

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

March 25, 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 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
Tim Garner, Water Resources Director
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director
David Vandergriff, Streets, Grounds and Sanitation
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Ellis Hankins, Town Attorney
Jay Graves, Recreation Director
Doris Snider, Senior Center Director
Jonathan Richardson, Asst. Fire Chief
Banard Lemon, Audio/Visual Technician

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 added Item 9b, Discussion of Special Meeting scheduled for April 11, 2019, and Item 9c, Waiver of Fees for Hurricane Florence Victims.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda with changes.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda with the two changes.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

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.)

6. Approval of Consent Items

a. Minutes of the March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes of the March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

7. Presentation

a. Cumberland County Planning Board Committee Contract Amendment

Ms. Cannon provided background on the original Joint Planning Board Committee agreement which dates back to May 18, 1973. She stated the County's long-term Director retired which gave the County an opportunity to update the contract. They are trying to standardize the selection of a new Director the way all other Directors are selected with the exception of the two positions that are statutorily dictated, that being the Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health. The selection process would be a detailed process done by the County Manager with consultation from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Board Committee. The budget and HR duties for the Planning Board Director lie with the County Manager's office. The most significant change is how a new Planning Director is selected. Ms. Cannon believes the Planning Director should be hired the same way all other Directors are hired and under the current agreement the majority of the decision-making process lies with the Joint Planning Board. The County Manager is not involved in the initial selection process and does not supervise this position. The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners believes this is the appropriate time for the County Manager to hire this position with consultation from the Joint Planning Board's Chair and Vice-Chair. She advised that currently the Joint Planning Board Committee members would review qualified candidate applications and furnish that information to the County Manager. The Managers from all the participating municipalities would then hold a selection process and make an official recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. She provided an analogy using the Town's structure and stated just like Mr. Gerald supervises the Town Departments, she supervises the Planning Department. She stated that since she has the responsibility for the Department, it seems better suited that the County Manager's office leads the process. She again stated this would be done in consultation with the Joint Planning Board's Chair and Vice-Chair. She emphasized the fact that the Planning Board is not involved in the day to day operations of the Planning Department.

Ms. Cannon stated she has been to the Town of Linden to give a presentation, and has had a discussion with the Town of Eastover. All other municipalities have approved the agreement.

Mr. Hankins stated there are a number of these joint county and municipal planning boards around the State. They are organized in different ways depending on the community. He provided an example using the City of Durham. He stated there was a City of Durham Planning Board before there was a County of Durham Planning Department. That Planning Board is joint and the Durham City Manager is the appointing authority. Others that are county wide give the County Manager the appointing authority. He stated this agreement probably dates back in time before the professional manager form of government took root and that is probably why that convoluted arrangement was put in place. He stated this is probably a good time to at least have a discussion.

b. Recognition of Spring Lake Basketball Teams

Mr. Graves and Mr. Lewis recognized the 12U girls basketball team, the 10U girls basketball team, and the 14U boys basketball team for their accomplishment of City Championship. He stated he is so proud of the dedication and hard work these teams possess.

8. Public Forum

Mr. Jerry Watkins, 106 Priddy Street, spoke about the future of Spring Lake. He stated he wants to see some type of entertainment in Spring Lake. He reminded the Board that he is their boss and if something is not done in six-months he will go see the Governor. He wants Main Street redone. He wants all the old buildings torn down. He wants all the old houses torn down and he wants something here for our children. He stated he wants a bowling alley, a theatre or something here in Spring Lake and if the Board/Town Staff does not do it he will do it and we will not like what he does.

9. New Business

a. Ordinance (2019) 3, Road Closure, Independence Day Street Festival

Mr. Gerald requested the Board approve Ordinance (2019) 3 to close Main Street from Spring Avenue to Ruth Street on July 3, 2019, for the Independence Day Street Festival.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2019) 3, Road Closure, Independence Day Street Festival.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

b. Discussion of Special Meeting scheduled for April 11, 2019

Mr. Hankins stated that he has had the privilege of serving as the Town's Attorney for several months and has enjoyed being a part of the way they governing the Town. He is proposing to hold a training and planning workshop. His topics include: How the Board Does Their Job, Board and Manager Responsibilities, Code of Ethics, Policies and Procedures, Board's Rules and Procedures, Statutory Duties of the Clerk and Town Attorney. Ms. Webb will gather all policies and procedures. Recommended model of rules of procedure. He requested that they think about topics they would like to add and provide them to him. Alderwoman Sutherland requested to add a review of the General Statutes that govern the Board. Alderwoman Jackson inquired if the contracts that were pulled from a previous agenda will be discussed and Mr. Hankins stated yes. She then requested to participate via telephone which is allowed by Board approved policy.

c. Waiving Fees

Alderwoman Sutherland stated she would like to reinstate the process of waiving permit fees because some people have not had a change to come get their permits. Mr. Gerald stated he was made aware that State Statutes provided a cut off date at which time permit fees were to be reinstated and the Town followed the Statute. Mr. Gerald requested permission to follow up on whether we can override State Statute and if permitted we will do that; but if not, we will not be able to waive the fees. Mr. Hankins will work with Mr. Gerald on this.

10. The Last Word

Alderman Christian stated the Post Office was named after Mr. Pate last week. Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 10 a.m. the Town will dedicate the tennis courts in honor of Coach Tenhet. Holly Hills has requested speed humps on their roadways. He asked staff to address the potholes all around Town. He stated that we value citizen input and whether we agree or disagree we value your input.

11. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development

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

Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) – Property Acquisition

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)- Economic Development and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) - Personnel.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

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

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous


12. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

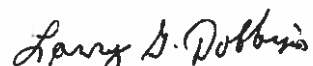
Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous


Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor