

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

June 8, 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
Jamie Walters, Cumberland County Planning
Michael Blakley, Drafting and Design Services, Inc
Debora Johnson-Hudson, Town Clerk
Melissa Pereira, Deputy Town Clerk

2. Invocation

Alderwoman Sutherland gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dobbins led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Add or Deletions to Agenda

Mayor Dobbins asked are there any additions or deletions to the agenda.

5. Approval of Agenda

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the June 8, 2020 Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting agenda.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Aziz

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

6. Approval of Consent Items

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items for May 11, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

7. New Business

Oath of Office

Mayor Dobbins administered the Oath of Office to our new Town Attorney, R. Jonathan Charleston and Town Clerk, Debora Johnson-Hudson. Mayor Dobbins asked if anyone had any comments. Alderwoman Jackson stated welcome to the team.

Case No 20-060. Consideration of Elizabeth Street Subdivision; Request for A Zero Lot Line Subdivision Review

Mr. Gerald introduced the Spring Lake Zoning request for the Lots that we are selling under Project Keebler. Jamie Walters from Cumberland County Planning Department explained the property owner is requesting approval of a zero-lot line subdivision. A portion of this development is currently zoned O& I (P) which is pending a rezoning to the R6 zoning district (Case P20-26). Jamie Walters stated rezoning cases must be approved by the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen. The lots pending rezoning will be required to be rezoned prior to any permit being allowed for a residential use. Jamie Walters stated to the Board that if they have any questions please ask Michael Blakley. Michael Blakley stated we got 15 Lots and we are using the same infrastructure. Michael Blakley stated we are working with the Town on utilities. Mr. Blakley stated there are two lots with not utilities, and now are working to extend those services. Mr. Blakley stated they are working on receiving twelve mailboxes also. Michael Blakley asked are there any questions? Aldermen O'Garra asked when are we going to break ground? Mr. Blakley stated probably next year. Alderwoman Cooper asked about trash services. Mr. Blakley stated the trash will be roll-out containers. Alderwoman Sutherland stated the process of the Resolution (2020) 6, pertaining to the Public Notice Hearing. Alderwoman Sutherland questioned the number of Lots that are showing on the slides. Mr. Blakley stated they made the Lots smaller by using the zero-lot line option, and that's how we obtained fifteen. Mr. Charleston stated for the Board to approve Resolution (2020) 6, with the additional condition that all provisions and requirements of sections 36-71 of the Town of Spring Lake Code of Ordinances as applicable are satisfied.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case No 20-060. Consideration of Elizabeth Street Subdivision for a zero-LOT Line Subdivision review.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Aziz

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: 4-1

YES

Mayor Pro Tem Aziz
Alderwoman Jackson
Alderwoman Cooper
Aldermen O'Garra

No

Alderwoman Sutherland

Alderwoman Sutherland stated the clarification of the contract and the Resolution (2020) 6, is confusing and can't vote for it. Alderwoman Sutherland stated she want affordable homes for the Town but she needs more clarification.

Discussion, Proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget

Mr. Gerald asked to discuss the Town of Spring Lake proposed Budget Ordinance for FYE 2021. Mr. Gerald explained that our total General Fund Revenue is \$7,447,363 and increase \$445,000. Mr. Gerald said also he has instructed staff to implement furloughs. Mr. Gerald stated furloughs would require 8 hours deducted each pay period. Alderwoman Sutherland asked about the Spring Fling and the amount of \$13, 500? Mr. Gerald said this Budget has been reduced and in the process of being revised. Mr. Gerald stated the Budget is being reduced from last years. Alderwoman Sutherland asked if there was money for Spring Fling? Mr. Gerald stated because of the reduced budget, the answer is yes. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that they recommended it as well. Mr. Gerald stated the revenue is always the forecast because we don't know for certain. Alderwoman Sutherland concerns are the furloughs. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that Town employees close at 3:00pm every day, and the employees still receive the same pay. Alderwoman Sutherland asked what item line number is showing on Budget Ordinance? Mr. Gerald stated because we are in a state of emergency those hours are being documented. Mr. Gerald stated the reason why we close early is to comply with the social distancing, and we are spiking in the number of cases of COVID-19. Mayor Pro tem Aziz asked about the sales tax, and what might happen if the numbers get better. Mr. Gerald stated if the numbers get better than this, then he would recommend in 6 months to amend the line items. Mr. Gerald stated January 2021 would be a great time to review the budget. Alderwoman Cooper asked about why the green sheets don't match the Budget Ordinance? Mr. Gerald stated that the green sheets are what the Departments are asking for. Alderwoman Cooper stated that after reviewing the budget she could not find economic development budget. Mr. Gerald stated economic development comes out of Water and Sewer budget. Alderwoman Cooper concerned with vehicle supplies. Mr. Gerald stated those supplies are to maintain all of the Town's vehicles. Aldermen O'Garra asked where are we loosing money? Mr. Gerald stated we are losing money in the tax line due to Governor's Order and Covid-19. Customers don't have to pay no late fees and we are not making any revenue when the utilities are not being paid. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that property taxes are not being paid either and which is a big loss. Alderwoman Sutherland concerns are the emergency fund too. Mr. Gerald stated the Audits take time.

