

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

September 14, 2015

MINUTES

7:11 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 Chris V. Rey presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra
Alderman James Christian
Alderwoman Densie Lucas
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Tad Davis, Town Manager
Byron Blumenfeld, Director of Water Resources
Rosa Henegan, Human Resources Officer
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Doris Snider, Senior Center Director

Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
JC Combs, Interim Recreation Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Public Works
T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation

Alderwoman Sutherland gave a non-sectarian invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rey led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

The Board deleted item 10d from the agenda and added a Presentation to the agenda as item 9c and Recommendation from Manager for Finance Director as item 10g.

Action: The Board approved a motion to delete item 10d from the agenda.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to add 9c, Presentation to First Responders to the agenda.

Motion by: Alderwoman Lucas

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to add item 10g, Recommendation from Manager for Finance Director.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the amended agenda.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(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 August 24, 2015 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes for August 24, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

No one spoke at the Public Forum.

8. Public Hearing

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against the Harkins Property Annexation.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

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

9. Presentation

a. Yard of the Month

Mayor Rey and Ms. Hash presented certificates to the Yard of the Month recipients who were in attendance. The following people won the award for September:

Dr. Naveed Aziz, 224 N. Main Street
James and Sarah Baker, 101 Ashton Place
Wilbur Brown, 409 Samuel Court
Lynn Ellison, 112 S. Main Street
Margarete Scott, 207 Cecil Avenue
Fremont and Marcia Wynn, 426 Wapiti Drive

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

b. Manager's Report

Mr. Davis reported the following:

- Thanked everyone for attending and supporting the 9/11 Ceremony. He especially thanked Carrie DeGarmo for the fantastic work she did on the Ceremony.
- The state audit is ongoing and there is no update at this time.
- S. Preston Douglas and Associates are beginning our annual audit.

- The Chamber's Fall Festival is still a go for October 31, 2015.
- NCDOT will be at the next meeting to provide an update on the U-4444B project.
- NCDOT's median project at Sonic was not approved for funding. They recommended that we approve another Resolution of Support so the funding can be resubmitted.
- What was the Odell Road project is now the Manchester Road Extension project. Hope to have NCDOT give an update on that project at an October meeting.
- Still working on the budget for the Senior Enrichment Center and hope to have that ready at the next meeting.
- Have met with members of American Legion, VFW and the Director of Sandhills State Cemetery to help develop a Veteran's Advisory Committee.
- Kicked off fall sports this past weekend. Senior bowling league kicked off this past Thursday.
- Coffee with a Cop event is scheduled for September 19th from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Alderman Sutherland requested clarification on the Parks and Recreation Director position. Mr. Davis clarified that he referred to Ms. Combs as the Interim Recreation Director because she is performing those duties. Alderman Sutherland clarified that she had not been given that title officially and asked if any pay increases had occurred with this position. Mr. Davis advised that no pay increases had been given to this position since he became the Manager.

c. Presentation, 911 Remembrance

Mayor Rey and Bishop Marshall presented the Fire and Police Chiefs with a plaque of appreciation for outstanding service for the job they do for our community.

9. New Business

a. Appointments, Senior Enrichment Program Advisory Committee

Ms. Webb requested the Board consider applications from Ulysses Banks, DeLois Borders, Grady Page, Rita Perry and Margot Pfeiffer for appointment to the Senior Enrichment Program Advisory Committee. If appointed, these people will serve a three-year term which will expire September 30, 2018.

Alderman Christian and Alderman Sutherland thanked the appointees for serving. Alderman Sutherland also thanked Mr. Page for all he did to get this committee formed.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Ulysses Banks, DeLois Borders, Grady Page, Rita Perry and Margot Pfeiffer to the Senior Enrichment Program Advisory Committee.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and applications from Ulysses Banks, DeLois Borders, Grady Page, Rita Perry and Margot Pfeiffer is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

b. Ordinance (2015) 9, Harkins Property Annexation

Ms. Webb requested the Board approve Ordinance (2015) 9 to annex the Harkins Property.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2015) 9.

Motion by: Alderman Lucas

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Ordinance (2015) 9 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

c. Resolution (2015) 15, Intent to Annex Mutzberg Property

Ms. Webb presented Resolution (2015) 15 to begin the process of annexing Town owned property located on Chapel Hill Road, known as the Mutzberg property. The property was deeded to the Town in 2013.

Alderman Christian stated this is a good thing to happen and our long term goal is to create a river walk on this property.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2015) 15.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, map of property and Resolution (2015) 15 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

d. Ordinance (2015) 10, Amend Chapter 2, Section 198 Disposal of Property

This item was deleted from the agenda.

e. Ordinance (2015) 11, Amend Chapter 2, Section 127 Recreation Advisory Committee Membership

Ms. Combs requested the Board approve Ordinance (2015) 11 to amend the current Ordinance to allow the addition of two liaison positions that would represent various community voices.

Alderman Christian stated this was an idea he had a month or two ago and he looks forward to having a teen perspective on the recreational needs of our community and he hopes the teens can use serving on this committee on their college application.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2015) 11.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, current Chapter 2, Section 127 with changes noted and Ordinance (2015) 11 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

f. Budget Ordinance Amendment (2015) 12, Authorized Positions, Accounting Manager

Ms. Henegan presented Budget Ordinance Amendment (2015) 12 to amend Appendix A, Position Classification Plan and Appendix B, Authorized Employee Positions to change a Finance Department position title from Accounting Manager to Accounting Supervisor as instructed by the Board of Aldermen in June 2015.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated she recalls during budget discussions that the possibility of this position becoming another technician instead of it being a supervisor position was discussed. Mayor Rey advised that he does remember there being a discussion on this position and was under the impression that we were going to delete this position altogether. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that was part of the discussion but in the end the Board decided to change the title from Assistant Finance Director to Accounting Supervisor. Ms. Webb clarified that after listening to the meeting where this position was discussed, the Board discussed deleting this position and making it a technician but ultimately they just changed the title from Assistant Finance Director to Accounting Supervisor and did not finish their discussion regarding making the position a technician instead. Mayor Rey opened the floor for discussion on this position and inquired what the Manager's recommendation is concerning the need for this position. Mr. Davis stated that his recommendation is to have all four positions in the Finance Department. He stated the intent of the position is to not be in a supervisory capacity as far as supervising people. However, he recommends this position be developed to manage selected accounts and other programs, hence the reason the position was originally titled Accounting Manager as it is his intent to have this position manage work and not supervise people. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that she concurs with having the position

but as a Technician or a Technician II so that person would be a little more senior position. After a lengthy discussion on the title and grade of the position the original motion made by Alderman Christian stands and the Board voted on that motion with the understanding that the Board can come back and revisit this should the Board decide that it is prudent at a later date.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Ordinance (2015) 12.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O’Garra

Vote: 3-1	Yes	No
	Mayor Pro Tem O’Garra	Alderwoman Sutherland
	Alderman Christian	
	Alderwoman Lucas	

(A copy of the agenda memo, Appendix A and Appendix B with changes noted and Ordinance (2015) 12 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

g. Recommendation from Manager for Finance Director

Mr. Davis advised that when he became the Town Manager, the Town had a Finance Director position listed and it had been listed for a long time. He stated they re-announced the position because of the length of time it had been open. He stated that the new announcement asked for anyone who had previously applied for the position to re-submit an application. They received nine resumes for the position and out of those nine, three people failed to provide an application which disqualified them for them for the position. They created a senior staff member panel to review the remaining six applicants and the panel determined the top three applicants to be considered. At this time an interview panel was created consisting of the Manager, Ms. Henegan and Mr. Kim Nazarchyk (Eastover Town Manager/Finance Director and former banking and financial management with Bank of America.) This panel identified the top two candidates whose references were checked. After this process, Mr. Davis interviewed the top candidate again and is now recommending the town move forward with hiring Mr. Claiburn Watson for the position of Finance Director.

Alderman Christian inquired how much time people had to apply when the position was reposted and Mr. Davis advised they had two weeks to apply. Alderman Christian inquired if the previous applicants were notified of the reposting and Mr. Davis stated he is not sure if they were or not. Alderman Christian stated that he would have preferred that the people who applied the first time be notified of the reposting.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated that she does not think it is fair to the ones who originally submitted applications that they were not given the opportunity to know that they had to re-submit for the position when they were most likely waiting for a phone call about the position. She mentioned the audit findings that are published regarding Mr. Watson’s previous position. She stated that she would like to get the most qualified person in this position but would prefer to not have the baggage that Mr. Watson brings.

Alderman Christian stated that is would have been more fair if the original applicants had been notified and he stated that he does not feel comfortable voting on this tonight and will abstain from voting on this matter. It was clarified to the Board that should a Board Member decide to not vote, by General Statue, that action is counted as a yes vote as they have a duty to vote on all matters unless there is a conflict of interest.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve hiring Mr. Watson as the Finance Director.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O’Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: 3-1	Yes	No
	Mayor Pro Tem O’Garra	Alderwoman Sutherland
	Alderman Christian	
	Alderwoman Lucas	

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Lucas

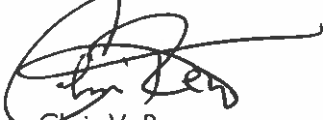
Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Chris V. Rey
Mayor