

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

June 15, 2020

MINUTES

7:00 pm

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a special 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
R. Jonathan Charleston, Town Attorney
Jose Coker, Attorney
Debora Johnson-Hudson, Town Clerk
Gayle Tucker, Interim Finance Director
Melissa Pereira, Deputy Town Clerk
Benard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator

2. Invocation

Mayor Dobbins gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dobbins led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Public Hearing on Proposed Budget FY 2020-2021 G.S 159-12 (b) and Adoption of Town of Spring Lake Budget Ordinance FY 2020-2021

Mr. Gerald opened the Public Hearing by informing the Board that COVID-19 has severely impacted the Town and our revenues have been trending downward. Mr. Gerald proposes no Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), a hiring freeze and furloughs. Mr. Gerald shared with the Board that there is an increase in property taxes for \$2.26 million. Mr. Gerald explained that the money will be distributed throughout the County and other municipalities. Mr. Gerald discussed holding off furloughs for at least three months. The Board continued with a lengthy discussion, including questions and answers. Alderwoman Cooper had concerns about the schedule and fee rates. Mr. Gerald discussed that most major cities charge that rate, and its costing us more in supplies. Mr. Gerald recommended for the Board to approve. Alderwoman Jackson stated the rate and fees we are recommending coincides with other municipalities. Ms. Hudson, Town Clerk, stated there is no fee to receive a Public Records Request electronically. Alderwoman Cooper addressed with the Economic Development position and what fund does the salary come from? Mr. Gerald stated that the Economic Development salary comes from the Water and Sewer Fund, because you can't have Economic Development without controlling the water and sewer. Mr. Gerald commented we are the only Town that controls our water and sewer in the

County.

Mayor Dobbins opened the floor for Town citizens to speak at the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget FY 2020-2021.

Mr. James Christian addressed concerns about the Economic Development position and the transparency of the work that is being done. Mr. Christian was concerned about the amount of spending on Economic Development, and the Town finances. Ms. Debra Clyde voiced concerns about the Economic Development spending. Alderwoman Sutherland asked for transparency on the 2020-2021 Budget, and going forward to ensure we are doing our legislative duty. Alderman O'Garra mentioned Economic Development is confidential until we close deals. Aldermen O'Garra announced we have lost deals in the past because of confidential information being released.

Mayor Dobbins suggested that the Board take a ten percent cut in their pay of \$4378 collectively. Mayor Pro tem Aziz agreed. Alderwoman Cooper declared that we could make other cuts such as controlling our Town Vehicles usage. Mayor Dobbins responded by recommending the Board does not have to vote tonight on the proposed Budget FY 2020-2021. Ms. Hudson suggested that the Board can recess until a later date. Mr. Charleston suggested it would be appropriate for each of the Aldermen to meet with the Town Manager and Interim Finance Director before the next meeting and bring those concerns in so they can work through those issues. Mr. Charleston recommended for the Board to do the work outside of the meeting. Mayor Dobbins agreed. Mayor Dobbins thanked the Town citizens for their comments and concerns. Ms. Hudson suggested to the Board that they should recess or table this meeting for the next Board Meeting. Mayor Dobbins tabled the adoption of the Town of Spring Lake Budget Ordinance FY 2020-2021 for June 22, 2020. Alderman O'Garra suggested we create a policy that will give each Board member two times to speak.

Action: The Board made a motion to open and close Public Hearing on Proposed Budget FY 2020-2021 G.S 159-12 (b).

Motion: Aldermen O'Garra

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board made a motion to table the adoption of Town of Spring Lake Proposed Budget FY 2020-2021 until June 22, 2020, regular meeting.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Vote: Unanimous

5. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

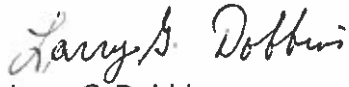
Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Pereira". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Melissa Pereira
Deputy Town Clerk

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry G. Dobbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor