

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

June 24, 2019

MINUTES

7 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 O'Garra
Alderman James Christian
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderwoman Jackie Jackson
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland – participated by phone

Others Present:

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager
Tim Garner, Water Resources Director
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director
Banard Lemon, Audio/Visual Tech

Ellis Hankins, Town Attorney
Jay Graves, Recreation Director
Doris Snider, Senior Center Director
Jason Williams, Fire Chief
Rhonda D. 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

The Board deleted Item 8f, Board to Consider Approval of Amended Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Contract and Item 8j, Ordinance (2019) 6, FY2019-2020 Budget. Mayor Dobbins added as Item 6a, Presentation by Ms. Pate.

Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

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

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

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

At this time, Alderwoman Sutherland requested to be excused from the meeting.

Action: The Board approved a motion to excuse Alderwoman Sutherland from the June 24, 2019 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

The Board approved the consent items:

- a. Minutes of the May 13, 2019 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes of May 13, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Forum

Ms. Pate stated she would like to thank Mayor Dobbins, the City Council and Citizens of Spring Lake for the support and love shown during March 22, 2019 dedication ceremony of the Spring Lake Post Office being renamed after her husband, Howard B. Pate, Jr.

Ms. Regina Thompson-Xadu 200 Scarborough Street, spoke on behalf of the Spring Lake Senior Citizens Club who wants to adopt a street. She stated she would like to adopt Elizabeth Street but at the end of the street around the trailer park looks like a trash dump. She requested the Town staff speak to someone in that area and try to get the area cleaned up. She stated keeping that area clean would be too much for the Senior Citizens Club to keep up with.

Ms. Webb, Town Clerk, read a written statement from Ms. Rita Perry, 1013 Karen Circle. Ms. Perry requested that her statement be read into the record. She stated in accordance to the May 13, 2019 Regular meeting minutes the board has already taken formal action regarding the matter of the Board to Consider Approval of Amended Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Contract. As such, it is highly [unorthodox](#) for the same item to appear on the following meeting agenda. Most importantly, it is not the taxpayers' responsibility to pay the salary for the chamber's staff or funding the chamber at all. The chamber is not a town department; therefore, this compensation is solely the responsibility of the chamber. More concerning is the appearance that the board depicts when the original agenda is revised by adding an item that had already been address in the wake of a fellow board member's unforeseen circumstance. Unfortunately, it projects an unethical appears of the board.

Website RFQ concerns:

The RFQ stated "They must be able to give presentations to the Town on certain activities" not that the proposal submitted must include a presentation. Customarily, local vendors are directly notified when RFPs/RFQs requesting specific needs are open to the public. Neither Biz Tool nor 219 Group were contacted regarding the RFQ. \$50,000 to reinvent an already existing website is not being fiscally responsible with our tax dollars. Additionally, and most concerning, is the lack of

transparency to the Board and the public.

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

7. Public Hearing

a. Public Hearing, Proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget
Mayor Dobbins opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Watson provided the Board with guiding principles for the budget preparation, a budget summary, a budget overview with new/additional cost and initiatives highlighted, the proposed capital outlay items, and the requested personnel changes.

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

Ms. Regina Thompson-Xadu, 200 Scarborough Street, stated she thinks the Town should have a part-time grant writer. She stated she believes the Senior Center should go back under the supervision of the Recreation Department and that the Senior Center needs another senior center assistant or program director. She also would like a transportation component for the seniors so they can do some traveling.

Ben Jarosz stated he would like to see the Web Design Contract opened back up so that he could submit a proposal. He stated he owns Stag Marketing, a marketing and web design company.

Ms. Rita Perry, 1013 Karen Circle, requested that a written statement she submitted be read into the record. She stated the proposed budget is still not available on the town's website for public access and/or review. Initially, there was very little effort made to ensure citizens were informed of the date/time changes of the budget public hearing. Thank you for reinstating the use of the large sandwich boards to inform citizens of town business. These boards are one of the best methods to keep your citizens informed.

Following are ITEMS OF CONCERN.

Page 12: Governing Body:

- Travel and training

Decrease of board's travel and training would limited the Board's capacity to attend conferences and training that is so necessary to keep the informed and updated in addition to being great educational tools.

Page 25: Economic Development

Page 38: Chamber of Commerce Support

It was my understand that the Town contracted for an Economic Development Manager in the amount of \$34,000 was to elimination the need to provide financial support to the chamber as "economic development" was the explanation for giving them \$35,000 in past years.

The FY20 Proposed budget reflects that the Chamber was not provided funds in FY16, FY17 and

FY18. As such, please clarify the Manager's recommendation of \$15,000 for "Chamber of Commerce Support" conveniently placed under Non-Departmental Water & Sewer Fund Expenditures on Page 38. Please explain why the manager is frivolously designating tax dollars for an entity that is not the responsible of the Town; however, cutting travel and training for the governing body, which is a direct benefit that assist the members in governing our Town. Furthermore, Corporate membership for the governing board is the only financial support our tax dollars should be providing the chamber.

Page 26: Recreation

Page 26: Senior Enrichment

Page 33: Spring Fling

The proposed Recreation Department budget of \$536,858 and the proposed Senior Enrichment department budget of \$195,476 along with the Spring Fling Budget of \$13,500 equates to nearly ¾ million dollars specifically \$745,834. The participation and activities do not reflect the need for these proposed budgets. I respectfully request the board to consider other options to manage these departments/budgets in a more fiscally responsible manner. Please consider requesting a presentation from the Fayetteville Cumberland Parks & Recreation to join their entity to manage these departments.

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

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

b. Naming the Splash Pad, Path to Fitness Walking Trail and the Playground Equipment
Mayor Dobbins opened the Public Hearing.

Henry Ponder, 1620 Mack Street, stated that he submitted a proposal to name the Recreation Center Complex after Mayor Ethel Clark. He stated the other items could be named after others of deserving nature.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

8. New Business

a. Case P19-058: Consideration of Tire House; Request for a C(P) Site Plan Review; Spring Lake Zoning Ordinance; Zoned: C(P); Total Acreage; 0.57 AC +/-; Located at 316 NC Hwy 210 N by Qahtan Alsaïdi (Developer)

Ms. Page presented Case P19-058 to approve a site plan for the Tire House. The property owner is asking for a change of use from a convenience store to a fire repair shop.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the requested Site Plan.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo, Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department Action Memorandum, Site Plan Sketch, Building Photos and Recommended Conditions of Approval is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

b. Appointment, Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee

Ms. Webb requested the Board of Aldermen determine the appointment of Ms. Sharon Haley and Ms. Tanya Saunders to the Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee. If appointed, they will serve a three-year term ending June 30, 2022.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the appointment to the Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee of Ms. Sharon Haley and Ms. Tanya Saunders.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Applications from Ms. Sharon Haley and Ms. Tanya Saunders is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

c. Ordinance (2019) 5, Declaring a Road Closure for Independence Day Festival

Mr. Gerald requested approval of Ordinance (2019) 5 for the road closure of Main street for the Independence Day Festival.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2019) 5, Road Closure.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Ordinance (2019) 5 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

d. Board to Determine the Name for the Splash Pad, Path to Fitness Walking Trail and the Playground Equipment Area

Mayor Dobbins asked the Board if anyone had a motion on this item.

Action: The Board approved a motion to name the Splash Pad, Path to Fitness Walking Trail and the Playground Equipment area in honor of Mayor Clark.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

e. Resolution (2019) 8, Acceptance of Offer of Dedication of Balsawood Circle

Mr. Gerald presented Resolution (2019) 8 for an easement off of Balsawood Circle to give us access to the Mutzberg property and in return the Town will accept the dedication of Balsawood Circle

and maintain the roadway.

Mr. Hankins pointed out that there is a typo in the last paragraph of the Resolution and stated that the Clerk could make that correction on the permanent document.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2019) 8.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Resolution (2019) 8 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

f. Board to Consider Approval of Amended Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Contract

This item was deleted from the agenda.

g. Recreation Department Operating Hours Extension

Mr. Graves stated the Recreation Department wants to add an additional day to the hours of operation. He proposed to add Sunday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. due to the increase of the interest in the splash pad and recreation activities. Mayor Dobbins stated that the opening of the splash pad on Saturday was incredible and we had people coming from the neighboring Counties to splash on our pad. He also stated that our splash pad is twice the size of the other splash pads he has seen throughout the County. He thanked everyone who had a hand, a dream, a wish in making that a reality in Spring Lake.

