

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

January 24, 2022

MINUTES

6:00 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 Kia Anthony presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Robyn Chadwick
Alderwoman Soñia Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Board Members Absent: Alderman Raul Palacios

Others Present:

Samantha Wullenwaber, Interim Town Manager
Jonathan Charleston, Town Attorney
Catherine Bamba, Attorney
Melissa Pereira, Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Tim Garner, Water Resources Director
Deanna Rosario, Stormwater Supervisor
Jason Williams, Fire Chief
Dysoaneik Spellman, Interim Police Chief

1. Call to order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro tem Robyn Chadwick gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Alderwoman Soñia Cooper requested that the agenda be amended to add item 7g, Discussion of Four-Year Staggered Terms under New Business. Alderman Marvin Lackman requested that the agenda be amended to move the Public Comment under Approval of Consent Items to give the public a chance to speak before the board votes on agenda items. Mrs. Samantha Wullenwaber stated the public comment can be moved on the agenda. She stated Public Comment is for a topic of concern; it's not for a discussion of an agenda item. Mr. Jonathan Charleston recommended the Board approve the agenda with the modifications. Public Comment will be modified as item 6 on the January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the January 24, 2022, Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting with additions and modifications.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of the draft minutes of the December 13, 2021, Work Session Meeting, the draft minutes of the December 16, 2021, Special Meeting, the draft minutes of the December 17, 2021, Special Meeting, and the draft minutes of the January 10, 2022, Work Session Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

None

7. New Business

a. Approve Resolution (2022) 2

Mr. Tim Garner requested the Board to approve Resolution (2022) 2, confirming the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen will support the implementation of a Complaint NPDES MS4 Stormwater Program. Mr. Garner gave a brief overview in regards to an audit that was conducted on July 14, 2021. Mr. Garner stated this was the first stormwater audit performed in the last ten years. He stated the audits should be conducted every five years. Mr. Garner provided information that the town received a notice of violation during the inspection process. Mr. Garner stated the Waste Water Treatment Plant sustained heavy flood damage during Hurricane Florence. He stated the damage included the loss of all paper and digital files related to the stormwater program. Alderwoman Cooper questioned the funding related to the stormwater program. Mr. Garner stated the department budgeted the funds for the stormwater program, but we had to make some changes. Alderwoman Cooper asked about equipment replacement that the department lost in the flood. Mr. Garner stated no, only the paperwork and the stormwater plans. Alderman Lackman questioned the prevention of loss documents in the future. Mr. Garner stated we no longer keep documents at the plant. He stated we have external hard drives and USB plugs. Alderman Lackman questioned will the stormwater violations be fixed by the March 2022 deadline. Mr. Garner stated yes, we have corrected seventy-five percent of the stormwater violations. Alderman Lackman questioned additional funding that might be needed. Mr. Garner stated we are planning with the budgeting process. Mrs. Samantha Wullenwaber provided information that the town uses Laserfiche to upload all town documents.

Action: Approval of the Resolution (2022) 2, Confirming the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen will support the implementation of a Complaint NPDES MS4 Stormwater Program.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

b. Discussion of the Mayor's Voting Authority

Mayor Kia Anthony provided information about the mayor's voting authority. Mayor Anthony stated the Spring Lake Mayor does not contribute to the votes pertaining to the business of the town. Mayor Anthony gave details in regards to the mayor's accountability and making decisions for the town. Mayor Anthony stated the promises she made to the community is the reason why she would like the opportunity to vote. Mayor Anthony stated the mayor signs thousands of dollars' worth of checks, but has no vote. Mayor Anthony stated the mayor has the right to be ceremonial, but again, no right to vote. Mayor Anthony stated there are many resources she would like to bring to the Board and to the community, but she can't implement them. Mayor Anthony expressed that when she does something wrong or right; they will call my name, but I have no vote. Mayor Anthony described her voting rights as a soldier on the battlefield with no weapon. Mayor Anthony expressed her concerns that the Board needs to be a team, and giving the mayor the right to vote helps our team make better decisions. Mayor Anthony stated she knows the mayor can only vote if there's a tie, but if the board can't vote without a tie, then we need to regroup, and figured out how to make the proposal stronger so that all six of us who was elected by the community can work together to have the best ideas for the town. Mayor Anthony expressed her concerns that the Board needs to be accountable and responsible for their actions and behavior, and wisdom to a level of submission to others opinion and viewpoints. Mayor Anthony explained to hold accountability in the workplace because it shows inclusion and provides ownership, and any decisions made in this town will be held accountable. Mayor Anthony stated we are one unit, we are one team, and one voice, and we all should be able to vote. Mayor Pro tem Robyn Chadwick had concerns regarding the mayor voting because of persuasion and abuse of powers. Mayor Pro tem Chadwick stated the Board will hold the mayor accountable. Alderman Lackman questioned Mr. Jonathan Charleston if the Board can or should proceed with the proposal to give the mayor voting rights. Mr. Charleston stated the Board is the policy making body, and the Board can modify the town's charter to allow the mayor to vote. Mr. Charleston stated the Mayor of Fayetteville votes. Alderman Lackman expressed his concerns with a tie vote, and did not favor the mayor's authority to vote. Alderman Lackman recommends the Board works with the present issues, and table this proposal at a later date. Alderwoman Cooper stated there are towns smaller than Spring Lake that have amended their charter that allowed the mayor to vote. Alderwoman Cooper suggested asking the town citizens for their opinion. Mayor Anthony stated if we can't convince four board members with a solid conclusion, then that initiative may not be that solid. Mr. Charleston stated there is a process that involves a referendum for the citizens to cast their votes. Mayor Anthony stated the town would have a public hearing prior to any decisions being made.

c., d., and e. Application for the Senior Enrichment Program Advisory Committee, Military and Veterans Advisory Committee, and Appearance and Sustainability Committee

Ms. Melissa Pereira requested for all applications to be approved. Alderwoman Cooper requested to table all town committee applications until further notice in regards to training and review the bylaws with the town's vision. Alderman Lackman agreed. Alderman Lackman stated the we would better serve the community, and do what's best for the town. Alderman Lackman pleaded with the citizens to apply so the town can be successful. Mayor Anthony stated the Board isn't rejecting any applications. Alderwoman Thompson recommended a deadline to applicants. Alderman Lackman stated unreadiness in regards to a deadline. Mayor Anthony stated the Board will table until we can discuss this further.

Action: Approval of tabling all town committee applications until further guidance can be executed.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

f. Board to Determine Meeting Schedule for February 14, 2022, Work Session

Ms. Melissa Pereira requested the approval of cancelling the February 14, 2022, Work Session Meeting.

Action: The Board made a motion for the February 14, 2022, Work Session Meeting be held at the regular date and time.

Motion: Alderman Lackman

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

g. Discussion of Four-Year Staggered Terms

Alderwoman Soña Cooper provided details regarding the Town of Spring Lake Charter being amended for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to serve four-year staggered terms instead of two-year terms. Alderwoman Cooper had concerns with the two-year terms being too short for the Board's decision-making processes. Alderwoman Cooper asked the Board for their recommendations. Mayor Anthony agreed with four-year staggered terms in regards to the town's financial situation. Mayor Anthony explained the two-year terms give the Board one year to work, and one year to campaign. Mayor Anthony gave details that if the Board had three years of work this would provide consistency, and be a cost saving measure. Mayor Pro tem Chadwick agreed and she stated to serve on the Board is a huge commitment. Alderman Lackman did not favor the four-year staggered terms due to the number of casted votes in the course of staggered terms elections. Alderman Lackman stated he wants feedback from the town citizens. Alderwoman Cooper stated the process does require a public hearing.

8. Closed Session

a. N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel.

Motion: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

Alderwoman Cooper made a motion, Mayor Pro tem Chadwick seconded by, to reconvene in an open session.

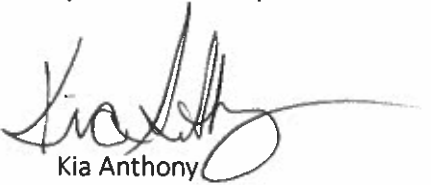
9. Adjournment.


Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous


Kia Anthony
Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Pereira, CMC
Town Clerk