

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

February 24, 2020

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 Taimoor Aziz
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderwoman Jackie Jackson
Alderman James O'Garra
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager	Ellis Hankins, Town Attorney
Tim Garner, Water Resources Director	Jay Graves, Recreation Director
Paul James, Town Engineer	Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Tonny McNeil, Economic Development Director	Doris Snider, Senior Center Director
David Vandergriff, Director of Streets, Grounds, and Sanitation	Claiburn Watson, Finance Director
Jason Williams, Fire Chief	Melissa Pereira, Deputy Town Clerk

2. Invocation

Mayor Pro tem Azz gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

Mayor Dobbins led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.
Mr. Anderson, Spring Lake Middle School, sang the National Anthem

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Alderwoman Sutherland requested a discussion about the Public Forum being taken off of the agenda. She stated we are taking the power away from the people when we do this. Mr. Hankins stated that the General Statutes require only one public comment session every month. Alderwoman Cooper stated that the Town's Public Forum policy states that we will have a public comment section on each regular meeting agenda. Mr. Hankins stated that the proper thing to do is to add back the public comment section to the agenda tonight and look at the policy later. Mayor Dobbins stated we will add this back to the agenda before the adjournment.

Alderwoman Sutherland also requested to add a discussion on naming Woodland West Park after Rex Perry. Mayor Dobbins stated this will be added to the agenda as item 9i.

Alderwoman Cooper requested to take the quarterly finance report off of the agenda until the documentation is correct and complete. She stated she expected to see information on Economic Development and it is not included. Alderwoman Jackson stated that she does not agree with taking this off of the agenda again as long as we all understand that the information is not complete or accurate, at least we will have an idea of where we are and economic development can be updated later.

Action: A motion to keep the finance quarterly update on the agenda was approved.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: 2-3

Yes

Mayor Pro tem Aziz

No

Alderwoman Cooper

5. Approval of Agenda

By consensus, during the discussion of additions or deletions, the agenda with requested amendments was approved.

(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

The Board approved the consent items:

- a. Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes of the February 10, 2020, Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

7. Presentations

a. Recognition of Spring Lake Middle School Girls Basketball Team

Ms. Shipp, Principal of Spring Lake Middle School, stated we are very proud of our Bronco girls basketball team Division III Champions. She introduced Travis Stroud, the Spring Lake Middle School Athletic Director, who stated we are certainly proud of Spring Lake Middle School and thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support. He introduced Coach Love, the ladies' basketball coach. Each team member was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Dobbins and the Board of Aldermen.

b. Special Presentation by Mayor Dobbins

Mayor Dobbins presented Ms. Dorothy Brown with a copy of the Spring Lake Community Charge. She created and read the Community Charge at the Swearing-In Ceremony.

c. Workforce Development

Ms. Powell and Mr. Warner presented an overview of the NCWorks Career Center. She stated that they used to be known as the unemployment office but they are so much more than that. They exist to assist, re-employ and upscale the citizens of Cumberland County. They provide a one-stop center for businesses and job seekers. They provide a broad array of services, job information, and job referrals in one place in order to help job seekers increase their skillset and obtain meaningful employment; and to provide opportunities for businesses to connect with skilled individuals. Someone from their office is in Spring Lake every Tuesday at the Town Hall. There is no charge for these services. They are also working with Mr. McNeil from the Town to work with the businesses of Spring Lake to utilize these services. Ms. Powell stated they are initiating a summer youth program called ICON (Innovative Career Opportunities Now) that will make 150 work-based learning positions available to young adults ages 16 to 24. The goal is participation from youth in all areas of Cumberland County with at least one summer intern in every municipality in Cumberland County. The application process is available to all Cumberland County youth in the age range and there are eligibility requirements that must be met for the youth to participate.

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

d. Special Olympics

Sgt. McCormick, Spring Lake Police Department, announced the Police Department's campaign for 2020 to help support the Special Olympics begins in April. He stated that in the past they have participated in or hosted a Torch

Run, a Torch Walk, a Car Show, a Polar Plunge, and Cops on Top. They are trying a new strategy this year and will need everyone's support to get the Spring Lake Police Department back on the t-shirts. They are going to try to obtain sponsors, donations, purchases of Special Olympics items. Beginning in April, on the first Saturday of each month, Sgt. McCormick will be in front of Walmart soliciting support and selling items. Alderwoman Sutherland stated she would like to see them do the Cops on Top again. Alderwoman Cooper stated she will come hang out with him on one of the Saturdays and she challenged the Board Members to see who can sell the most t-shirts.

e. Quarterly Finance Update

Mr. Watson provided the Board of Aldermen with an overview of the Financial Comparison Analysis for each Fund. He stated this update is through the end of December 2019. He stated the revenues for the General Fund are \$4,120,594.94 which is 53.20% of what the budget is. The expenditures are \$3,956,246.11 which is 51.08%. This means that our revenues are higher than our expenditures for the first six months. He reminded the Board that most of our revenues will come from property taxes, which began coming in, in January. The Water and Sewer Fund revenues are \$1,912,902.55 which is 50.52% compared to expenditures at \$1,626,662.30 which is 42.96%. The Stormwater Fund revenues are \$184,657.81 which is 56.47% compared to the expenditures at \$94,572.24 which is 28.92%. The Sanitation Fund revenues are \$436,566.75 which is 49.59% compared to the expenditures at \$310,072.27 which is 35.22%. The Fleet Fund is only showing expenditures at \$139,933.84 which is 54.33%. He reminded the Board that this Fund does not take in revenues and is funded by the departments paying into this fund. The grand total for revenues for all Funds is at 52.24% compared to expenditures which are at 47.15%. Mr. Watson stated we are approximately \$100,000 to the good on the total of all funds through the first six months.

Mr. Watson reported that the investment report compares the previous year to the current year. The account balance for BB&T is \$3,135,258.21 at the end of December. The NCCMT's balance in the Government Portfolio is \$1,765,266.49 and in the Term Portfolio, the balance is \$1,064,171.27 for the end of December. He stated the balance dropped from \$4,882,814.83 to \$3,135,258.21 and there are five different functions that attributed to that. We had to pay for the bridge, we made a payment for the splash pad, funds for project wildcat, and we bought the land for the fire station. These five major functions total more than \$1M. Interest rates are going down. He stated we will be receiving more funds from the State for Hurricane Florence and he hopes to get it by the end of the fiscal year.

He provided a Summary of Purchasing Card by Period, September through November, and corresponding individual card transactions. He compared the number of transactions and the total amount for this period (\$23,934.45) to the same period (\$47,231.09) last year. During this period, in the current year, the staff spent less than what they did in the same period last year. He also provided a comparison of 2018 to 2019 total Summary Business Services Card Use and showed that in 2018 the total amount spent using this method of payment was \$92,611.29 and the 2019 total amount spent using this method of payment was \$101,272.60.

Mr. Watson reviewed the total travel amount used by the Board of Aldermen members from December 2017 to December 2019. Alderman O'Garra stated that the Board authorized \$10,800 for travel and we are approximately \$1,700 overdrawn. He suggested that we suspend travel and take a closer look at what we are doing. Mr. Watson stated that for years before he came to Spring Lake, the budget was adopted by department. Mr. Watson clarified that because the budget is approved by department, we would not technically be overdrawn unless the entire department's budget was overspent. He stated that if the Board wants to have its own policy for travel, they will have to adopt one for themselves. Alderman O'Garra stated he believes that is what we need to do at this time. Alderwoman Jackson stated that she is confused and that she was under the belief that each Board Member was getting \$1,800 to spend on travel. She found out that in the policy there is no set number so there was no rule being broken because the policy did not set a number. Her concerns are that everyone needs to have the same amount and one Board Member should not use more than another Board Member. Secondly, the report has her going to NCBEMO twice and she only went NCBEMO once. She asked if one Board Member goes over then does the other Board Members cover that and Mr. Watson stated Ms. Webb handles that for the Board Members. Mr. Watson explained that the report also may have previous Board Members' travel included because we use the same line item and just change the name as Board Members come and go. However, most likely only happened with the Mayor's

position. The Board Members do not have any crossover in what is listed for them. He also reported that for the three years total the Mayor had \$12,604 and each Board Member had \$6,000. He clarified that for Board Members it was \$2,100 in 2017, \$2,100 in 2018, and \$1,800 in 2019. He then said the Board does not have a policy that says you can't transfer money from one Board Member to another Board Member. Alderwoman Cooper thanked Mr. Watson for the updated information and stated there are a few more things but she will discuss that with him later. She said there has been a lot of talking about her, and she does do more travel and training than most Board Members. She stated this is a normal thing on many boards and some Board Members choose not to train or travel. She also stated that she has not broken any policy. The Board Members were allotted \$2,100 and our Town policy, adopted in 2018, also states that if a Board Member wants to allot their training money to another Board Member, they are allowed to do that. She stated that she took advantage of that and did some extra travel. She again stated that she has not broken any policies and all her travel was approved. Alderwoman Sutherland stated she feels that training is necessary for all the Board Members but we do not need to take advantage of it. She stated that we need to take into consideration everything we are using tax dollars for. She questioned several charges on the purchase cards. Mayor Pro tem Aziz agreed with Alderwoman Sutherland and stated we do need to be frugal with the money. He also stated a simple solution would be to prevent one Alderman from getting the allotment from another Alderman. Mr. Watson stated the Board would have to do their own policy for this. Mayor Dobbins stated we need to right all wrongs when we see them. Alderman O'Garra stated we need to give staff an idea of the direction that we want to go in. He made a motion that we stop all travel of this Board until we get our policy together and any schools that are already registered, we need to get a refund. Alderwoman Cooper stated that she doesn't think it is feasible to get a refund for travel that may already be scheduled. She stated she does not have any out there and she doesn't mind following the policy just as she has been doing but why not just go ahead and amend the policy now since we are discussing it. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that we have a policy in place and we need to amend that policy. Alderwoman Jackson clarified that she does not think anyone is being asked to pay anything back, just that if you have a pending travel arrangement you cancel it and get the money back. She stated that we need to set the example. The policy may not have been broken but it does not look good. Mayor Pro tem Aziz stated that it is a question of what the policy should be and we haven't decided that so it makes sense to freeze right now, set what the policy should be and then we can move forward.

Action: The Board approved a motion to stop all travel of this Board until we get our policy together and any schools that are already registered, we need to get a refund.

Motion by: Alderman O'Garra

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Aziz

Vote: 3-2

Yes

Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Alderwoman Jackson

Alderman O'Garra

No

Alderwoman Cooper

Alderwoman Sutherland

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

8. Public Hearing

Mayor Dobbins opened the Public Hearing and offered attendees three opportunities to speak. There being no speakers, the public hearing was closed.

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

9. New Business

a. Annexation Ordinance, Cruciform Church

Mr. Gerald requested that the Board of Aldermen accept the Annexation Ordinance for Cruciform Church as written.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Annexation Ordinance (2020) 2.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda memo, site map and Ordinance (2020) 2 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

b. Appointment, Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee

Ms. Garner presented an application to serve on the Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee from Ms. Karen West. He stated she meets all the criteria to serve on this committee and requested that the Board appoint her to the Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee for a three-year term that will expire February 28, 2023.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Karen West to the Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

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

c. Policy, Christmas Bonus

Mr. Gerald stated there is no active policy for this application. Currently, if you are employed with the Town at the time of the dinner, you receive the check. We had some predated documents that said people who were not employed at the time of the Christmas dinner would receive a check. That was never the policy. The policy was that you would receive the bonus check basically before your service rendered. He stated that has always been the policy, ever since he was here in 2006 and was reaffirmed in 2015. He stated the Clerk's office provided two memos that were to the contrary of that but that was never done by the Town. He stated the payroll clerk had never received those items and he doesn't remember ever seeing those items. He requested that the Board leave the action as it currently is and employees receive the check as we are currently doing and put that in a policy format. Alderwoman Jackson clarified that if you are an employee at the time of the Christmas dinner, you receive the check and if you are not employed at the time of the dinner you do not receive the check. Mr. Gerald stated, "that is correct." Alderwoman Cooper suggested that we give a specific date. Mr. Hankins stated that what Alderwoman Cooper is requesting is called a record date. If you are employed at that time, you receive the bonus and if not, you do not receive the bonus.

A short discussion included Mr. Watson stating that Finance needs some time to calculate and process the checks and suggested November 30th would be a good date and would allow the time necessary to get the checks ready. Mr. Hankins clarified that one way or the other, this payment is compensation to Board Members and employees for their service over the previous year. The decision is at what date is the Board going to determine who receives payment and who doesn't and that has to be a date. Currently, the date is whenever the Christmas dinner is held but there appears to be a conflict between what some previous Town Managers wrote down and the actual nuts and bolts practice. The Manager is recommending that the Board codify in a written policy, the actual practice. The issue for the Finance Department is that it would be nice to have a few days to prepare and cut the checks. You have a choice between doing what is done now or making it crystal clear, by picking a date like November 30th. Either way, you are looking back over the previous year. With respect to Board Members, the organizational meeting, by Statute, will always be held the first regular meeting in December and only then is a Board Member a Board Member.

Action: The Board approved a motion to create a policy to leave the current operational procedure in place

with a record date of November 30th and to bring back the policy to the Board for approval.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Memos from Past Town Managers is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

d. Resolution (2020) 2, Awarding Bid for Spring Lake/Manchester Fire Station Construction

Chief Williams requested approval to move forward with awarding the bid for the construction of the Spring Lake/Manchester Fire Station. Four bids were received and the lowest responsible bid was Fayetteville Metal Building Systems for \$1,200,000. Mr. Hankins reviewed the process that was followed. The first bids were received, we only received two bids and the Statute requires three. We rebid the project and received four bids; however, the lowest responsible bid was slightly higher than the money we have to fund this project. The Statute says, in this case, we can negotiate with the lowest responsible bidder to try to get the contract price down to the amount that is funded. The staff did so and was able to get the contract price down from \$1,355,690.01 to \$1,200,000. Mr. Hankins stated the bid is ready for award, subject to them executing a construction contract that is acceptable to the Town.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2020) 3 with an amended amount of \$1,200,000.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo, Bid Tab Sheet, and Resolution (2020) 2 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

e. Naming Town Owned Facilities

Mr. Gerald stated he would like to modify the policy #37 to include living individuals.

Action: The Board approved a motion to change the policy #37 to include the word living.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Police #37 Naming Town Owned Facilities is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

f. Four-Year Staggered Terms for Board of Aldermen

Mr. Gerald stated the included Ordinance is to stagger the terms of the Town Board. He stated the staggered terms would start with the past election and continue to the next election. He requested the Board approve this action that he has taken. If so, we have to go through the process of advertising the Ordinance change. Alderwoman Cooper stated she did some research and stated we cannot retroactively do this because then you take the will of the people away. She stated she is in favor of discussing this and inquired if it requires a Charter change or an Ordinance change. She stated she is not against this but we cannot go back retroactively and change what the people voted on back in November. Mr. Gerald stated it is an Ordinance change and this Board does have the ability to change. This is not a Charter change. He stated, as far as the retroactive change, the League produced a document and the attorney he spoke with did not produce any case study and he does not know of any case study that says you can't. Mr. Hankins stated this certainly would be an amendment to the Town Charter. There are two ways to amend the Town Charter. One is to ask the Legislative Delegation to introduce a local bill to amend the Town Charter and they could if they wanted to make this retroactively to the 2019 election but he does not ever remember the General

Assembly doing that and he has been involved in 500 – 600 amendments to Town Charters when he worked on the League's staff. The other way to accomplish this change is set out by Statute by a procedure that the Statute allows. The Board would go through this process, with input from citizens and possibly a referendum on the question to potentially move to four-year staggered terms. There is absolutely no authority for the Board to do that and make that change retroactively. If the Board saw fit and perhaps with a referendum the change would become effective with the next municipal election in 2021. The Resolution in the packet is not correct and if he had been consulted, he would have explained that the three Board Member with the highest number of votes in the 2021 election would receive a four-year term and the other two would receive a two-year term. Then, in the following election, the staggering would be fully implemented. He stated the memo before you ask for permission to start the process and he explained the process: if the majority wants to proceed, using the statutory local process, you would draft a proper Resolution to initiate the process, the Clerk would advertise notice of a public hearing, citizens would be entitled to speak, and then the Board could do one of two things. Adopt an Ordinance that does not contain a referendum provision and propose to amend the Town Charter, or adopt an Ordinance that does provide for a citizen referendum on the question. If the Board adopts an Ordinance without the referendum there is a provision in the Statutes where 10% of the registered voters in the Town could file a petition and request and receive a referendum.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated she has requested this twice in the past and it was voted down both times. If we are going to do this it should have been done at election time. This is what she is referring to when she expresses concern about taking the power from the people. If the Board wants to do this, she would like to do it the way the Attorney has explained.

Mayor Pro tem Aziz stated that since there are some legal questions, perhaps it would be better to not vote on this today and bring it back later after the Board has had time to do some research. Mr. Gerald stated that he does not have a problem with that. He stated the case law, as stated by the League attorney, does not exist. He stated you probably have two legal thoughts of opinion and since you have two legal thoughts of opinion, there is no ground where you can or you can't. They also looked at our Charter and they showed in our Charter where you can amend how your Board Members are elected. He advised that he can show the Board in the Charter but you would have to change the personnel as well, that is stated in the Charter as well. This wasn't half-cocked and it was done thoroughly and you just have two different legal points of opinion but he is happy to go back and discuss it.

Alderman O'Garra asked Mr. Hankins if there is any case law on this. Mr. Hankins stated he will go look, but the cardinal rule of election law is that citizens are entitled to know what they are voting on. There is abundant case law on that question. He stated the State Constitution, in Article 7, Section 1 gives the General Assembly very broad authority with respect to local governments. The General Assembly could revoke the Town of Spring Lake's Charter entirely, tomorrow (if and when they convene) if they wanted to. Only the General Assembly has the Constitutional authority to go back and retroactively initiate staggered four-year terms. He then stated again that there is no authority at all, whether there is case law or not, no authority for this Board to adopt a Charter change and make it retroactive to initiate four-year terms.

Mayor Dobbins stated that on November 5, 2019, the citizens voted for this Board to serve for two years and that is what they voted for. He stated that he believes what they expected should stand, at least until the next election.

Alderwoman Cooper made a motion to revisit this at a later date. Alderman O'Garra suggested that we set a date so that it is not left hanging out there. Alderwoman Cooper amended her motion to revisit this at the next meeting with all the information needed. Mayor Dobbins suggested that we do this at a later time since the next election is two years away and suggested to bring it back in six months. Alderwoman Cooper amended her motion to revisit this at the August 10, 2020 meeting. Alderwoman Jackson stated that she doesn't see why we need to wait six months and why we can't do this at the next meeting. She agrees with the fact that people should know what they are voting on but realistically speaking if they voted you in for two years, they would have voted you in for four years. She stated that is one of our problems is that we keep pushing stuff off and never bring it back to finish it. She doesn't agree with doing this in six months and believes we should do it before then. Alderwoman Cooper stated that we cannot make this retroactive and there is time for us to put the steps in place for the next election so she is leaving her motion

as is. This will give us time to have all the information and have the proper documentation to move forward. As the vote was being taken, there were two nays and three ayes and then another nay. Mayor Pro tem Aziz asked if we could pick a date somewhere in between like in three months. Alderwoman Cooper stated that even if we discuss it in three months, we still can't do what is being requested and there is time to get the proper process in place. Alderwoman Jackson stated that she is not for or against the staggered terms retroactive because she believes the voters should know what they are voting for. Her problem is that we wait so long to deal with it. Mr. Gerald already has a lot of information done that we need to know and we can do this before six months. She stated that the retroactive part is not a concern because she is a firm believer that you will be where you are supposed to be. She just doesn't want us to keep putting stuff on the check-off list. Mr. Gerald gave us a lot of information and if someone is disputing it then they need to come up with documentation that it is not right.

Because of the confusion with the votes earlier and the confusion about what the motion is, Mayor Dobbins requested that Alderwoman Cooper restate her motion. Mr. Hankins provided clarification on the procedure and stated that what the Board is voting on is a motion to postpone to a date certain, and that was August 10, 2020, for the Board to resume discussion on this matter and take action on it.

Action: A motion to revisit this at the August 10, 2020 meeting was defeated.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: 2-3

Yes

Alderwoman Cooper

Alderwoman Sutherland

No

Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Alderwoman Jackson

Alderman O'Garra

Alderman O'Garra requested that this item be placed on the agenda for April 20, 2020.

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

g. Board's Direction on Ordinance Amendment, Tiny Houses

Mr. Gerald stated that we need to address whether we will allow tiny homes in Spring Lake. Staff recommends not allowing them. Alderwoman Sutherland asked about the homeless situation and Mr. Gerald stated that we do not have that much of a homeless problem to warrant this and we do not have the landmass. Alderwoman Cooper stated the impact for a town our size may be greater than a larger town and requested more information. Alderman O'Garra stated that allowing tiny homes in neighborhoods with regular size homes may affect the value of the regular homes.

Action: A motion to ban tiny homes in Spring Lake died for lack of a second.

Motion by: Alderwoman O'Garra

Second by:

Vote:

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

h. Elected Officials Travel Policy

Mr. Gerald stated staff needs direction on how the board wants the travel policy structured. Alderwoman Cooper stated that we do have a policy in place for Elected Officials and she is not sure what Mr. Gerald means when he stated a "true travel policy." Mr. Gerald clarified that he means instead of staff rolling over money to cover insufficient funds and depleted line items due to not staying within your budget we need direction as to whether to curb the travel or not as to what was set in the line item or find the funds to cover the travel deficits. Alderwoman

Sutherland stated she thought we had gone over this already and the Board had laid out what they wanted. Mr. Gerald stated he is just following the agenda items and this item was to ask for direction as to whether or not to cover travel deficits for the Board. For example, if you have \$1,850 to travel and you go over that, do we roll inter-departmental funds to that line item to cover the deficit? Alderwoman Cooper stated we discussed this earlier in the meeting at length and we do have a travel policy in place. We do need to have an up-to-date accounting of what has been spent. You can't expect Board Members to know what they have if the accounts are not being reconciled. She stated that she was asked about travel that occurred in April and the account was not updated and that was 10 months ago. She stated she has asked for travel balances but has been unable to get it. The policy says there will be a quarterly report and that has not been provided to us since she has been on the Board. She does not have a problem with following the policy but she needs staff to give them the information they are supposed to get. Mr. Gerald stated he believes that is incorrect because we have been hearing quarterly reports since he has been here. He stated that he gets the budget every month so he can see where we are in the line items. Alderwoman Cooper stated that the Board Members are supposed to be given quarterly reports on their travel. She stated that she is not talking about the report that Mr. Watson gives but the one that the policy says the Board Members will get. Alderman O'Garra stated that any time he has had a question about his budget the Town Clerk has been able to look that up and give him the information.

Mayor Dobbins stated this is why we need to review the policies. Alderwoman Cooper suggested that the Board do work sessions prior to the meetings to review the policies together. Mayor Pro tem Aziz asked if there are problems with all the policies and asked why we need to go over policies that are not in question. Mayor Dobbins stated that we want to be proactive. Alderman O'Garra suggested that a committee is formed to review them. Alderwoman Jackson stated that she agrees with Mayor Pro tem Aziz.

Action: The Board approved a motion to institute a work session at 5:30 p.m. prior to our monthly meeting to work on our policies.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: 3-2	Yes	No
	Alderwoman Cooper	Mayor Pro tem Aziz
	Alderwoman Jackson	Alderman O'Garra
	Alderwoman Sutherland	

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

d additional information. Clarification - Resolution (2020) 2, Awarding Bid for Spring Lake/Manchester Fire Station Construction

Mr. Hankins stated that he has a point of clarification for the minutes, requested appropriately by the Town Clerk. This refers back to the Resolution awarding the bid for the construction of the fire station. The Town Clerk points out that there is already a Resolution (2020) 3 and it is as simple as the Mayor saying, without objection, the Resolution that was approved by the Board for the bid for the fire station will be labeled Resolution (2020) 2.

i. Naming Woodland West in Honor of Rex Perry

Alderwoman Sutherland stated if there are no objections that we make a motion to name Woodland West Park in honor of Rex Perry. We had a long discussion at the last meeting regarding this. Alderman O'Garra suggested that we name the park after Alderwoman Sutherland and Alderwoman Sutherland respectfully declined.

Action: The Board approved a motion to name Woodland West Park in honor of Rex Perry.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

10. Public Forum

James Christian, 709 Regina Drive, thanked the Board for adding the public forum back to the agenda. He wanted to address the travel information that was published. It had him using \$85 to attend a dinner and he wanted to correct the record and stated that one of the Board Members used his ticket and went in his place. He does not want that expense under his name. He congratulated the Fire Department. He thanked Mr. Watson for his service to the Town of Spring Lake. He stated he hasn't always agreed but him but he has always respected him. He wished Mr. Watson luck in his next endeavor. When it comes to the four-year staggered terms, shame on three Board Members who want four-year terms. That is just a power grab. You tried to set the Board in your favor and shame on you for doing it. You are trying to go against the will of the people. It is disgusting to hear it. We had one citizen who walked out in disgust. You know it is just a power grab. You can stare at me and stare daggers through me all you want but you know it is just a power grab to give yourself two more years. He thanked Mayor Dobbins for keeping things on track and told him he was doing a fine job and he appreciates it.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve to have Mr. Harold Owens to come to a Board meeting and discuss the Charter.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: 3-2

Yes

Mayor Pro tem Aziz
Alderwoman Jackson
Alderman O'Garra

No

Alderwoman Cooper
Alderwoman Sutherland

11. Adjournment.

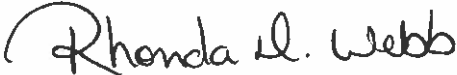
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

These minutes were created by the Town Clerk from the audio recording of the meeting.


Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor