

Town of Spring Lake
Work Session of the Board of Aldermen
Municipal Building
300 Ruth Street
Spring Lake, NC 28390

February 14, 2022

MINUTES

6:00 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a work session 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 Sofia Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:
Jonathan Charleston, Town Attorney (via Zoom)
Catherine Bamba, Attorney, (via Zoom)
Melissa Pereira, Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Jim Golden, Business Development South East
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

Alderwoman Thompson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Alderwoman Cooper requested that the agenda be amended to add Certificate of Recognition to the Spring Lake boys' and girls' basketball teams. Mayor Anthony stated the item will be placed under New Business as item 8a, and all other items will move down accordingly.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the February 14, 2022 Board of Aldermen Work Session Meeting with additions.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Mayor Pro tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of the draft minutes of January 24, 2022, Regular Meeting with the necessary changes.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

Mr. Frank Alexander had concerns with the town's economic development and creating an economic development committee.

Mr. James Christian had concerns with prayer being removed from the agenda, and he opposed the four-year staggered terms. Mr. Christian had concerns with the mayor's authority to vote after only one term served.

Mr. Freddie De la Cruz stated he was advocating for the mayor's authority to vote. He stated he was happy to see the Board of Aldermen working as a team.

7. Presentation

Mr. Jim Golden provided information regarding the National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program. He stated the program offers low-cost protection against potentially expensive water and sewer line repairs to town residents. Mr. Golden gave details that over 1,400 cities are participating. He stated this saves more than 2.3 million homeowners over \$262 million in service line repair costs. Mr. Golden requested the Board to approve the marketing agreement. Mayor Anthony questioned the NLC Program's additional pricing in Exhibit A. Mr. Golden stated the homeowner has the choice based on their needs. Alderwoman Cooper addressed the public regarding the program would benefit the towns' residents. Alderman Palacios questioned the marketing agreement being non-exclusive. Mr. Golden stated yes, the agreement is non-exclusive because we don't have many competitors. Alderman Palacios had concerns in regards to sharing homeowner data as an option and not a requirement. Mr. Golden stated we have multiple ways of retrieving data to market, and we don't put people in that position to share homeowner data.

8. New Business

a. Certificate of Recognition to the Spring Lake Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams

Mayor Anthony presented to the Spring Lake girls' and boys' basketball teams a Certificate of Recognition for winning the championship.

b. Discussion of Town's Website

Alderman Palacios provided information regarding the town's new website. Alderman Palacios stated three years ago the town embarked on a new website that cost \$57,000. Alderman Palacios gave details regarding complaints by town employees and residents about the new website. Alderman Palacios provided information that he fielded other website designers who help other local governments with their websites. He stated he received proposals from web developers. Alderman Palacios had concerns about the amount of money the town spent on a mediocre website. He expressed his concerns that the town should have stayed with the company Biz Tools One. Alderman Palacios gave details in regards to Biz Tools renovating the town's website, starting up the town's old website for

\$150, and billed quarterly at \$145. Alderman Palacios requested a consensus for the town to revert to our previous website with Biz Tools at a cost savings of \$3,600 annually. Alderwoman Cooper provided information that she and Fredricka Sutherland tried to get proof of an actual request for a proposal of the website. Alderwoman Cooper stated the website has a lot of issues. She stated the town receives a lot of complaints about online bill payments and signing up for Recreation and Parks events. Alderwoman Cooper suggests the town revert back to our previous website with ADA compliance. Mayor Pro tem Chadwick had concerns regarding the flaws and challenges with the new website. Mayor Pro tem Chadwick questioned recouping of some of the monies the town paid due to poor quality service. Alderman Palacios stated no, in my opinion, we should cut our losses and run. Alderman Palacios had concerns with legal recourse. Mayor Anthony had concerns that if the town doesn't get a hold of this now, the town will be paying more for repairs. Mayor Anthony describes the new website has a lot of deficiencies and grammatical errors, and it's hard to read missing links, and empty pages. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated she would like a recourse for the poor website service. Alderwoman Thompson had concerns about the legal cost if the town would pursue recouping some of the monies with the new website. Mayor Anthony asked Mrs. Catherine Bamba for her guidance. Alderman Palacios stated he did ask Mrs. Bamba and there is no renewal agreement. Ms. Bamba stated she did read the contract, and if the Board recommends recouping any money that would be legal action. Alderman Palacios asked the Board for a consensus to cut the Vision Request website and proceed with the town's previous website. The Board agreed.

c. Discussion of Town Committees

Alderman Lackman gave details to reestablishing the town committees. Alderman Lackman recommended setting a date for the February 28th meeting to approve applications. Alderwoman Cooper questioned to set a date to train staff liaisons and appointed town committees' members. Alderman Palacios agreed with the February 28th application date for approval. Alderman Palacios recommended setting an orientation date for the committees on February 28th board meeting, and ex-officio's assigned as well. Alderman Palacios provided information that there is a public hearing variance case that needs to go before the Board. Alderman Palacios asked the community if anyone is interested in serving on the Board of Adjustment. Mayor Anthony added the only committee that needs a staff liaison is the Minimum Housing Board. The Board discussed the committee's orientation be held on March 14, 2022, and decided to readdress the orientation date on February 28, 2022.

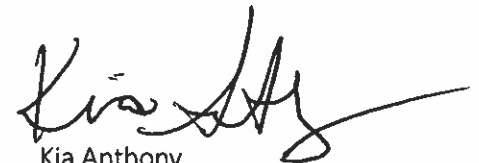
9. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous



Kia Anthony
Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Pereira, CMC
Town Clerk