Action: The Board approved a motion to extend the hours of operation to include Sunday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. for the Recreation Center.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

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

h. Budget Amendment 2019.5, Economic Development

Mr. Watson stated Budget Amendment 2019.5 is for real property acquisition. He stated he is proposing to take \$390,000 from Appropriated Fund Balance – General Fund and in the next 90 days he plans to do a financing to replenish the General Fund – Fund Balance.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2019.5, Economic Development.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Budget Amendment 2019.5 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eleven.)

i. Budget Amendment 2019.6, Hurricane Florence

Mr. Watson presented Budget Amendment 2019.6 to budget revenues received and expenditures incurred during Hurricane Florence. This is for the General Fund and the Water & Sewer Fund. He said we have received \$204,279.43 in total revenues from FEMA and the NCLM. We spent \$291,490.21 during Hurricane Florence. That puts us \$87,210.78 behind right now. He is requesting to appropriate \$90,000 from General Fund – Fund Balance until we receive the remaining one-half million dollars from FEMA that is due to the Town.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2019.6, Hurricane Florence.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Budget Amendment 2019.6 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment twelve.)

j. Ordinance (2019) 6, FY 2019-2020 Budget

This item was deleted from the agenda.

The Board of Aldermen decided to recess this meeting and reconvene on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

9. The Last Word

Alderman Christian stated that Mr. Robinson passed and he will be greatly missed. He also reminded everyone about movie night on July 12, 2019 at 8:30 p.m. He wished everyone a good evening.

10. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5i) – Acquisition of Real Property

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5i)- Acquisition of Real Property.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to go back into open session.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to amend the agenda for Wednesday, June 26, 2019 to add a Closed Session for Economic Development.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

11. Recess

Action: The Board approved a motion to recess the meeting and reconvene on Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

June 26, 2019

MINUTES

6:30 p.m.

11. Reconvene

Mayor Dobbins reconvened the June 24, 2019 recessed regular meeting at 6:30 on Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

The Board deleted the Closed Session, G.S..143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

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

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

The Board also added as Item 8k, Discussion of the FY 2019-2020 Budget.

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

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

The Board also added as Item 8l, Ordinance (2019) 6, FY 2019-2020 Budget.

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

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: 2-2

Yes

No

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Alderman Christian

Alderwoman Jackson

Alderwoman Cooper

Since the vote was 2-2, Mayor Dobbins had to vote to break the tie

Vote: 2-3

Yes

No

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Alderman Christian

Alderwoman Jackson

Alderwoman Cooper

Mayor Dobbins

k. Discussion of the FY 2019-2020 Budget

Alderman Christian expressed concern about the Board's travel and training amount. He believes professional education is extremely important. He stated no one is going out and having a vacation and to cut it this much is egress. He also expressed concern about the Fire Department's maintenance. Alderman Christian expressed concern about the Chamber and how over the past several years they have failed to provide the Board with reports about what they are spending the Town's money on. The contract does not list what they are going to do and/or what services they are going to perform. He stated that he is willing to revisit the subject later in the year, but as things are right now, we are just wasting taxpayers' money.

Alderwoman Cooper also had concerns about cutting the Board's travel and training. She stated the \$15,000 that was put in the budget for the Chamber could be reallocated to fund the Board's travel and training and used for maintenance for the Fire Department. She stated the Chamber is not operating properly right now, for example, Saturday and other times when we have asked them to show up and they failed to do so. She also expressed concern that people say they either can't get in touch with them or they don't know how to get in touch with them. She believes that being a corporate member is all the Town needs to do. She questioned the \$9,000 in the budget for the Recreation Department Score Keepers. She stated that we should be able to put employees at the park keeping score and reallocate that money. She stated she wants to make sure that we are not going to contract for the painting of the building or the remodel of the Manager's office to sound proof it. She asked Mr. Gerald if they had been removed from the budget and he replied yes.

