

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

August 8, 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:

- Joe Durham, Interim Town Manager
- Michael R. Porter, Town Attorney
- Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
- Jason Williams, Spring Lake Fire Chief
- Tim Garner, Director of Water Treatment Plant
- Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Inspections Clerk
- David Erwin, Finance Director, Local Government Commission

1. Call to order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Juanita Bonds gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Alderman Palacios made a change to switch 6a to 6b in presentations.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of August 8, 2022, Board of Aldermen Work Session agenda with requested changes.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

5. Public Comment

Mrs. Fredricka Sutherland begins by giving gratitude to Alderwoman Cooper for her cooperation on the Senior Advisory Board. Mrs. Sutherland states her concerns with shrubbery around Town of Spring Lake that needs to be better managed, she also expresses an idea for the artwork and look toward local artists. Mrs. Sutherland gives her thanks to the citizens that help clean up the town on a regular basis. She raises challenges with the 2021 budget stating that 102.67% is budgeted for the town's tax revenue and the town is one of the highest municipalities that pays taxes, making sure the town's services continue to be above and beyond. Mrs. Sutherland states the water billing has increased 21% which is an absurd amount, she advises the citizens to speak to the Board about their concerns.

6. Presentation

6a. Yard of the Month – Alderman Palacios

Alderman Palacios gives thanks to the Appearance and Sustainability Committee's Chair Ms. Fredricka Sutherland and Vice Chair Ms. Cynthia Wilt. Alderman Palacios presents the Yard of the Month recipients for August; Richard and Arnetta Weaver, Robert and Janie Buskey, Rhonda LeBlanc, Scarlet Rucker, and Larry Dobbins.

6b. Public Art – Liz Whitmore, City of Sandford

Ms. Liz Whitmore gives a very detailed and informative presentation touching on their accomplishments within the local art community.

7. New Business

a. Financial Update from the Local Government Commission – David Erwin, Finance Director

Mr. David Erwin begins by stating the numbers are much better than they were last year, giving thanks to town employees, town staff, finance department, Interim Town Manager, and the Board of Aldermen for their fortitude in sticking to the budget. Property taxes has come in above budget which is a good thing. The water and sewer fund fees has increased because the supplier has increased their fees. The town did get a big reimbursement from FEMA but, that was used to replace other items that was spent previously. Stormwater is doing well; it needs to build up some reserved so stormwater projects can be done. The second installment for the American Rescue Plan was received, the Local Government Commission is still having issues with getting the Town of Spring Lake registered with the government site. The finance department is working on getting an AIA study with the utility system which is a comprehensive inventory of everything, which before any planning can be done for the future it's good to understand what is available and what condition it's in. Mayor Anthony asks if ARPA dollars can be used for this? Mr. Erwin responds the legislature had a special allocation when we needed to apply for a letter of Intent back in June which is still pending. The general fund was concerning because of the deficits, when the audit gets completed for June 30, 2022 that will be a good idea of where things are in terms of building the fund balance and from there, we'll create an action plan to keep building. Mayor Anthony asks if there is a general idea of how far along we are in the 2022 audit and how long it's going to take to complete? Mr. Erwin answers we're working to get the audit done by October 31st. Alderwoman Cooper asks if the audit committee will be having a meeting with the auditors? Mr. Erwin says that'll be a great idea. Alderman Palacios asks about the audit's due date, which is October 31st and

there is a grace period to December 1st. Alderman Palacios asks for clarification, the AIA that we're doing for the inventory, did you mention using the funds from the legislature that was passed in December? Mr. Erwin responds once a contract is in place they'll proceed. Alderman Palacios then asks about the Stormwater fund; says last year that 40 percent of the budget was used out of their \$247,000 that was expected to spend, will that be concerning that they were so underspent? Mr. Erwin acknowledges that it is something to inquire about. Mr. Durham mentions that it was discussed trying to establish some kind of program and identify projects where the money can be spent. Alderman Palacios expounds about the basis of a budget and ask what is acceptable? Mr. Erwin says most of the time your salary and benefits get spent between 90 and 95 percent and your direct expenditures is 85 percent but, the capital is what usually lags. It's best to develop an action plan with a timeline, that way it'll more understandable if the funds are building up to pay for projects oppose to borrowing money. Alderwoman Cooper asks what kind of fund we're overspent in administration and about the purpose of the trust accounts? Mr. Erwin will get back to the Board with the appropriate estimation. Alderman Lackman mentions that he and the Board would like an email regarding these four departments; administration, tax collection, public works, and senior so, the Board can see the overages. Mayor Anthony would like to see a copy of the sales tax Interlocal agreement.

b. Mayor's Report, Honorable Kia Anthony, Mayor

Mayor Anthony reveals that there is a carnival planned August 11th – August 14th at Southwind Plaza, 1111 N. Bragg Blvd. Mayor Anthony appeals that everyone cool and protected and the Spring Lake library is a cooling place for anyone in need.

c. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen

Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick mentions that August 29th will be the official day for when school starts. Alderman Palacios announces that the next Appearance and Sustainability Committee meeting will be August 10th at 4:00 pm in the Grady Howard Room. Alderwoman Thompson raises that citizens can sponsor teachers, schools, or students to help with school supplies, and you can also volunteer. She states that the next Recreation Advisory Committee meeting will be August 10th, 6:30 pm at the Spring Lake Recreation Center. Alderman Lackman gives his appreciation to the involvement, collecting 18 bags of trash approximately 360 pounds of litter. Alderman Lackman would like to get the street sweeper fixed so that they're able to clean more. The next clean up will be September 10th. Alderwoman Cooper states the next Senior Advisory Committee meeting will be August 9th. Secondly, Alderwoman Cooper echoes Alderwoman Thompson's recommendation for donating school supplies. Haunted Lakes which will be October 29th, we're looking for people who want to help volunteer to give out candy.

d. Manager's Report – Joe Durham, Interim Town Manager

Mr. Durham states that challenges continue with GFL regarding the household waste, GFL is catching back up to the regular scheduled route.

e. Attorney's Update – Town Attorney, Michael R. Porter

Mr. Porter notifies everyone about the body camera footage about the recent settlement. There is a statute that defines how the footage can be released and who can view the footage, the footage has to be by court order. Alderman Palacios asks if this pertains to any body camera footage or is it specific to the kind of injuries or crime?

Mr. Porter says to be clear under North Carolina law, any body camera footage you'll have to be an authorized person to view it but, this applies to all body camera footage. Alderwoman Cooper asks Mr. Durham to place this specific statute on the police department web page so that everyone is educated on this issue. Mr. Durham supports her request. Mr. Porter reads the statute is North Carolina General Statute 132-1.4a.

8. Closed Session

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.1 (a)(6)- Personnel

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.1 (a)(6)- Personnel

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

Alderwoman Cooper made a motion, Alderwoman Thompson seconded by, to reconvene in open session. No action was taken.

9. Adjournment

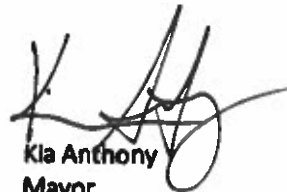
Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:


Joe Durham, Interim Town Manager
Town Clerk


Kia Anthony
Mayor