vehicles with high mileage and there is a maintenance issue but he will task Chief McDuffie to give him more information. Alderwoman Cooper requested to know how much money we are putting into maintenance. Mayor Dobbins stated that we may be able to get three vehicles for this price instead of two. Alderwoman Cooper asked if we have enough officers for the vehicles and Mr. Gerald stated Chief McDuffie is proposing to hire more officers. Alderwoman Cooper asked if they have ever considered motorcycles and Mr. Gerald stated he will take that information back to Chief McDuffie.

Alderwoman Sutherland inquired about the break down of the departments requests and stated that usually the Board sees each department's requests. Mr. Gerald stated most of them we took care of. The sound system and the splash pad will be done. The Board will be asked to accept the bid for the splash pad at the meeting tonight. Alderwoman Sutherland asked if the Board was not going to see the department break down like that usually do so that they can weed them out. She stated does the Fire Department not have a wish list

and Mr. Gerald stated the large items are in the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Cooney stated that the Board was given a draft version of a Capital Improvement Plan which they will be asked to approve at some time but not in this budget cycle. He stated it shows the Town's needs. Alderwoman Sutherland stated so it is not going to be stuck in there somewhere where we don't know and Mr. Cooney stated no. She also stated that the Fire Department went to Colorado to get the last apparatus and that should be about paid off. Mr. Cooney stated that the age of the Fire apparatus effects the ISO rating and the homeowner's insurance rates. She stated that the Recreation Department requested a thigh buster and she does not know if that is in the budget. Mr. Gerald stated that is something that they can purchase from their department budget. She requested that the Recreation Department try to replace old equipment as it ages out. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked if we are taking into consideration leasing vehicles. Mr. Cooney stated that will look at that as an option. He also stated that the document the Board was handed tonight is a rough draft and will have to be amended. It is a living document and will be continually changing. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that we have been talking about revitalizing Main Street for a long time. We spent \$59,000 once before for an infrastructure study to see where we are going and where we are at. She stated she does not know what happened to it but it just disappeared and we have done this several times but under the Capital Improvement Plan we need to include Main Street too. We don't want this to fall by the wayside because the citizens ask about it. Alderwoman Jackson asked if it could be listed on the plan now and Mr. Cooney stated they will add it. Mr. Cooney stated we are waiting on the final plans and the next step would be to find the funding to do it.

Alderwoman Sutherland inquired about the safety of the Professional Building and Mr. Cooney stated the owner thought he had hired a professional engineer but he had not. Mr. Cooney sent them a letter approximately three weeks ago and discovered that he has since hired a professional engineer and is working on a plan. If that plan does not address the issues within 20 days, Mr. Cooney will make them comply with State Law and vacate the building. As a result of this, Mr. Cooney met with Mr. Garber from the Rubicon Group and determined there are substantial issues there and he is supposed to formulate a plan and present it within the next two weeks. They will then set up a schedule with the owner to make the modifications to that building.

Mr. Cooney stated the CIP does not need to be approved right now but he would like to have it approved by July because the Water Department sections have to be in place in order for the Town to be able to charge Capital Reserve Fees to help set aside money for the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. He stated the CIP is a 10-year plan and nothing is set in stone, it just reminds us that these things need to be done. This is for long term planning. The only goal the Police Department has right now is for three vehicles, they were promised in the past three vehicles per year, so \$99,000 was budgeted for that.

Mr. Cooney stated the only work associated with Hurricane Matthew that has not been done yet is a water line that is in wetlands. He stated the \$77,000 that FEMA gave us will not come anywhere near the cost of the project. He stated that line has been out of service for the past year and one-half and there has been no reduction in the water service to New Holly Hills and the area back off of Odell Road and our plan at this point is to abandon that line.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated the water tank needs to be painted. Mr. Gerald stated we plan to paint the

tank in the fall and will most likely need a budget amendment. Alderwoman Sutherland stated this will be a good time to think about the logo or changing the color.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked about the street paving schedule. Mr. Cooney stated that he is not familiar with the plan that Mr. Hoover had but he will try to find it.


6. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous


Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor