

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

August 10, 2020

MINUTES

7p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a work session 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 Taimoor Aziz
Aldерwoman Sofia Cooper (participated via Zoom)
Aldерwoman Jackie Jackson
Alderman James O'Garra
Aldерwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager
Jonathan Charleston, Town Attorney
Catherine Bamba, Attorney
Jose Coker, Attorney
Debora Hudson, Town Clerk
Melissa Pereira, Deputy Town Clerk
Tonny McNeil, Economic Development
Lemon Banard, Audio Visual Coordinator

2. Invocation

Aldерwoman Jackson gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dobbins led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Add or Deletions to Agenda

Alderman O'Garra asked to add a discussion of the Hillside Cemetery, Item h.

5. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the August 10, 2020 Work Session Regular agenda.

Motion by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

6. Approval of Consent Items

Alderswoman Jackson made a motion to approve the consent items June 15, 2020, Special Meeting minutes with corrections, July 20, 2020, Special Meeting minutes, and July 27, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes.

Action: Approval of the consent items.

Motion by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Second by: Alderswoman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum (Participate via Telephone)

Ms. Kia Anthony spoke and wanted to commend the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their leadership and for their support of Juneteenth as a paid holiday for the Town. Ms. Anthony stated she has been working with Cumberland County to make Juneteenth a Cumberland County holiday.

Mr. Joseph Plewniak spoke about concerns at 1420 Elma Street and 40-foot shipping container in the backyard and asked is this property the proposed new location for the now closed Owls Academy Child Development Center, formerly located at 174 W Manchester Rd, Spring Lake. Mr. Plewniak also had concerns about the Water Department hours of operations. Mayor Dobbins stated that Mr. Gerald would address these questions via email.

8. Presentation

FY 2021 Budget Forecast and Revenue Projection

Mr. Gerald discussed the Executive Orders that has impacted the Town's Water/Sewer Budget and liquid cash position. Mr. Gerald discussed due to non-payment water/sewer bills, and we have an outstanding balance of \$74,463.71. Mr. Gerald stated the Town has lost \$297,000. Mr. Gerald stated we will never recover \$16,812.50. Alderswoman Jackson asked have we received funds from Cumberland County Assistance? Mr. Gerald stated he would check with the Revenue Supervisor to see if we have received any funds.

Video Presentation

Mayor Dobbins discussed making a video presentation to promote our Town.

9. New Business

Discussion of utilization of the CARES Act Funds

Mr. Gerald discussed the Town will receive \$50,000 from the County for employee salaries. Mr. Gerald discussed these funds are allocated because of the COVID-19. Mr. Gerald stated that some of the funds was used for sanitizing the buildings, masks, and hand sanitizer. Mr. Gerald said that our payroll exceeded the \$50,000. Alderswoman Sutherland asked about the Town providing masks to our citizens. Mr. Gerald stated the funds are only for salaries. Mayor Dobbins asked if we would be reimbursed for the receipts that we have accumulated during COVID-19? Mr. Gerald stated we are trying to receive reimbursement.

Discussion to amend the Town Ordinance under Chapter 16, Environment, Nuisances

Mr. McNeil discussed the Chapter 16, Environment, Nuisances and the recommendations to impose fines on violations throughout the Town. Mr. McNeil discussed the first violation would be a warning, second, a \$500 fine, and third, \$1000 fine, and fourth violation, Town would take over the blighted area for one week. Mr. McNeil stated if the owner does not clean up the area, they would be charged up to \$100 a day. The Town Attorney suggested that we simply enforce the ordinance we have in place, and amend if needed.

Discussion of 2020-2021 Municipal Arts Allocation Program

Mayor Dobbins discussed creating an ad hoc committee to implement Municipal Arts Allocation Program. Mayor Dobbins asked the Board to review and at a later date discuss whether they want to move forward with the program.

Discussion of clean-up on D Street/Groff Street, relating to Chapter 16 of Town Ordinance

Alderman Cooper had concerns about D/Grogg Street and contacting these owners about clean-up. Alderman Cooper stated the properties are blighted and dangerous. Alderman Cooper stated the Town needs to get this area cleaned up. Mr. Charleston Town Attorney, stated, he reached out to the bank and we can move forward. Mr. Charleston stated the Town can take action under the Town Ordinance by abatement. Mr. Charleston stated he will report back once he receives information pertaining to this matter.

Discussion of proposed changes to Resolution (2017) 5, Tablet Stipend

Alderman Cooper discussed updating the Resolution (2017), 5, Tablet stipend. Alderman Cooper discussed changing the amount the Board members receive. and how often we can change them out. Alderman O'Garra suggested tablets because they are cheaper than iPads. Mayor Dobbins suggested Board members to research prices. Alderman Sutherland suggested no changes need to be made at this time. Mayor Pro tem Aziz discussed we should wait until COVID-19 is over.

Discussion for Juneteenth as a paid holiday for Town employees

Alderman Cooper discussed making Juneteenth a paid holiday for Town employees. Alderman Cooper discussed taking away the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Discussion of Town's website project

Alderman Cooper questioned the Town's website project. Mr. Gerald discussed he has added information on this topic to the Manager's Report. Mr. Gerald stated he has been working with the new IT, and he is building a new platform for our website.

Discussion of Hillside Cemetery

Alderman O'Garra discussed the graves that need to be relocated due to erosion of the dirt. Alderman O'Garra discussed reaching out to the families to relocate the graves, and the cost will be approximately \$3,000. Mr. Gerald stated we will need waivers from the families.

10. Closed Session

G.S 143.318.11 (a)(6) -- Economic Development

G.S 143.318.11 (a)(3) – Consultation with Attorney

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session for Economic Development G.S.143-318.11 (a)(6) and G.S 143- 318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney.

Motion by: Alderman O’Garra

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman O’Garra made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Aziz, to reconvene in open session. Alderwoman Cooper was no longer available via Zoom. Alderwoman Cooper left the Zoom meeting at 9:53 p.m.

11. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

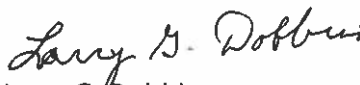
Motion: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman O’Garra

Vote: Unanimous


Melissa Pereira
Deputy Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor