

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

January 23, 2019

Minutes

8:15 a.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen and representatives from the NCDOT held a joint meeting to discuss issues associated with pedestrian crossing, lighting, and a proposed bridge across Spring Avenue. Mayor Dobbins presided.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
Alderman Christian
Alderwoman Cooper
Alderwoman Jackson
Alderwoman Sutherland (arrived at 9:38)

Others Present:

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

(A copy of the Public Notice is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment one.)

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

Mayor Dobbins gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Pedestrian Crossing Regarding 87/210 Hwy

Concerns were expressed No one spoke for about pedestrian safety and the number of deaths that have occurred since the new roadway was installed. Mr. Burns stated that NCDOT is going to request a study for a pedestrian bridge and the possibility to fund it. He provided the attendees with a map of where the incidents have occurred. He stated that NCDOT agrees something needs to be done. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that pedestrians move away from the light to get away from all the congestion. She stated that area is the heart of our Town and it needs to be pedestrian friendly. The speed also needs to be slowed down. She also advised there is no signage out there. Mr. Burns stated the short term is the problem and you have two things competing against each other. Alderwoman Jackson suggested that for the short term the speed limit could be lowered. She stated we have to do something now. She reminded Mr. Burns that in 2018 NCDOT lowered the speed limit on Raeford Road and it only took 6 weeks. Mr. Burns stated they can look at reducing the speed limit but it will require enforcement efforts. Mr. Burns requested a letter of support and a Resolution of support on this item. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated the two right lanes traveling down Highway 210 traffic runs faster because the light rarely turns red. He also suggested putting fencing on the medians and direct pedestrians where we want them to cross. Alderwoman Cooper stated that the person who was killed was her cousin and it is very concerning to her. She stated our roadways are not ADA compliant. She stated there is no lighting on Poe Avenue Bridge and she feels NCDOT just left us with many things left undone. Mr. Burns stated that the roadways were built ADA compliant and if she is aware of any part of the road that is not ADA compliant, he would like to know where it is. He also explained the lighting and what was supposed to be happening. Mr. Gerald stated there is a crosswalk already there it is just not complete and completing that would help in the short term.

Alderwoman Sutherland requested that NCDOT look at the area at NC210 and Pine Tree Lane to see if it

warrants a traffic signal.

Mr. Burns reported that work on the guardrails that are damaged will begin next week.

Mayor Dobbins – fine tune the medium between Skyland Shopping Center and Taco Bell

An issue at the ABC Store with the medium and people coming from Second Street trying to turn left onto Bragg Boulevard.

Spring Lake sign on Randolph Street pointing toward Spring Lake. Mr. Burns stated they can add a larger sign on the right side of the road and put the smaller one back in the median.

The Lighting of 87/210 HWY (to include the split)

The Board expressed concern about the lack of lighting along the new roadway and specifically at the split. At night, it is very dark and it is hard to see pedestrians. They believed that NCDOT should have considered ADA compliance more. Mr. Burns stated the project met all ADA requirements but if there are places that the Board believes do not meet compliance to let him know so he can check on it. He stated the lighting is coming. He also reminded the Board that the lighting that was on the roadway was maintained by Spring Lake. He stated it would have been the Town's responsibility to get the lighting back in place after the project was completed and Town staff has been pursuing that diligently with Progress Energy to get Progress Energy to reinstall the lighting. Mr. Burns stated that NCDOT even pursued taking care of the lighting themselves. They had their lighting engineer conduct a study to determine the needs and where the lighting should go. They have a lighting design and once it is approved, they will work with Progress Energy (Duke Energy) to get the encroachments needed to get the lighting installed.

The Proposed Bridge Going Across Spring Avenue

Mr. Jonathan Morgan provided the Board of Aldermen with an overview of learning objectives such as understanding the process of economic development, examine strategies and tools, identify the characteristics of a high performing economic development program and discuss what is required to implement an "effective" economic development program. He asked the Board what is it that they want to achieve. They stated bring businesses to improve the quality of life in Spring Lake. This idea will be taken into consideration at a future time.

The Round About and Lighting of Round About also to Include the Railing at the Round-a-Bout as well as the Split

They discussed the issue of large vehicles not being about to make the turn without hitting the rails at the round-a-bout. The guard rails have been hit several times and the rails were moved back once but it is still an extremely tight area and something needs to be done. Mr. Burns stated that they still have to do the landscaping and they will look at solution during the time they begin the landscaping work.

Town and NCDOT met to identify long term and short-term solutions to the pedestrian concerns for the Town of Spring Lake.

Pedestrian signal

Speed limit

Pedestrian signage

Mr. Burns announced that there are two projects in the works that could address the bottleneck problems in Spring Lake. A Manchester Road interchange, at the intersection of Manchester Road and N.C. 87, is expected

to start construction in 2025. As part of the project there might be some widening to Manchester Road, and some turn lanes added. A bypass from N.C. 87 to Manchester Road is also expected to help alleviate traffic in Spring Lake. The project hasn't been designed, right of way needs to be identified and environmental studies need to be conducted. The project could include a four lane road with traffic lights on Murchison Road toward the south end of N.C. 210 and N.C. 87, but the scope of the project could change.

There was no action taken by the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen.


Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

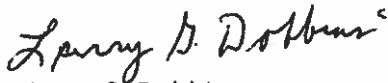
Motion: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous


Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor