

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

June 21, 2019

MINUTES

Noon

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a special meeting at the Spring Lake Municipal Complex with Mayor Dobbins presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra  
Alderman Christian  
Alderwoman Cooper  
Alderwoman Jackson  
Alderwoman Sutherland - absent

**Others Present:**

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager  
Jay Graves, Recreation Director  
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief  
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Ellis Hankins, Town Attorney  
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director  
Jason Williams, Fire Chief

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

**2. Invocation**

Mayor Dobbins gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Dobbins gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance

The following items were discussed:

**4. Discussion of FY 2019-2020 Budget Needs and Issues**

Mr. Gerald stated we have an increase of \$1,041,442 just in the operating expenses alone. He reviewed the budget summary, new/additional cost and initiatives, proposed capital outlays and requested personnel changes from the handout.

- Alderwoman Cooper expressed concern about the cuts in service and maintenance of vehicles in the Fire Department. Mr. Gerald stated the budget went up \$1M just by the cost of doing business. He stated that the budget has contingency and we would pull funds out of contingency if we go over in that line. He stated staff would come to the Board and request to move funds from contingency. Chief Williams stated that he is comfortable that the Board and staff would find the funds that he would need should he go over the current budgeted amount. Mr. Gerald stated we do not have

hurricanes every year and that is why we have contingency and Fund Balance. Alderman Christian stated he is not comfortable with the Fire Department's budget and believes that we should fund them at the same level as last year. Alderwoman Jackson inquired about the word "find" and Mr. Gerald stated we will go directly to the contingency line and get the money, and if that line item is not enough, we would go into Fund Balance and get the money. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked if we are taking any funds from Fund Balance to balance this budget and Mr. Gerald and Mr. Watson stated right now the budget is balanced. Alderwoman Cooper inquired about the \$200,000 on page 2 that says Fund Balance appropriated and stated she thought we would not be using Fund Balance. Mr. Watson stated they do not expect to use those funds and that is a budgeting tool that is used. The goal is not to go into Fund Balance during the year. Mr. Gerald stated that is where you would get the money if you go over in the contingency line. Alderwoman Cooper stated she did not understand because they said Fund Balance was not used to balance the budget. Mr. Watson stated yes, we are using some Fund Balance to balance the budget but it is only a budgeting tool and if you look back at the previous budgets you will find that this has been done each and every year.

- Governing Body's travel and training and dues and subscriptions were cut to the point that we cannot sustain with what was given. Alderwoman Jackson stated that she agrees with Alderwoman Cooper that the Dues and Subscriptions should be restored and the travel and training needs to be restored. Alderman Christian stated that he believes the training is important for Board Members. Mayor Pro Tem stated that we need to tighten up just a little. He stated we do not need to be running all over the place but he does agree that we should maintain some funds to travel but we don't need to over do it. He stated that the League is something that should not be on the table. That is something that needs to be done automatically. Alderwoman Cooper stated that she disagrees with Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra in that we need to take advantage of learning from others. She stated that she takes free classes just about every week. Mayor Pro Tem asked how much is travel and training for each Board Member and it was clarified that their travel is \$1,055 and the Mayor's travel is 2,266. Mayor Dobbins stated that he does not believe Board Members should be allowed to use other Board Members allocation for travel and training just because they are not using it. That money should be returned to Fund Balance. He also stated that everyone who goes to training that is paid for by the Town should come back and share with everyone what they learned.
- Alderwoman Cooper stated the Board does not have things that other Boards have like shirts. We still do not have shirts and she does not believe \$2,100 for each Board member is too much to ask. Alderman Christian stated that he does not agree with not sharing travel and training funds and perhaps we should take a vote on that. The consensus of the Board was to restore the dues and subscriptions but there was not a consensus to restore the travel and training funds.
- Alderman Christian inquired if painting the town hall funds were taken out and Mr. Gerald stated it has been taken out. He also expressed concerns about the website.

Things that need to be adjusted:

- Dues and subscriptions will be funded in Governing Body. That line will go up by \$9,333.
- The contingency line will be reduced from \$51,570 to \$42,237.
- The Board wants to be assured that we can locate the money for the Fire Department.

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


**5. Adjournment**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Cooper

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

**Vote:** Unanimous

  
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

  
Larry G. Dobbins  
Mayor