

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

September 14, 2020

MINUTES

7 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a regular 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 Sofia Cooper (absent- excused)
Alderwoman Jackie Jackson
Alderman James O'Garra
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager
Jonathan Charleston, Town Attorney
Catherine Bamba, Attorney
Debora Hudson, Town Clerk
Melissa Pereira, Deputy Town Clerk
Lee. Grissom, Auditor
Jay Graves, Recreation and Parks Director
Tonny McNeil, Economic Director
Benard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Alderman James O'Garra gave the invocation and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the September 14, 2020 Board of Aldermen Work Session Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

4. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of consent items for August 24, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

5. Public Forum

Ms. P. McIver and Ms. L. Anderson spoke about their concerns and issues with the Spring Lake Police Department.

6. Presentation – FY 2019 Audit

Mr. Grissom presented the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen with the findings of the June 30, 2019 audit. Mr. Grissom gave a brief outline, financial statement highlights and a summary of finances and findings. Mr. Grissom stated the audit was late due to not only Hurricane Florence but the prior financial officer left the town in a mess and a tight spot. He stated Ms. Tucker and staff did a great job bringing the audits current once they got going. Mr. Grissom gave financial highlights of the assets and liabilities of the town. The major takeaway is the general fund and reserve has been decreasing over the last four years. The summary comments and findings are:

1. The bank reconciliations were over twelve months behind.
2. We are short two positions and Mr. Grissom recommend additional staff if budget permits. Segregation of duties is still a concern as well as the general fund.
3. Going over budget/Over Spending

Board members asked questions and by consensus agreed that the 2020 audit should be in to Mr. Grissom by Nov. 1st which will give us plenty of time to meet the Jan. 30, 2021 submission deadline.

7. New Business

Resolution (2020) 7 authorizing the Town Manager to negotiate the private sale of real property.

Ms. Bamba requested the Board approve Resolution (2020) 7, authorizing the Town Manager to negotiate the private sale of real property at 1110 W. Manchester Road and 1635 Artillery Trail, Spring Lake, North Carolina.

Action: Approval of Resolution (2020) 7, authorizing the Town Manager to negotiate the private sale of real property.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Aziz

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding and Community Assessment for the Town of Spring Lake.

Mr. McNeil discussed the benefits of the Memorandum of Understanding through building asset-based economic development strategies at the end of September. Alderwoman Jackson was concerned if there was any cost, and if there is any, the Board would be notified. Mr. McNeil stated that's correct, and everything would be done virtually. Alderwoman Sutherland thanked Mr. McNeil for his hard work that he has done. Alderwoman asked how many would participate virtually and what platform would they use? Mr. McNeil stated Zoom would be the platform that we would use. Mr. McNeil explained the committee would be the same as 2011, and they would come together to give their input with a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Mr. McNeil stated the committee would be facilitated through the NC Commerce, and the Board would be involved. Mr. McNeil requested the Board make a motion to approve the memorandum. Mr. Charleston discussed to the Board that the Memorandum of Understanding can be subject to non-material adjustments. Alderwoman Jackson was concerned about the Board's participation. Mr. Charleston stated that the Board will have all control.

Action: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding and Community Assessment for the Town of Spring Lake subject to non-material adjustments.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Aziz

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

Board to consider changing the start time of the work session meetings.

Mayor Dobbins discussed and requested if the Board would like to change the start time of the work session meetings.

Action: Approval of Board to change the start time of the work session meetings to 6:00 p.m.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion to reopen the recreation Center

Mr. Graves presented a plan to reopen the Recreation Center and the factors that will impact the operations. Mr. Graves recommends only a number of participants with certain sports, maintaining social distance, and the requirement of masks. Mr. Graves explained for outdoor sports only 50 participants and spectators could attend on one field. Mr. Graves plans for safety of participants will begin with a liability/waiver form, must complete a COVID-19 screening, take temperatures, medical history forms, and all participants must bring their own equipment. Mr. Graves stated there will be no more than 25 people for indoor group sessions and 50 for outdoor activities. Mr. Graves discussed the procedures for staff to maintain cleaning and disinfecting all fitness and sports equipment.

7. Adjournment.


Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned 8:31 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Aziz

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST: 
Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor


Melissa Pereira
Deputy Town Clerk