

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

November 23, 2020

MINUTES

6:00 pm

The Board of Aldermen held a regular board 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
Jonathan Charleston, Town Attorney
Debora Johnson-Hudson, Town Clerk
Melissa Pereira, Deputy Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Tonny McNeil, Economic Development
Earnie Pearson, Economic Development Attorney (Via Teleconference)

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dobbins gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions and Deletions

Alderwoman Jackson added item 6c - Discussion of Economic Development Incentive and Agreement and Closed Session G.S 143.318.11(a)(4) - Economic Development. Alderwoman Cooper stated item 6a should be moved to the closed session G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) - Consult with Attorney. Alderwoman Cooper also added Closed Session G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6) – Personnel. Alderwoman Sutherland added item 6d - discussion to open Town Hall to the public for board meetings. Mr. Charleston added item 6e -the Approval of Resolution (2020) 8, the Fire Truck financing terms.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the November 23, 2020 agenda with the additions.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of consent item for November 9, 2020, work session meeting minutes.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz
Vote: unanimous

6. New Business

Approval of Audit Committee Policy

Mayor Dobbins asked the Board to approve the Audit Committee Policy.

Action: Approval of Audit Committee Policy
Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper
Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz
Vote: 4-1

YES

Mayor Pro tem Aziz
Alderwoman Jackson
Alderwoman Cooper
Alderwoman Sutherland

NO

Alderman O'Garra

Economic Development Incentives and Agreement

Mr. Tonny McNeil invited Ernie Pearson to join the board meeting via teleconference to discuss the Incentive agreement template. Mr. Pearson discussed the terms and expectations of the company. Mr. Pearson discussed future incentive payments, percentage of tax base, and clawbacks. Alderwoman Sutherland had concerns about increasing town taxes. Mr. Pearson stated that there would be different credits for water and sewer incentives instead of raising property taxes, and protect the interest of local government.

Open Board Meetings to the Public

Alderwoman Sutherland discussed opening the Town Hall to the public for board meetings. Alderwoman Sutherland stated the citizens should be allowed to participate in board meetings. Alderman O'Garra agreed because he has received numerous complaints. Mayor Pro tem Aziz disagreed because of the increase in COVID cases and suggested the possibility of putting the board meetings on Zoom. Alderwoman Cooper agreed we should open the meetings to public and suggested using the recreation center for the board meetings because of the size. Alderman O'Garra stated we have plenty of room for social distancing.

Action: Approval to open Town Hall to the public for board meetings subject to Governor Cooper's Orders.
Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland
Second by: Alderwoman Cooper
Vote: 4-1

YES

Alderwoman Sutherland
Alderwoman Cooper
Alderwoman Jackson
Alderman O'Garra

NO

Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Approval of Resolution (2020) 8 Fire Truck Financing Agreement

Mr. Charleston discussed the financing agreement for the two fire trucks from First Bank. Mr. Charleston stated the loan will have a maturity of ten years between November 23, 2020 to November 23, 2030. Mr. Charleston asked the Board to approve the Resolution (2020) 8 and to proceed with the loan process. Alderwoman Cooper asked if \$120,856.30 was the loan payments? Alderwoman Cooper requested if they receive a final copy of the documents. Mr. Charleston stated yes.

Action: Approval of Resolution (2020) 8 Fire Truck Financing Agreement.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Vote: unanimous

7. Closed Session: G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(3) – Consultation with Attorney
G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(4) – Economic Development
G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(6) – Personnel

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143- 318.11 (a)(3) - Consultation with Attorney, G.S 143.318.11 (a)(4) – Economic Development and G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6) -Personnel.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Vote: Unanimous

Alderwoman Cooper made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Aziz, to reconvene to open session.

Alderwoman Cooper made a motion asking Mr. Gerald to give his resignation. Mr. Gerald replied no. Alderwoman Cooper then made a motion for Mr. Gerald to be terminated effective immediately.

Action: Approval to terminate Mr. Daniel Gerald, effective immediately.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Vote: 3-2

YES

Mayor Pro tem Aziz
Alderwoman Cooper
Alderwoman Sutherland

NO

Alderman O'Garra
Alderwoman Jackson

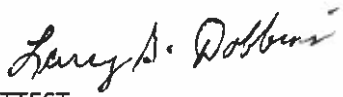
8. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Aziz

Vote: unanimous



ATTEST:

Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor



Melissa Pereira
Deputy Town Clerk