

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

February 3, 2023

MINUTES

8:08 am

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a special meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Kia Anthony presiding.

Board Members Present:

Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Representative Frances Jackson, Ph.D. Democrat – District 45
Representative Marvin W. Lucas, Democrat – District 42
Representative Charles Smith, Democrat – District 44
Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager
Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator

1. Call to order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Representative Marvin W. Lucas gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Open Session – Cumberland County Delegations Meeting

Mayor Anthony started by thanking the Representatives for coming to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

The purpose of this meeting was to meet with the Cumberland County Delegation Representatives regarding funds for the following projects:

1. Stormwater/Sewer Infrastructure
2. Transportation
3. Main Street Revitalization
4. Electronic Vehicles – Charging Stations
5. Mutzberg Project

The Cumberland County Representatives have requested the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to provide a detailed estimate for these projects to help the delegation field determine where this money is going. Representative Charles Smith stated it would also be good to provide photos, especially of roads that need repairing. Representative Frances Jackson stated a Capital Project Plan may also be helpful. Representative Jackson stated a map or layout of where the projects are located could also be beneficial to submit. Also requested, for budgeting purposes, is an itemized list.

Mayor Anthony stated we received a \$500,000 grant for engineers to come in and do a survey to identify these major projects and the agency was just approved. Mayor Anthony stated she has spoken to FAMPO (Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) concerning infrastructure funding that they had but most of it is matching and with us not having the funding to match, certainly not possible.

Alderwoman Cooper clarified to the Representatives that the Town of Spring Lake does not own Hillside Cemetery. Mayor Anthony stated there are caskets that are sticking out of the ground due to erosion, and a few years ago, the Town paid money to have 4 or 5 caskets reburied due to them falling out of the ground.

Alderwoman Cooper stated the Board plans to work on the Capital Plan this year.

Alderman Lackman stated that we are working to rebuild our relationship with Fort Bragg and provide quality of life for these service members, and their family members while they are downrange or here, so Spring Lake is their home, so the Board is diligently trying to rebuild that relationship with Fort Bragg. Alderman Lackman stated if the money comes to Spring Lake, it will be spent with people's tax dollars in mind, so it will not be spent in a negative manner. Mayor Anthony stated we looked at this budget, not as legislators, but as taxpayers, and we want to make sure that we are spending money wisely, responsibly, and cautiously. Mayor Anthony stated she, Alderman Palacios, and Alderwoman Cooper are part of the Audit Committee and they have been working with the budget, and with their audit findings, and they are proud of it. Mayor Anthony stated Alderman Lackman, Alderwoman Thompson, and Mayor Pro tem Chadwick will start looking at the policy book, line by line.

Representative Lucas stated the government looks at traffic movement especially as it relates to the military movement. Representative Lucas stated this town exists because of the military, so you have got to consider what the Feds want, however, it might be a wise idea to talk to the Feds. Representative Lucas stated that Spring Lake already has permission to annex Fort Bragg. Mayor Anthony stated another tax evaluation will be coming up in 2025 with value-added businesses and new housing developments. Mayor Anthony mentioned voting issues, but if we annex, it could help with voting for the residents that live in Harnett County Spring Lake.

Mayor Anthony stated we got to get more reasons for people to come to Spring Lake, like finding some sort of attractions. Mayor Anthony stated putting shops or eateries on Main Street, places that are going to attract tourists. Mayor Anthony stated there are developers who want to support a medical complex on Main Street, so now our residents will have access to the doctor, as there are not many doctors in Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated we want to bring life back to Main Street, giving people a reason to stop. Mayor Anthony stated even a Technology Art Museum has been looked at possibly for Main Street, which could bring a huge draw for a younger community. Mayor Anthony stated we could attract millennials, so let's cater to that, let's use that as a tool to bring them here. Mayor Anthony stated Main Street is wide open for pretty much any sort of provided events, and it is the perfect veer off between Fort Bragg and Highway 87/210. Alderman Lackman stated if we partnered with Fort Bragg and put a medical clinic here, that would help alleviate part of that traffic flow on Fort Bragg and helps provide stability, and a medical need for those service family members that are here. Mr. Williams stated the good thing about this meeting is the Representative see that we are very passionate about what we want to do so we need their voice so people see that Spring Lake is changing. Alderman Palacios stated we are trying

to have our first mural here in town this year on Main Street, and in hopes of kicking a long-term plan for that and getting more interest started back up on Main Street. Alderman Palacios stated having a Capital Improvement Project for our Main Street corridor is a very important place to put in our future and our citizens' minds.

Mayor Anthony stated if we start putting these EV charging stations, eventually, we can change our fleet over to EVs and save money and they are also environmentally friendly. Mayor Anthony stated that Deanna Rosario is working with Charge Point to get six (6) EV charging stations to Spring Lake right now so if the town can tap into that anymore with some State assistance, that would be beneficial.

Mayor Anthony stated the Mutzberg Project is going to be a costly project but what it would do for Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated Spring Lake has an unofficial kind of natural outdoorsy reputation, with a state park, and hiking, fishing, kayaking, and walking trails. Mayor Anthony stated we wanted to put in a dog park and other amenities that already ties into what we have here naturally.

Alderwoman Thompson stated that she might have something that may bring a little money to Spring Lake. Alderwoman Thompson stated she knows there is an issue within Spring Lake where tractor-trailers have nowhere to park, so if we could pave a piece of land and charge these tractor-trailers overnight parking or parking in general versus them parking in places like the parking lots of stores or neighborhoods, that may generate a little something.

Mayor Anthony stated Spring Lake is a diamond in the rough and we need the Representatives to help us apply pressure. Mayor Anthony stated we have a Strategic Planning Session coming up and we are meeting with all department heads next week (Thursday, 2/9/23) to discuss the spending of ARPA money, and we are seeing what it is specifically what they need.

Alderwoman Cooper stated we have citizens who are complaining about the response time from the Sheriff's Department and that could be something we could look into.

Mayor Anthony stated that we are looking into getting a Planner. Representative Jackson stated that she is impressed with the ideas that we have and she does have more questions but will wait for our next presentation to discuss those. Mayor Anthony stated we will get another presentation together as soon as possible.

Once the Representatives departed the meeting, Mayor Anthony asked for feedback. All stated the meeting was very successful.

Alderwoman Cooper stated Annexations need to be worked on as soon as possible and mentioned cost-saving opportunities.

Mayor Anthony stated the LGC (Local Government Commission) approved the funds for a Grant Writer, mentioned mini-grants, and the T-Mobile meeting with possible new opportunities. Mayor Anthony stated on April 14th, a decision will be made about the Sales Tax Interlocal Agreement.

Alderman Lackman mentioned the Reclamation Church doing four (4) clean-ups.

Mr. Williams and Alderman Palacios discussed the Adopt-A-Street program.

Mr. Williams mentioned the T-Mobile meeting concerning hot spots and cameras. Mr. Williams also talked about some concerns with water meters.

4. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Motion: Alderman Lackman

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST



Carly Autry
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony
Mayor