

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

June 21, 2021

MINUTES

6:00 p.m.

The 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 (via Zoom)
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderwoman Jackie Jackson
Alderman James O'Garra
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Samantha Wullenwaber, Interim Town Manager
Catherine Bamba, Town Attorney (via Zoom)
Brittany Johnson, Town Attorney (via Zoom)
Nancy Medlin, Council of Governments
Melissa Pereira, Interim Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
David Erwin, NC Department of State Treasurer
Mark Baker, NC Department of State Treasurer
Dysoaneik Spellman, Interim Chief of Police

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dobbins declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Alderwoman Cooper gave the invocation and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Business

Public Hearing – Proposed Budget FY 2021-2022

Mrs. Samantha Wullenwaber presented the Proposed Budget for 2021-2022. David Erwin addressed the Board and suggested they support the proposed budget. Mrs. Wullenwaber presented the budget process. Mrs. Wullenwaber stated if any department spends a penny or more this will require a Purchase Order approved by the finance director and town manager. Mrs. Wullenwaber presented the FY 21-21 analysis as follows:

- General Fund \$454,000
- Water/Sewer Fund \$120,000
- Stormwater Fund \$31,000
- Sanitation Fund \$ 141,106

Projected FY20-21 Fund Balance/ Net Position

General Fund (-\$1,814,911)

Sanitation Fund \$7,393

Water/Sewer Fund \$1,294,948

Stormwater Fund \$460,154

Mrs. Wullenwaber presented the town wide budget cuts:

- Provided two medical insurance plans for employees to choose from. A standard plan that the town pays majority of the employee cost and a buy-up plan that the employee pays more for. This resulted in a ~\$95,000 savings.
- Eliminated cell phone allowances. All town employees whose position necessities a cell phone will be provided with a town-issued cell phone resulting in a savings of ~\$31,000.
- External janitorial services eliminated. Town facilities are cleaned by in-house staff.
- No training or travel unless mandated for job necessary certifications.
- No dues/subscriptions unless needed for the Town of Spring Lake as an entity.
- Reduction in force of positions that are no longer funded due to budgetary constraints.
- A total of 11 vacant positions were not funded with this budget.

Mrs. Wullenwaber discussed the position analysis. Alderwoman Jackson addressed concerns with the Police Department seven vacant positions not being filled, and crime activity that could occur. Mrs. Wullenwaber stated positions throughout the departments have been defunded because we have no funds, and our expenditures have increased as well as our revenue decreasing due to not raising our rates. Alderwoman Cooper had suggestions to find funding resources to bring these positions back.

Alderwoman Sutherland addressed concerns with not filling the seven vacant police department positions, and Public Works Department together with keeping the town clean. Alderman O'Garra agreed.

Mayor Pro tem Aziz addressed his concerns that no one wants to cut any positions but we are in a very bad financial situation because we have been paying for things with money we don't have. Mayor Pro tem Aziz stated we need to be thinking about what we have and not what we want, we can't afford them. Mayor Pro tem Aziz stated if we want to fund the police; then we have to make cuts somewhere.

Mrs. Wullenwaber presented we are out of balance because we didn't live within our means. Mrs. Wullenwaber presented to the Board the cuts as follows:

- Furlough 5% (modified hours of operation town hall)
- Privatize Services- code enforcement (~\$112,000)
- RIF 3 positions
- Transportation funded 3 months
- Consolidation of Recreation & Parks with Senior Center under one director
- SLPA debt service
- Replenish Fund Balance Line Item (\$285,724)
- No capital projects

Mrs. Wullenwaber stated we would work 4–10-hour days, and Town Hall would be closed on Fridays. Mrs.

Wullenwaber stated the Water Department has no furloughs because their budget is balanced. Mrs. Wullenwaber stated payments would be received at the drive through window. Mrs. Wullenwaber presented cuts to the Transportation Bus service.

Mrs. Wullenwaber explained the new water and sewer rates.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Interim Town Manager, and Mrs. Nancy Medlin.

Mrs. Wullenwaber presented the Fleet Maintenance Fund. Mrs. Wullenwaber stated they're balanced with one Reduction in Force position.

Mrs. Wullenwaber presented the Stormwater Fund, and stated they're balanced, and moved personnel to the correct Fund. Mrs. Wullenwaber stated a Capital Project for swale maintenance to maintain ditches will cost \$100,000.

Mrs. Wullenwaber presented the Special Fund and Spring Fling to the Board.

Mrs. Wullenwaber discussed the next steps of budget implementation and training. Alderwoman Sutherland expressed citizens should be aware and given the opportunity to request public records. Alderwoman Cooper expressed to the Public if anyone wants to help our Town find resources to fully staff our police department, and as well as the RIF positions.

Alderman O'Garra expressed his concerns with cutting bus transportation in Spring Lake.

Mayor Pro tem Aziz expressed his concerns with that with getting the budget under control.

Alderwoman Jackson expressed her concerns with cutting positions in Police Department.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Nathaniel Fitch addressed his concerns with payroll cuts and Reduction in Force. Mr. Fitch addressed his concerns on how are we going to resolve these issues.

Mr. John Kim addressed his concerns with leadership and agreement amongst the Board. Mr. Kim expressed his appreciation for the Spring Lake Police Department.

Ms. Betty Sanford addressed her concerns with the Spring Lake vision. Ms. Sanford expressed her concerns about the Board working together. Ms. Sanford expressed her concerns that we need our police department and fire department. Ms. Sanford addressed her concerns about the trash around the community, and the safety of our citizens.

Mr. Henry Ponder addressed his concerns with the Budget and defunding policemen. Mr. Ponder expressed concerns with the safety of the town, economic development, and the trash. Mr. Ponder expressed his concerns with the division of the Board.

Eustacia Arnold addressed her concerns about support from the community and the Town's budget.

Derrick Hudson addressed his concerns with the Budget, and the Town's future. Mr. Hudson expressed he wanted to be the change in this community.

Mr. Rudy McMillian, owner of Majestic Mobility, addressed his concerns with cutting his services that provide transportation for the Town of Spring Lake. Mr. McMillian expressed his concerns with finding the funds to keep this service going in Spring Lake.

Mr. Marvin Lackman addressed his concerns with the Town budget and the Spring Lake Police Department.

Mayor Dobbins asked to have a Special Meeting to continue to discuss the budget.

Alderwoman Jackson addressed Mr. Lackman comments about her attending a grant writing class and stated I will take your challenge with grant writing.

Alderman O'Garra asked Lt. Greg Wilkerson to address the Mayor and Board of Alderman.

Lt. Greg Wilkerson discussed how the police respond and react to certain situations, and how patrol units are affected due to the shortage of officers.

Alderwoman Sutherland addressed her concerns with safety of our citizens and businesses with a shortage of police officers.

3. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

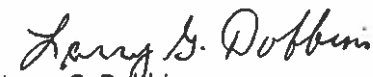
Motion: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: unanimous


Melissa Pereira
Interim Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor