

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

September 26, 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  
Aldерwoman Soña Cooper  
Alderman Marvin Lackman  
Alderman Raul Palacios  
Aldерwoman Adrian Thompson

**Others Present:**

Joe Durham, Interim Town Manager  
Michael Porter, Town Attorney  
Patricia Hickmon, Interim Town Clerk  
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator  
Jason Williams, Fire Chief  
Dysoaneik Spellman, Police Chief  
Tim Garner, Director of Water Treatment Plant  
Liana Sheppard, Uncle Carl's Safe Space  
Carl Pringle, Uncle Carl's Safe Space

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Pastor Steve England gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Additions or Deletions**

Aldерwoman Cooper requested to remove Consent Items a. through g. draft minutes due to updates and corrections.

**Motion:** Aldерwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderman Palacios

**Vote:** Unanimous

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**Action:** Approval of the September 26, 2022, Board of Aldermen Work Session agenda with amended deletions.

**Motion by:** Alderman Palacios  
**Second by:** Alderwoman Thompson  
**Vote:** Unanimous

### **5. Approval of Consent Items**

**Action:** No action was taken on Consent Item h. Application Military Veterans Advisory Committee- Armand J. Caron. The Consent Item will be added to the next agenda.

### **6. Public Comment**

Sergeant McCormick stated he was with the Spring Lake Police Department to give an update on the Special Olympics since he is the Special Olympics coordinator for the Town of Spring Lake. Sergeant McCormick held up a Special Olympics t-shirt and explained that the Town of Spring Lake name would be on the shirt next year. Sergeant McCormick stated it takes \$7,000.00 at least to get our name on the back of the t-shirt. Sergeant McCormick mentioned that currently, the Town would be in the twenty-first position next year on the back of the shirt. We have collected \$9,000 and we are pushing for \$10,000. Sergeant McCormick stated on the first Friday of October, they will be at Walmart at 670 Lillington Highway., Spring Lake.

Mr. Nathaniel Fitch Sr., 735 Goodyear Drive, Spring Lake, stated he was here to talk about the community and youth. Mr. Fitch invited everyone to attend his fundraiser, which will be held in St. Pauls on October 15, 2022. Doors open at 4:00 pm at the National Guard Armory. Mr. Fitch explained that this fundraiser helps kids by taking them on excursions. Mr. Fitch provided examples of the types of excursions he takes the kids on. Mr. Fitch expressed concern about his safety due to shootings the last two Saturdays on Goodyear Drive. He would like to know how to start the Community Watches back up in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Eduardo Rames, 742 Goodyear Drive, Spring Lake, stated concerns about speeding around the neighborhood, and for the last two weeks, they have heard guns shots. Mr. Rames stated he was concerned about a Mobile Home Park off Odell Road where they are putting tracks at the corner, making the neighborhood look bad.

### **7. Presentation**

#### **a. Recognition of Appreciation, Courtyard by Marriott**

Mayor Anthony presented a certificate of Recognition of Appreciation to Courtyard by Marriott, sponsoring their conference room for several hours to have the Board of Aldermen Retreat meeting that was held on September 17, 2022.

#### **b. Recognition of Appreciation, Jersey Mike's Subs**

Mayor Anthony presented a certificate of Recognition of Appreciation to Jersey Mike's Subs for sponsoring lunch at the Board of Aldermen Retreat meeting held on September 17, 2022.

#### **c. Yard of the Month, September 2022**

Alderman Palacios administered Certificates for Yard of the Month to the winners that the Appearance Committee chose.

d. Community Programs (Uncle Carl's Safe Space)

Ms. Llana Sheppard and Mr. Carl Pringle stated they are founders of Uncle Carl's Safe Space, a community outreach program that provides readymade meals to families with up to four members in need. Ms. Sheppard introduced classes they would like to provide to the community, including behavioral classes, drug & alcohol addiction, leadership classes, anger management classes, skill-building classes, and communications. Mr. Pringle thanked the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for allowing them to come tonight. Mr. Pringle explained that Uncle Carl's Safe Space is a program for us to work together to promote positivity. Ms. Sheppard stated they have organizations to back them up, including FTCC for vocational training within Spring Lake. The Town currently doesn't have public transportation and is currently working with someone to back them up. Ms. Sheppard requested that they use the Recreation Center to start providing their programs. Mr. Pringle added that they are currently working on feeding people for Thanksgiving, and nobody goes hungry.

Mayor Anthony asked when the Recreation Center would be used. Ms. Sheppard answered bi-weekly and especially on the weekends. Mr. Pringle added that twice a week in the evening. Alderwoman Cooper stated that the Town has a Resource Center that the County built, and it might have some space available. Ms. Sheppard explained that they needed a kitchen to feed the community. In her understanding, the Town's Recreation Center refrigerator and other appliances might be working, and they can get them donated to the Recreation Center. Mayor Anthony stated she would have Mr. Durham check out the feasibility of doing something like this and thanked them for coming out.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Monthly Finance Report- Mr. David Erwin, Local Government Commission

Mayor Anthony stated that Mr. David Erwin could not attend the meeting, and they won't be getting an update on the Town's Finance Report.

b. Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

Mayor Anthony explained how Operation Green Light for Veterans started and read the Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans.

**Action:** No action was taken. The Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans will be added to the next agenda.

c. Proclamation-Fire Prevention Week (October 9-15, 2022)

Mayor Anthony asked Fire Chief Williams to come and tell everyone about Fire Prevention Week. Fire Chief Williams explained that Fire Prevention Week is very important for us because it just reminds everybody to make their homes as safe as possible by having working smoke alarms and a way out (exits). Chief Williams stated that the Fire Department crews installed over 3,000 smoke detectors in homes in Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony asked about did they ever give out the gift card to the working smoke detector. Chief Williams explained that their smoke detector did work, and won the \$100.00 gift card. The Fire Department will have another one coming up soon, and if they go to a resident in the Town and their smoke detectors are in working condition, they have a chance of winning a \$100.00 gas card.

d. Oath of Office, Interim Town Clerk Patricia Hickmon

Mayor Anthony administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Patricia Hickmon.

e. Oath of Office, Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman

Mayor Anthony administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Dysoaneik Spellman.

f. Audit Committee Update- Spring Lake Audit Committee

Alderman Palacios stated that the Audit Committee met on September 13, 2022, and he explained the purpose of the Audit Committee is to go over the audit and the tasks that we are responsible for completing from the audit that was released on March 17. Alderman Palacios stated that the 2023 Fiscal Accountability Agreement between the Town and the Local Government Commission had been modified. We are expected to have an updated Policy Handbook in the spring of 2023, and we have started the recruitment process for the next Town Manager and announcement sometime in October. We expect some important software updates within this fiscal year for internal controls, and the gas cards are all updated to link to individual Town vehicles.

Joe Durham explained that one of the findings in the audit was missing vehicles, and this came from the State Auditor. DMV shows that the Town has titles to one hundred sixty-five (165) vehicles and currently only owns sixty-eight (68) vehicles by visual inspection and cross-checking with records with the insurance with the League of Municipalities. Mr. Durham stated there is a significant difference between what the Town owns and what DMV shows and what the Town has titles to. That is a difference of ninety-seven (97) vehicles, which is from the careless and unsystematic record-keeping process for the acquisition and disposition of the Town motor vehicles, which has been happening for a long time. Mr. Durham showed a PowerPoint of what DMV has on their records, for example, a 1959 Ford F150, a 1962 International truck, and a 1971 Ford truck. He stated that the staff will finish up the report this week. Salvage vehicles with titles should have been transferred to the buyer, which did not occur. The State has an affidavit form to remove registered vehicles from DMV ownership records, and the Town staff will be completing the forms to have the ninety-seven (97) vehicles removed. Mr. Durham thanked the Town staff for their help. Mayor Anthony thanked Mr. Durham and the staff for the work, and this is one major bullet on the audit report that we can check off. Alderman Lackman thanked Mr. Durham and the staff for their hard work and the steps you put in place for the next Town Manager to have a blueprint moving forward.

Alderman Palacios stated that closed session minutes would be completed in October, including the recent closed session meetings. Alderman Palacios stated that there had been some discussion on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) and how the Town will try to put it to use of those but those discussions are behind the scenes.

g. Mayor's Report- Honorable Kia Anthony, Mayor

Mayor Anthony stated the events that have happened in the Town over the past couple of weeks, including a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. Mayor Anthony stated that she, Alderwoman Thompson, and Fire Chief Williams attended the grand opening of the FTCC Training Center.

Mayor Anthony stated that the retreat helped develop a realistic timeline and goals. Mayor Anthony read a rough draft of goals, and they are just getting started.

1. Create a financial management system and workplace that meets all the mandated requirements as well as creates a culture of transparency and accountability.
2. Build a competent, qualified, and ethical workforce who are committed to achieving goals and objectives.
3. Update and create policies, practices, and procedures that are consistent with the law and best practices.
4. Create a network of partners and stakeholders committed to working together in a collaborative and cooperative manner
5. Continue to understand and respect roles and responsibilities in the Council-Manager form of government.
6. Create the necessary infrastructure and develop opportunities to expand the tax base and generate new jobs.