Alderwoman Jackson said she just wanted to thank Ms. Gay Tucker for all she is doing as the Interim Finance Director. Alderwoman Jackson stated she appreciates Ms. Tucker for taking on such a big task as the Finance Director. Alderwoman Jackson stated keep up the good work. Mayor Dobbins asked Ms. Tucker for additional 20% cut. Ms. Tucker stated yes, they did, but the furloughs are still going to happen. Alderwoman Sutherland stated the Code Enforcement has been cut as well, and have make sure we enforce the violation codes. Alderwoman Sutherland expressed from citizens of the nuisance violations in certain neighbors. Alderman O'Garra stated is the furloughs across the board for everyone? Ms. Tucker stated yes, it's totally across the board. Ms. Tucker stated it cuts all travel due to Covid-19 too, and Board food provisions. Ms. Tucker stated she asked the Departments to cut their operating budget. Alderwoman Cooper asked when can we order some more nuisance signs? Mr. Gerald stated we will order on next year's budget. Alderwoman Jackson asked Ms. Tucker why didn't the Fire Department cut their travel? Ms. Tucker stated of training.

Mr. Gerald stated the adopting of the proposed Budget Ordinance is June 15 2020 at 7:00pm. Mr. Gerald stated this give us enough time to discuss the issues. Mayor Dobbins stated we will attempt to finalize the budget. Ms. Hudson stated is it scheduled because Public Notice was already published. Alderwoman Cooper asked it is a Public Hearing? Mr. Gerald said yes, and to discuss the final budget. Alderwoman Jackson asked are we doing the Public Hearing the same day? Mr. Gerald stated yes, we are. Alderwoman Cooper stated so we doing the Public Hearing on the same day of the budget. Mr. Gerald stated yes.

Ms. Gay stated she can provide the 20% cut sheets tonight. Alderwoman Sutherland concern about the positions on Appendix A. Mr. Gerald stated those positions were added during his absence. The only positions that were added the Fire Department six positions. Alderman O'Garra asked to we have to keep the fire six positions? Mr. Gerald stated yes because of a reimbursement grant. Mr. Gerald stated that we going to use the grant in Town budget. Mr. Gerald stated the firefighter positions can't be terminated but reduce the hours. Alderwoman Jackson stated small cuts will help so people can keep their jobs. Mr. Gerald stated yes, we are reviewing it all. Alderwoman Cooper asked about the part-time employees. Mr. Gerald stated with the Recreation Center being closed and massive cuts; we don't want to RIFF anyone. Mr. Gerald stated those salaries are being reimbursed from the State. Alderwoman asked to they continue to work? Mr. Gerald stated yes, they do come to work, but there is no gathering. Mr. Gerald stated they are coming to work to test the Splash Pad. Alderwoman Cooper asked if the Budget supporting the Comp time? Mr. Gerald stated Comp time we don't budget. Mr. Gerald said it's just paid out. Mr. Gerald stated we are not looking to terminate no one and no one wants to leave. Mayor Pro tem Aziz asked about the cuts and how we are going to move forward? Mr. Gerald explained it's a process and we will continue to review and revise as needed. Alderwoman Sutherland concerns are the Covid-19 as well as Hurricane season. Alderwoman Sutherland concerns are with the Fire Department and Police Department because they are our first responders. Alderwoman Sutherland stated our first responders we need, and their cuts are what they believe are sufficient. Alderwoman Jackson stated we are going to have to depend on what Governor Cooper says. Alderwoman Jackson stated our Recreation Center is closed but we are always going to need our Fire and Police Department. Alderwoman Cooper said there is a campaign that is supporting towns with hardships due to the Covid-19. Aldermen O'Garra asked if our General Fund is like our emergency fund? Mr. Gerald stated it's the Fund Balance. Aldermen O'Garra asked what the percentage? Mr. Gerald stated approximately twenty-two percent. Mr. Gerald stated if we do a conservative budget, we can slow down the drop.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked what fees went up? Mr. Gerald stated the process of making copies in the Rate and Fees Schedule. Ms. Hudson, Town Clerk, explained they were three cents and six cents. Ms. Hudson stated that was not conducive to the cost of the paper and printer ink. Alderwoman Sutherland stated when a fee changes you bring to Board and we decide. Mr. Gerald stated that's correct.

Mayor Dobbins stated that's why we vote on and debate on these items. Alderwoman Sutherland concerns are having clarification and not rushing into adopting the budget.

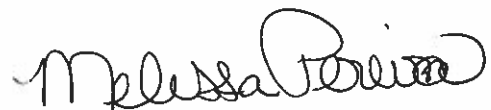
9. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Motion: Aldermen O'Garra

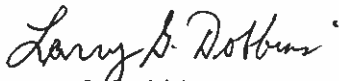
Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous



Melissa Pereira
Deputy Town Clerk

ATTEST:



Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor