

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

October 22, 2018

**MINUTES**

7:02 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 G. 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:**

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager	Ellis Hankins, Town Attorney
Jay Graves, Recreation Director	Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director	Jason Williams, Interim Fire Chief
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk	

**2. Invocation**

Alderwoman Jackson gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda**

The Board added Discussion, Boys and Girls Club Contract as Item 9e, Resolution (2018) 13, Disaster Debris Recovery Services as Item 9f, and Board to Determine November 12, 2018 Meeting Schedule as Item 9g. 8a, Presentation and 8a1 Presentation from the Board.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to add Discussion, Boys and Girls Club Contract as Item 9e, Resolution (2018) 13, Disaster Debris Recovery Services as Item 9f, and Board to Determine November 12, 2018 Meeting Schedule as Item 9g. 8a was changed from Greetings from Lee Boyd to Presentation by Zeta Pechario and 8a1 Presentation from the Board

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

**5. Approval of Agenda**

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Jackson

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem 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**

a. Minutes of the October 1, 2018 Special Meeting, NCDOT Mowing Agreement, Resolution (2018) 12, Designation of Applicant's Agent, and Budget Amendment, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes of the October 1, 2018 Special Meeting, NCDOT Mowing Agreement, Resolution (2018) 12, Designation of Applicant's Agent, and Budget Amendment, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

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

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### **7. Public Forum**

Mr. Tony Burgess, 208 N. Main Street announced he has a boxing show this Saturday and the Recreation Center and he presented the Board with tickets to the Boxing Show which starts at 5 p.m.

Den Leader Ryan for Cub Scout Pack 713 from Spout Springs requested the Board to allow two of the Cub Scouts to ask questions. They asked Mayor Dobbins quite a few questions about his responsibility as Mayor, his background and preparation for the job of Mayor, what made him want to be a government leader, how can citizens help him be more effective and the biggest challenge facing the Mayor.

#### **8. Presentations**

##### **a. Presentation from Zeta Pechario**

Ms. Pechario stated she is in charge of Compare Foods in Spring Lake. She stated they are working hard to move forward and they are expecting to open in December. She stated it is and will be a pleasure to serve the Spring Lake community. They will begin hiring approximately two to three weeks prior to the store opening. They expect to employ approximately 50-55 people.

##### **a1. Presentation from the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen**

The Board of Aldermen presented a plaque to Mr. Michael Cornelius who saved two people during Hurricane Florence. He kept them from going over the bridge in the rushing water. Mayor Dobbins described Mr. Cornelius as a hero.

##### **b. Economic Development Update**

Mr. McNeil, Ms. Lindsey Almond and Mr. Warner provided the Board with an overview of the Economic Development Program. They will be developing and implementing local economic development strategy, including identification of high priority goals and performance indicators; complete a comprehensive inventory of potential development/redevelopment sites; lead efforts to facilitate new economic development opportunities within the town; identify grants, programs, and other funding sources to achieve economic and community development goals; provide

access to FCEDC's full research capabilities, real-estate tools and proprietary databases; creation of town specific marketing and promotion materials; and specific promotion of the town at events and tradeshow. Mr. McNeil explained what economic development is and what it will take to bring economic development to Spring Lake. He stated they are currently working with property owners on sites and costs. They have identified twelve sites and four buildings for possible industrial use. Why Spring Lake – we have the youngest workforce in North Carolina. We are in close proximity to Fort Bragg, its workforce and assets. We have two major highways (Highways 87 and 210). We have existing infrastructure, low cost of living and close proximity to educational and workforce training facilities. We are one hour away from an international airport, one hour and forty minutes from a deep-water port in Wilmington, we have quick access to class one and short line rail which is more economical than using trucks. He stated Spring Lake is somewhere between success and opportunities.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated he enjoyed the way Mr. McNeil presented himself and inquired if there are any things in the pot and Mr. McNeil stated there are several things in the works and he will let the Board know when the time is right. He also stated that we have to understand our competition and stated he wants the Board Members to ride around and let him show them what his vision is.

Alderman Sutherland stated that she has always been told that Spring Lake is a diamond in the rough and she want to know when the diamond is going to start shining. She stated that we have to network and if we do not come out of Spring Lake and see what everyone else is doing we will get the same old result. Teamwork and team building are how we learn from one another and from other municipalities. She stated that when she ran for the Board, she stated then that we need our own economic development individual. She likes to see things come to fruition. She stated that she has received several calls about Mr. McNeil and they have all been good. She looks forward to working with the EDC and wants to continue to move forward.

Alderman Christian stated that he echoes his colleagues' sentiments and he also looks forward to working with them.

**c. Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Update**

Ms. Eaton was unable to attend the meeting. This item was deleted from the agenda and will be placed on a future agenda.

**d. Quarterly Finance Update**

Mr. Watson presented the quarterly finance update and stated everything is looking very well for the Town of Spring Lake. The General Fund revenues are at 16.91% which is ahead of last year at this time and the expenditures are at 22.74%. He stated the majority of revenues come from property taxes and that will not show until later in the fiscal year. The Water and Sewer Fund revenues are at 27.31% and the expenditures are at 17.69%. Stormwater is at 13.57% revenues and 15.12% expenditures. The Sanitation Fund is at 4.89% revenues and 18.08% expenditures. The Fleet Fund is an internal service fund which the other departments feed into. That fund is at 30.92% expenditures. For all operating funds we are at 20.91% for expenses and 25% would be the expected percentage so we are spending less than expected at this time. The revenues are at 19.06% which means we are still ahead of the game in revenues.

Alderman Sutherland inquired about there being no capital outlay in stormwater, sanitation or

fleet. Mr. Watson clarified that police vehicles, as an example, are capital outlay, and are listed in the General Fund. He also stated that we do not have any capital outlay items in stormwater, sanitation and fleet funds. Alderwoman Sutherland stated we have purchased capital outlay items. They were not in the budget but we have utilized them to purchase different items out of the capital outlay. Mr. Watson clarified that in the stormwater fund there are no items identified as capital outlay for the past two years. Prior to that we purchased the clam shell truck that was a capital outlay item in that budget for that year. He further clarified that in the sanitation fund you will see the payments for the clam shell truck.

The difference in the investment report is showing approximately \$80,000 less than last year and that is for the splash pad. He stated the trend on our yield is still trending upward.

BB&T Business Services Card summary shows that for this year through August we spent \$14,050.45 compared to August of last year where we spent \$34,953.70. Mr. Watson stated that we have approximately 20 cards. He also advised that there is a check out process to get the card.

Hurricane expenses from July through September totaled \$27,997.76. Of that, \$27,000 was payroll that we normally would not have had that includes salary and benefits. Since that time to date, we have an additional \$149,462.38. The total payroll will be \$67,149.60 and other expenses total \$10,310.92. FEMA will be here November 8, 2018, the League of Municipalities and the State will reimburse us on expenses and we should be made whole.

Alderwoman Sutherland inquired if we look for the most economical hotel when we travel to training and conferences or do we stay anywhere because the money is there. Ms. Webb advised that she tries to place the traveler in the hotel where the conference is being held when possible. Otherwise, she does look for an economical choice that has a good rating.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that he is looking at the roads and sees a need to fund roadway improvements.

## **9. New Business**

### **a. Police Department Vehicle Lease Update**

Mr. Hankins reported that he spoke with the City of Fayetteville's City Attorney and the Police Department's Attorney regarding the contract that they use with Enterprise for police vehicles and he is satisfied, from a legal perspective.

### **b. Budget Ordinance Amendment (2018) 8, Appendix A, Position Classification Plan and Appendix B, Authorized Employee Positions**

Mr. Gerald stated there are three positions he wishes to change in the Public Works Department. He wants to rename the Public Works Director to the Town Engineer, rename the Buildings and Grounds Director position to Public Works Director and rename the Building and Grounds Technician to Buildings and Grounds Specialist. He stated the Town Engineer would be over things like the splash pad, grants, sidewalks improvements, redrawing maps, etc.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Town Engineer position and the Public Works position. The item was presented in such a way that created confusion and the Board Members requested to table this item.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to table this item.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

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

**Vote:** 4-1 Yes No  
Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra Alderwoman Sutherland  
Alderman Christian  
Alderwoman Cooper  
Alderwoman Jackson

**c. Resolution (2018) 11, Charter Amendment, Spring Lake Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee**

Ms. Webb presented the proposed amendment to the Spring Lake Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee's Charter and stated it allows the Committee to have one (1) Fort Bragg representative to assist the Committee with coordination, information sharing, and messaging to and from Fort Bragg.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2018) 11.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

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

**Vote:** Unanimous

**d. Appointment, Spring Lake Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee**

Ms. Webb requested the Board of Aldermen consider the application from Mr. Jamie Tilke who would serve as the Fort Bragg representative. If appointed to the Committee, he will serve a three-year term expiring October 21, 2021.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the application for Jamie Tilke to serve as the Fort Bragg representative on the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee with a three-year term.

**Motion by:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

**e. Discussion, Boys and Girls Club Contract**

Mr. Gerald stated that the Boys and Girls Club agreement was added to the agenda for discussion. We are on a month to month basis with the Boys and Girls Club. There have been some complaints about citizens and other groups not being able to use the gymnasium because of the Boys and Girls Club schedule. Mr. Graves stated the Boys and Girls Club has expressed a desire to work with others to make sure everyone can have access to the facilities. The Board members decided they would like to hold a special meeting and discuss the issues with all stakeholders.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to table this item, hold a special meeting to discuss the contract with all interested parties and put the item to a vote on the November 26, 2018 Regular Meeting

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderwoman Jackson

**Vote:** Unanimous

**f. Resolution (2018) 13, Disaster Debris Recovery Services**

Mr. Gerald requested the Board approve the bid for New Star Development to handle the debris pickup still left from Hurricane Florence. Hiring them will expedite the cleanup from the Hurricane.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2018) 13, to accept the bids submitted and award the bid to New Star Development.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Alderman Christian

**Vote:** Unanimous

**g. Board to Determine November 12, 2018 Meeting Schedule**

Mayor Dobbins requested the Board to determine the meeting schedule for the November 12, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to cancel the November 12, 2018 meeting and reschedule for the 26th.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

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

**Vote:** Unanimous

**10. The Last Word**

Alderwoman Jackson thanked everyone who came out. She stated she would like to see more of our employees out here to show your interest in the Town.

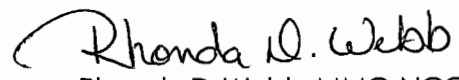
**11. Adjournment.**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderwoman Jackson

**Vote:** Unanimous

  
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

  
Larry G. Dobbins  
Mayor