Mayor Anthony stated that the candidate search for the Town Manager and Town Clerk is still ongoing. Mayor Anthony provided an update on the early voting site in Spring Lake and gave the dates and times when the voting site is open. Mayor Anthony thanked the Board of Elections and Ms. Irene Grimes. Mayor Anthony asked the citizen to prepare and take preventative measures for Hurricane Ian, which will make landfall in Florida on Wednesday.

#### h. Board of Aldermen Report

Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated that the School Board of Elections will be coming shortly. Please do your research and your homework because it is very important.

Alderman Palacios thanked the Appearance Commission for the logistics and planning for the recent Town cleanup that was held last week. Alderman Palacios thanked the Town's Department that helped and the donations from PWC and Morning Jump. Alderman Palacios thanked the citizens that came out to help clean up the Town. The next Appearance Commission meeting is on October 12, 2022.

Alderman Thompson stated that Bethel AME Zion Church had a Revive and Renew Us Community Outreach at Pope Plan Mobile Home Park this past Saturday. On September 21, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee had their meeting, and they are planning for Haunted Lakes on October 29 from 6 pm to 8 pm; more information is to come. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month, so make sure you schedule your screening.

Alderman Lackman asked Lt. Laster with the Spring Lake Fire Department to please stand up. Alderman Lackman explained that he and Alderman Thompson had the honor to see Lt. Laster participate in the Fort Bragg 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony to represent Spring Lake with all the other Departments and thanked Lt. Laster. Alderman Lackman stated that 400 pounds of trash were taken off the streets at the Town's Cleanup Event and thanked everybody who made this happen. Alderman Lackman stated with Hurricane Ian coming through this weekend, the cleanup is canceled for this Saturday. Please clean up your storm drain in front of your resident. That will help if the Town gets a lot of water through here.

Alderman Cooper thanked all of the Town staff and the first responders who have stuck in here through all these trials and tribulations and wanted them to know that it doesn't go unnoticed and that we appreciate each and every one of you. Alderman Cooper stated that she serves as a Director with the North Carolina League of Municipalities and just recently had a Board Director's meeting in Winston-Salem. One of the things mentioned at the meeting was that the League was given money to help small Towns and Cities with cybersecurity software and accounting software. Alderman Cooper stated she told the people working on software funds that the Town would like to be the first in line to benefit from that opportunity. Alderman Cooper stated she attended the National Nonpartisan Conversation on Voter Rights in Houston. She thanked the National League of Cities for sponsoring her to attend.

Alderman Cooper expressed that was important because the Town was just told that they were getting an early voting site, and we need all the tools to show Cumberland County that Spring Lake desires an early voting site. Alderman Cooper stated that Haunted Lakes will be accepting volunteers until October 10. Alderman Cooper stated that they are looking for members to join the Senior Advisory Committee.

Alderman Thompson stated that on October 2, 2022, at Mendoza Park, there will be a Grid Iron Cookoff from 12 pm to 10 pm.

i. Manager's Report

Mr. Durham stated that the Town has been working on Parks and Recreation for several months with the County and the City of Fayetteville and thanked the Town Attorney. Mr. Durham explained that the Town doesn't need an Interlocal Agreement and the Town doesn't need an Operational Agreement. Mr. Durham stated he has been working with the City of Fayetteville staff to determine the transition date and should hear something this week or next. Mr. Durham stated that the Board will do a Budget Amendment in November. Mr. Durham stated that the Town's Recreation Advisory Committee would be going away, and those members could serve on the County Board, but currently, there are no vacancies. Alderman Palacios asked if this would include the Senior Advisory Committee. Mr. Durham replied yes and thanked Alderman Palacios for reminding him of that.

j. Town Attorney Report

Mr. Porter thanked the County attorneys and the City of Fayetteville attorneys for helping with the transition with the Parks and Recreation. Mr. Porter stated that on September 6, 2022, LGC gave the final approval for the Development Agreement on Odell Road.

Mayor Anthony presented Mr. Durham with a plaque for his dedication and unwavering support to the Town as Interim Town Manager.

## **8. Closed Session**

a. Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel.

**Motion:** Alderman Cooper

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick  
**Vote:** Unanimous

Alderman Lackman made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick, to reconvene in open session. No action was taken.

**9. Adjournment**

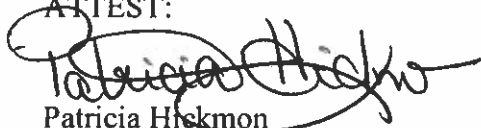
**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Thompson

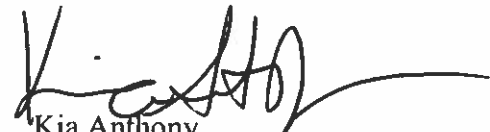
**Second by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

ATTEST:

  
Patricia Hickmon  
Interim Town Clerk



  
Kia Anthony  
Mayor