

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

December 12, 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 via Zoom
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Jason Williams, Spring Lake Fire Chief/Interim Town Manager
Michael Porter, Town Attorney
Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer/Clerk Trainer
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Dysoaneik Spellman, Police Chief
Sergeant K. Love, Police Department
Tim Garner, Director of Water Treatment Plant

1. Call to order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Reverend Michelle Long gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Aldermen Palacios requested to add b. Discussion of Financial Report under New Business.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of December 12, 2022, Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting agenda with amended additions or deletions.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Consent Items a. Draft Minutes of the November 28, 2022, Work Session Meeting and b. Draft Minutes of the December 6, 2022, Special Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

Ms. Crystal Johnson, 654 Goodyear Drive, stated the construction that is on Odell Road is affecting their telephone lines from her understanding. Requested someone please get back with her as several citizens on her block are stating the telephone lines keep going out for Centurylink.

Mr. Russell McPherson stated main reason he is here today is to make sure everything is clarified between the Boys & Girls Club. He is the one who is made sure you all received the payment, so when he saw the video, it kind of upset him. He stated that everything that was stated in the video was taken care of. Mr. McPherson stated that he wants us to know the contract issues since JC left, some contracts came late, but getting them done. There were a couple of years where some contracts were not done on time but went by the old contract. He stated the last contract they got, it did get delayed, as we were under new management, but making sure payments are on time. Mr. McPherson stated he wants everyone on the same accord as they are not behind. Mr. McPherson stated that people are coming to him at work about them apparently not making payments. Mr. McPherson stated if an invoice was not received, payment was still made and he has all that information in his email, if he needs to send it out to whoever. Mr. McPherson stated he came to make sure they were up in the Revenue Office, and they said we were. We did take care of that new invoice and sent out the check either last Thursday or Friday. Mr. McPherson stated that another issue he had was the Town stated people in the community wanted to use the building and anytime anybody ever came to the building wanted to do something in the community, I've never said no, even if he had a bunch of kids in the gym. He stated a schedule was set for people to come in, but no one came in and anytime anyone wants to use the gym, that's fine, but we need to communicate. He stated they are not hogging the building and when there are events, he and the kids are helping and wants to make sure they are always on good terms with the Town.

Ms. Fredricka Sutherland stated she first wanted to address Chief Williams, by serving on the Board, it was never known during a Christmas party, that the Town was closed. Ms. Sutherland stated when citizens, including herself, were at the door, she was surprised it was locked. Ms. Sutherland thanked Chief Williams for coming out and apologizing, but wants the facility always opened for the citizens during business hours. Ms. Sutherland stated maybe think about it but Christmas parties should be on our own time, not on the Towns time. Ms. Sutherland explained some history of the Boys and Girls Club and she spoke with Mr. Don Williams, who she served with on the Partnership for Children, to get the Boys and Girls Club to come here. Ms. Sutherland expressed she was happy about bringing the Boys and Girls Club here and getting the three (3) votes after several times of bringing it to the Board, and they denied it. Ms. Sutherland stated the Boys and Girls Club is a reputable worldwide facility that helps boys and girls in the community and their parents. Ms. Sutherland stated it was an embarrassment to her when it was stated that the Boys and Girls Club were behind, and I knew there were not behind. Ms. Sutherland stated that she wants Spring Lake to have a great reputation with our Boys and Girls Club, work with them, uplift them, and regardless of their race, creed, etc., always respect them and what they do for the Town, as well as their working parents. Ms. Sutherland addressed the Christmas Tree Lighting and understands the Town is short money, but seen some new flags, but recalls having Christmas festivities down HWY 210 on the poles, however, they're only here on Ruth Street. Ms. Sutherland stated when citizens come up to tell you these things, it is not personal, it is always professional; we learn

from one another. Ms. Sutherland stated she was glad that street sweep has been out and asked Chief Williams to make sure it serves the whole Town of Spring Lake. Ms. Sutherland states that the trash and the debris has not been picked up in a couple of weeks, and is still present on Spring Avenue.

7. Presentation

a. Recognition for Manchester Elementary School – Principal Hannah Gray

Principal Hannah Gray was not present and no presentation was made. Ms. Crystal Johnson stepped in her place and stated Manchester Elementary School exceeded academic growth due to the EOG scoring and is no longer a low-performing school. Mayor Anthony commended the students, staff, and faculty at Manchester Elementary School.

8. New Business

a. Resolution (2022) 9 Authorizing Signatures for First Note Modification Agreement and Modification of Deed of Trust for the Fire Station – Michael Porter, Town Attorney

Attorney Porter explained that the Resolution expands the maturity date from 2030 to 2039 which was a request that was made before he came on board and it gives the town nine (9) more years to get things done. Also stated that it does result in some more interest, but overall, it is a good move. Alderman Lackman stated as we started crunching numbers, he sees necessary steps to allow the Town flexibility to continue with the path we are on to fund this Fire Station. Appreciates all the efforts and the ability to continue what we can do. Alderman Palacios stated he sees a first payment due in October and asked if it has been taken care of. Attorney Porter stated he did not have that information, however, Chief Williams stated that payment was taken care of. Alderman Palacios wanted to clarify that yearly payments were going from \$125K to \$55K and stated Alderman Lackman's point for the purpose of us getting our finances back in order.

Action: The Board approved a motion to carry the Resolution (2022) 9 Authorizing Signatures for First Note Modification Agreement and Modification of Deed of Trust for the Fire Station.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

b. Discussion of Financial Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen

Alderman Palacios stated we have not had any financial reports for September, October, and November and we are not going to meet again until next month. Alderman Palacios asked Mrs. Patricia Hickmon if any update has been received from Mr. Erwin. Mrs. Hickmon stated we have not. Alderman Palacios stated the last communication was Mr. Erwin was going to work on getting us an update this week, so obviously, that has not happened, and asked if anyone has an update on the audit that was due on December 1, 2022. Mayor Anthony stated there were no financial updates. Alderman Palacios stated he wanted to bring that to the public's attention that we are waiting on financial reports. Alderwoman Cooper added to Alderman Palacios point that not having these reports prevents the other communities from having their monthly or bi-monthly meetings, so makes it hard for us to stay on top of our spending and where we are in our budget.

c. Oath of Office, Town Clerk Carly Autry – Honorable Kia Anthony, Mayor

Mayor Anthony administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Carly Autry.

Mayor Anthony and the Board of Aldermen presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Patricia Hickmon for stepping in as Interim Town Clerk and she was also given an award for her services to the Town of Spring Lake.

d. Mayor's Report – Honorable Kia Anthony, Mayor

Mayor Anthony stated we did receive an answer from the LGC in regards to the approval of Ms. Justine Jones' contract and it was denied, so we are having to re-open the process to start our manager search over. We are going to have to assume the cost again and we will keep you updated as more things come to light. Mayor Anthony stated there will be no meeting for the end of this month due to Christmas.

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

Alderwoman Cooper thanked Alderman Palacios for the pins that he had made for us.

Alderman Palacios wanted to remind the public that January 11, 2023 is the next Appearance Committee meeting. There is an opening on the Committee, so if there is a citizen that is interested, is welcome to get with Ms. Sutherland or himself. Alderman Palacios stated the Police Department did Shop with a Cop this past weekend and wanted to thank those who contributed their time or finances to help fund that and appreciated the Police Department and staff that helped organize that and Wal-Mart, as well. He stated this is a yearly event that they do and thanked Chief Spellman.

Alderwoman Thompson stated on December 15, 2022, there will be a community meeting with the Police Department at Ruby Tuesday at 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm at 215 S. Bragg Blvd. in Spring Lake. Alderwoman Thompson also attended Breakfast with Santa this past Saturday at the Spring Lake Recreation Center and thanked the Spring Lake Kiwanis Club for putting that event together. Alderwoman Thompson stated on Christmas Eve at 111 N. Bragg Blvd. in Spring Lake, which is Cornerstone Christian Empowerment Center, they will be having a community Christmas Carol and everyone is invited to come out from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Alderman Lackman thanked Chief Spellman and the other police officers for Shop with a Cop as he was also able to participate. Alderman Lackman stated that twelve (12) families got to have a wonderful Christmas coming up this year due to Chief Spellman's leadership, all the other police officers that were involved and the anonymous donors. Alderman Lackman stated as we go forward with the Town Manager search, as a Board, we are still learning and these are things that we want to make sure that we get right, so we are going to open that search back up and will hire the most qualified person that we can bring in here. Alderman Lackman stated it is a buyer's market out there and will give us the chance to showcase Spring Lake for what it should be and what it will be again. Alderman Lackman stated the Town's appearance has gotten so much better and thanked Mr. Williams. Alderman Lackman stated he has had people contact him and say that efforts are out there to make things better and people are seeing leadership and seeing what is taking place. Alderman Lackman stated the monthly clean-up is something he started introducing last year with Alderman Palacios and Alderwoman Thompson. Alderman Lackman stated 179 bags of trash which was over 3,260 pounds, was collected off the streets of Spring Lake and that is one (1) ton and a half of trash. Alderman Lackman stated he always likes to learn, and to him, we learn from our past and we are building towards our future and 2023 here we come. Alderman Lackman stated on the day after tomorrow, which would be Wednesday, December 14th, there is a small group, including himself, that is going over to Elizabeth City, N.C. to complete a story that should have never happened And Ms. Gay Tucker is going to be sentenced to prison and to the Residents out there, this is for you!

f. Manager's Report – Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager

Mr. Williams stated the Board, the Mayor, and the people that work in this town, really want to earn back the trust of citizens and working hard to do that. Mr. Williams stated that the Street Department is out there and they are busting their tails cleaning these streets up and running the sweeper. Mr. Williams stated he is trying to get them more equipment so they can patch holes and Chief Spellman is trying to put more patrols out there, to make the Town safer. Mr. Williams stated that he talked with DOT a couple of times and they are going to put the lights up around the bridge. Mr. Williams stated it is important for the citizens to give us feedback. Mr. Williams stated when Tim has a water leak, he does tell us, but, what we have not done, is inform the people around there that this has happened and if it is an emergency, we will be sending Fire and Police to those areas to announce it and let the people in the area know that it will be down for a little bit. Mr. Williams stated he thinks there may have been some miscommunication somewhere regarding the Boys and Girls Club and we had all copies of the checks, so we knew they were paid up. Mr. Williams stated it was just a contract that was the problem. Mr. Williams stated himself, the Mayor, and LGC will be meeting with Fayetteville Parks and Recreation on January 9, 2023, and are going to clear everything up, meaning what is allowed and what is not allowed, whose paying for what, and will report that afterwards.

Mayor Pro tem Chadwick mentioned a friendly reminder, that December 20, 2022 is a Happy Day at school for the children.

Mr. Williams added one last issue about the phone systems, for some reason, are jacked up, and currently we are trying to get with the company to fix that, so if you call in and do not get ahold of somebody, be patient with us as we are trying to get the company to come back and we will get that fixed so it will get to somebody.

g. Town Attorney Report – Michael Porter, Town Attorney

Attorney Porter stated the last special session, he was authorized to move forward to file a petition to seek a writ of mandamus regarding getting action out of the LGC. Attorney Porter stated before we can do that, we finally did get the sought-after letter from Treasurer Folwell and from the LGC, so he made the executive decision to not do anything. Attorney Porter stated there has been no litigation filed and it was a rather long letter and within it, Treasurer Folwell finally did say he, as the Treasurer and the chairman of the LGC, was directing Mr. Erwin to not sign the pre-audit certification and he would not authorize him to do that, so we finally got the answer we needed and that is all we wanted.

8. Closed Session

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.1 1(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege and pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.1 1(A)(6) – Personnel.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to come back into open session. No action was taken.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Palacios stated that we decided to open back up the Town Manager position and will be reviewing it by Friday and Monday it will be posted.

9. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.


Motion: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous



Kia Anthony
Mayor



ATTES
Carly Autry
Town Clerk