Alderwoman Jackson stated she agrees with Ms. Cooper about the Chamber. She stated if the money is sitting there it needs to come out. She stated this is something the Board could come back to after the Chamber has been re-established. She stated as far as the money for the Fire Department, Chief Williams made her feel very comfortable that he is comfortable with what is going on. She stated the travel and training money that is being cut is not a lot of money and for the sake of being transparent, the other departments had to take cuts so the Board should take a cut as well. She said, as far as the \$9,000 for score keepers, having score keepers makes us look professional. She stated that if we want to have staff keeping score, there needs to be some type of training to make sure they know what they are doing. She did agree that \$9,000 is a lot of money for score keepers.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that one thing we need to look at regarding the score keepers is that referees are included in that amount. He stated for a game to be officiated, we have to pay for that. He stated, as far as the Fire Department goes, he is not worried about that and he is good to go. He also stated the travel pay amount that was cut is very minute and we need to take the cut just like everyone else. As far as the Chamber goes, he stated that he will go along with what everyone else said and they need to show us something.

Mr. Gerald stated they can take the \$15,000 for the Chamber and put it in contingency. After being asked if the \$9,000 is for score keepers only, Mr. Gerald stated that it is for score keepers and stated that they keep order. Alderwoman Jackson inquired if he was talking about parents getting upset and confrontational and he stated yes. She stated that she would not want our employees to be in the middle of that. He stated that even if we use our part-time employees, we will have to compensate them and it would be a similar amount. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that these people are officials and they get paid to do what they do.

Mayor Dobbins stated that he feels that the Board can survive on the travel and training money that is suggested. He stated to Alderman Christian that he has heard that Alderman Christian has never gone to training classes in ten years. Alderman Christian stated that he worked during those years and was not able to take advantage of the training. Mayor Dobbins stated that his point is that such a small reduction will not hurt anyone. He also reminded the Board that they will be getting pay increases beginning in January 2020. He stated that when we negotiate anything there should be some give and take. Alderman Christian stated that he does not appreciate what the Mayor said about the pay. He stated that he has never complained about how much they make and stated he would do the job without pay. He stated that when it comes to the budget, he is willing to negotiate but he is not willing to take assertions that he is just being difficult or hold onto grudging or anything like that. He stated that he deserves to be heard and his ideas/concerns deserve to be heard without people making comments under their breath or people using the tone that he is some kind of greedy person trying to make money off of the Town. He stated that he has spent a lot of money out of his own pocket for things for this Town. He said he doesn't brag about it or tell people about it because he wants to remain anonymous. He stated when it comes to his travel fund it is true that he hasn't traveled but he has used the money to buy a lot of literature from the League and the School of Government to educate himself. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that he still feels the same way and the cut in the travel and training should stay like it is. He stated that they do not need to go everywhere and see everything. He also stated that he is in the same boat with Alderman Christian when it comes to using his own money for the Town. He stated that for more than five years, he has been hosting a food giveaway that costs him \$300 a month. Alderwoman Cooper stated that when she travels, she travels out of her own pocket as well. She almost never turns in food receipts for reimbursement. She stated she is not just there to be there and she attends the classes to learn. She does not appreciate that inference. She stated that she has been to many events, paid for out of her pocket, where she was the only one from Spring Lake and has heard people say they are glad someone from Spring Lake is attending. She stated that she is not asking the Town to fund every place she goes but she would like enough to continue getting education.

After a lengthy discussion and negotiating, the Board determined that the travel and training amount for each Board member and for the Mayor would be \$1,800 and that funding for the Chamber of Commerce will not be used. Mayor Dobbins stated that he believes each Board member should only be able to use the funds that are allotted to them and if someone does not use their full amount, the remainder should go back into Fund Balance. Alderwoman Cooper stated that the Board needs to take action on this concept and we have not done that yet.

Action: The Board approved a motion to take a 5-minute recess.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to come out of recess.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

I. Ordinance (2019) 6, FY 2019-2020 Budget

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the budget with the proposed changes of removing the Chamber contract and funding, and to fund the Mayor and Board Members' travel and training for \$1,800 each.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Budget Ordinance (2019) 6, FY 2019-2020 Budget is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment thirteen.)

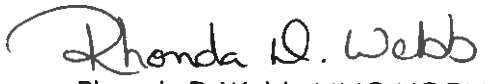
12. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous


Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry Dobbins
Mayor