

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

January 23, 2023

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 Soña Cooper  
Alderman Marvin Lackman  
Alderman Raul Palacios  
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

**Others Present:**

Jason Williams, Spring Lake Fire Chief/Interim Town Manager  
Carly Autry, Town Clerk  
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator  
Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer/Clerk Trainer  
Dysoaneik Spellman, Police Chief  
Office Hernandez, Police Department  
David Erwin, Local Government Commission

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Pastor Rob Miller, his wife Adrienne, and his two (2) daughters gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Additions or Deletions**

Mayor Anthony added two (2) Presentations under agenda item 7a. Wreaths Across America and 7b. Spring Lake Military Veterans Advisory Committee for Mr. Charles Miller – Alderman Lackman. Mayor Anthony added under New Business agenda item 8a. Water Outage Update – Mr. Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Action: Approval of the agenda with the amended additions to add two (2) Presentations under agenda item 7a. Wreaths Across America and item 7b. Spring Lake Military Veterans Advisory Committee for Mr. Charles Miller – Alderman Lackman, and added agenda item 8a. Water Outage Update – Mr. Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager, under New Business.

Motion by: Alderman Lackman  
Second by: Alderwoman Cooper  
Vote: Unanimous

#### 5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of the draft minutes of January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting, and Appearance and Sustainability Committee Application – Mr. William M. Bryant.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper  
Second by: Alderman Palacios  
Vote: Unanimous

#### 6. Public Comment

Ms. Crystal Johnson, 654 Goodyear Drive, stated she has a few concerns about Odell Road. Ms. Johnson started by saying thank you for contacting her concerning her previous concerns regarding Odell Road, but now, you can hardly get in and out of Odell Road. Ms. Johnson stated that there are a lot of holes. Mr. Williams stated he will address her concerns during the Town Manager Report.

Danielle White, 1428 Milton Street, asked if there was a date on the calendar for the officers of the Spring Lake Police Department to take a sensitivity training course. Ms. White stated on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, which was Thursday, she was parked outside of the front door of Dollar Tree located on Lillington Highway at approximately 8:20 pm. Ms. White stated she was waiting on her 16-year-old son to purchase some items. Ms. White stated as she sat there listening to music with her windows down on this unseasonably warm evening, she noticed a young man exiting the store and heading down the sidewalk, and shortly after, she noticed a police officer running in and out of the store. Mr. White stated the police officer stated he went down there in the van and at this time, he was standing beside her car near the roadway, and shortly thereafter, her son came out of the store and the police officer eyeballed her son as he got into her vehicle. Ms. White stated once they left the store, they went to Taco Bell and when they left Taco Bell, she realized that she needed to get something from the corner store, so she turned around in the Zaxbys parking lot to go back to where the corner store was. Ms. White stated once she parked, she was digging in her pocketbook to get money out, she was boxed in by police cars and a female officer appeared in her window and started to question her asking her if she was okay. Ms. Milton stated that she asked the police officer what was she talking about because she clearly had no idea what she was talking about. Ms. Milton stated as they were exchanging words, the female police officer stated that she followed her from Taco Bell and saw that she turned around in the Zaxbys parking lot and turned around and came back to the store, and asked if she was lost. Ms. Milton stated that she told the female police officer that she must be new here. Mayor Anthony asked Ms. Milton to be mindful of her time. Ms. Milton stated that she has been here for over 45 years and there were three officers behind her vehicle, a Kia Optima, not a van. Ms. Milton stated this whole situation could have been rectified with a simple good evening ma'am can I ask you a few questions, however, she was approached in a very abrasive way. Ms. Milton stated that she has been a telecommunicator for the Spring Lake Police Department for almost a year, did dispatch, was a Community Representative at the Recreation Department, and was a partner of the Recreation Advisory Committee. Ms. Milton stated that she was embarrassed, humiliated, and scared for her child and she must counsel him and has been since Thursday to get him to get right from knowing that he did not do anything wrong.

## 7. Presentations

- a. Wreaths Across America – Ann, Location Director for Wreaths Across America at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery – Ms. Ann said they wanted to come and say thank you to the Town of Spring Lake for all the support for their events. Ms. Ann stated Chief knows how helpful they have been with them for the past several years to this past year. Ms. Ann stated they always requisition vehicles from Ft. Bragg but found out 24 hours before the ceremony that they were not coming, so they put a call out to the public, and the public showed up in full force and they were very grateful they had so many vehicles, that they did not have enough wreaths to fill them all. Ms. Ann presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Town of Spring Lake in recognition of outstanding efforts in helping to further the mission to remember, honor, and teach for Sandhill State Veterans Cemetery.

Mayor Anthony stated a few details about that day. Mayor Anthony stated we put the call out the night before for people in the community, if they had trucks or trailers, to come out and help us get these wreaths to the cemetery, and by that morning, we had trucks wrapped around the back parking lot and all the way down Ruth Street, almost to the corner. Mayor Anthony stated that in 24 hours, the residents of Spring Lake and the surrounding area came through, and they really showed their love and support and honored our veterans in a major way. Mayor Anthony stated the way it brought the community together, the love and camaraderie, the spirit of Christmas, and the togetherness out there was amazing. Mayor Anthony thanked all the citizens who came out on very short notice to take care of Spring Lake and regions across America. Alderman Palacios asked if the staging for that day was supposed to be here on Town property as he saw a conflicting Facebook post saying the staging was supposed to be at the commissary. Ms. Ann stated that was incorrect. Alderman Palacios stated he wanted to know for future reference and invited them back to do it again at Town Hall. Ms. Ann stated if willing to do it for 2025, she already has the dates. Mayor Anthony stated they want to be involved in the planning, and the logistics, not just the staging area.

- b. Spring Lake Military Veterans Advisory Committee to honor Mr. Charles Miller – Alderman Lackman stated back on Veterans Day, we were going to honor Mr. Charlie Miller, however, an issue happened during that time. Alderman Lackman stated Mr. Miller's story came to him and being part of the Military Veterans Advisory Committee and being a Veteran himself, his story really touched him. Alderman Lackman welcomed Mr. Miller back and read a snippet into Retired Sergeant Major Miller's biography, as it is very touching. Alderman Lackman thanked Mr. Miller for all that he did while serving this great nation and continuing to serve. Alderman Lackman presented him with a gift from him and his wife, Mrs. Lackman, and from Armand and his wife from the American Legion, to tell him thank you for everything he has done for us, our service members, present, past, and current. Alderman Lackman presented him with a coin, a Veterans plaque, and a handmade quilt. Mr. Charlie Miller thanked everybody who participated in this presentation.

## 8. New Business

- a. Water Outage Update – Interim Town Manager, Mr. Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated if anybody lives in the Deerfield area, for some reason, they knew at 11 o'clock the night before, there was no water and called it in. Mr. Williams stated the water department jumped on it and

was out there all-night working, trying to get everything done, and was finished up at about 1:00 pm this afternoon. Mr. Williams stated we had a water main bust. Mr. Williams stated he wished there was a better way to get the message out and he is working on that. Mr. Williams stated he, the Mayor, and Board Members are talking about a way to get more information out to the citizens more quicker. Mr. Williams stated the water pressure is still a little low if you live out there and they are working on that because they had to reroute the water to see if they could still get some because they did not want anyone to be without water until it was totally fixed. Mr. Williams stated to make sure that you boil your water, especially if you are going to consume it, for at least one (1) minute. Mr. Williams thanked the amazing water department for working on this issue all night and for doing a great job.

- b. Financial Report Update – Mr. David Erwin, Local Government Commission – Mr. Erwin apologized for not giving a Financial Report update sooner. Mr. Erwin stated by looking at revenues that were under 50% and expenditures that were over 50%. Mr. Erwin stated in the report, the expenditure percentage includes what is expended and what is encumbered. Mr. Erwin stated what we always look at in December and particularly in January, is the property taxes and they appear to be coming in well. Mr. Erwin stated he talked with Ms. Debra Mack and she stated in the Capital Management trust, which is where the revenues from the county land, there was a million-dollar deposit, and the majority of that was property tax but there were probably some stormwater fees in that also. Mr. Erwin stated property taxes do appear to be coming in as anticipated, however, there are some sales tax concerns coming up. Mr. Erwin stated the taxes right now are about 27-28 percent and there is a time lag between when they are collected and when they are distributed and it is about two and a half months, so the fact that they are showing a little over a quarter of the annual budget is nothing to be alarmed about just because of the time lag, as this is the timing difference. Mr. Erwin stated sales tax across the state has been strong, so he anticipates we will meet that budget by year-end. Mr. Erwin stated the interest income is astoundingly good and the Capital Management trust has been a higher percentage since the interest rates have gone up and since balances are up, we are accruing and posting quite a bit of interest in all the funds. Mr. Erwin stated overall the general funds are about 39% of the revenue budget but the major revenues are coming in as expected, so he thinks the Town is fine from where we are at this point in the year. Mr. Erwin stated on the expenditure side, the finance department budgets, but at about 55%, which we need to do some analysis on that. Mr. Erwin stated when they did that budget for the year, the plan was 50% consultants, which is Greg Isley staff, and then 50% staff because they thought they would get into hiring but we had not gotten there yet, so we will have to retake a look at exactly how we are going to find that for the rest of the year, maybe a budget amendment in the Spring. Mr. Erwin stated Human Resources and IT/Communications, those departments are considered overhead, as they incur costs for all departments. Mr. Erwin stated it is a part of what we will do that has not been done yet, so the cost of those departments will be redistributed to the front-line department. Mr. Erwin stated right now, Human Resources look to be way over budget, but will not be once we allocate those calls to the front-line department. Mr. Erwin stated we still got the revenue and senior building budgets in there. Mr. Erwin stated they had a virtual meeting with the Cumberland County Fayetteville Parks group and as we finalize those numbers, these will get adjusted. Mr. Erwin stated we want to make sure that we anticipated in the budget by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 that they were going to be taking over, however, that did not happen until November 15<sup>th</sup>, so we did not

create a budget in this year's budget. Mr. Erwin stated it should be on average right now but that will be finalized and adjusted once we get the end game on those numbers. Mr. Erwin stated overall the general funds are at about 46% of the budget, which is looking good. Mr. Erwin stated all the funds are in black except Fleet Maintenance, which is another posting entry that we got to do. Mr. Erwin stated the water-sewer fund is doing good on the actual revenue minus expenditures. Mr. Erwin stated there is almost a million dollars worth of busted water pipes, which will not help that much, but at least we have reserves that will take care of things like that. Mr. Erwin stated Ms. Debra Mack is a bulldog with the budget and that is a good thing because we all are learning good budget habits and don't commit until we check the budget. Mr. Erwin stated the stormwater fund and sanitation fund are looking fine. Mr. Erwin stated there are 7.6 million dollars in the trust account and we are building up some reserves, but we were in a deficit position, so that is good, however, that 7.6 million dollars are spoken for. Mr. Erwin stated that money is not part of all the funds, the journal fund, public utilities, stormwater, and sanitation, and we really need to study the budget to understand how we are spending that money, but the face this it is a good balance in earning interest and that is a real plus, compared to things two (2) or three (3) years ago.

Mayor Anthony thanked Mr. Erwin for the update and started with Alderwoman Cooper with questions. Alderwoman Cooper stated Ms. Debra Mack sent her expenditures for July through November and it included \$190,000 worth of expenses payable to Greg Isley and asked where is that money coming from because she does not see it in our budget. Mr. Erwin stated it is under the finance department and that is one of the reasons for the higher percentage. Alderwoman Cooper stated we did not budget \$190,000 and Mr. Erwin stated we budgeted for consultants. Alderwoman Cooper stated she sees \$167,000 for Professional Services and then saw \$111,796 for salary and wages and was really concerned about that because that means the whole wedge is pretty much spent now because we were in December and asked if we were still paying in January. Mr. Erwin stated yes, that is one of the things we are going to analyze, and back in the Spring, they were going to help us get a manager, and the manager was to help get a Finance Director and then we get some staff, however, that has not happened as we thought for various reasons. Alderwoman Cooper stated we need to visit that right away because at five (5) months, almost \$200,000, we must find savings immediately. Alderwoman Cooper stated she keeps seeing these LGC memos at the bottom of every department and asked Mr. Erwin what that is. Mr. Erwin stated that is how the allocation of the overhead costs is being treated on the ledger and Ms. Debra Mack named it LGC memo because we recommend it to be allocated to user departments. Alderwoman Cooper stated she sees it illegal. Mr. Erwin stated legal gets allocated out to the user departments. Alderwoman Cooper stated the other question she had with legal was that it looks like the whole amount is at 100% and if that is because that is what our encumbrance is. Mr. Erwin stated yes it was encumbered and that we had to do a budget transfer to fund that total monthly cost for 12 months, but will do an analysis of that finance cost. Mayor Anthony asked what is an appropriate amount to finance staff for a town our size. Mr. Erwin stated the finance officers will probably be between \$50,000-\$70,000 a year with benefits and then you got an accountant and that is going to be \$40,000-\$50,000. Mr. Erwin stated he will look at the league salary studies and get a range for our size town and let us know what that is. Alderman Palacios asked if there was some talk about possibly going ahead and starting the finance department, filling those vacancies, and if there was any development on that, any thought, and are ready to do that. Alderman Palacios also asked

if there is a plan to still manage the Finance Director and then staff. Mr. Erwin stated it would probably be better to get a manager and have them participate in the hiring of the finance officer but we have talked about possibly going ahead and looking at some of the lower Finance positions to save some money. Alderman Palacios stated it will be a huge delay in getting the other vacancies filled and thanked Mr. Erwin for clarifying the sales tax as it is about three (3) months behind when there's money coming in. Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Erwin if the sales tax revenues around the holidays will come in probably the next month or so and asked if the Powell Bill funds come in yet. Mr. Erwin stated those funds come in quarterly. Alderman Palacios stated he saw a huge jump in the restricted inter-government and asked if that be the Powell Bill and Mr. Erwin stated yes. Alderman Palacios stated Mr. Erwin clarified the Parks and Recreation numbers will be adjusted and asked if there is an update on our audit. Mr. Erwin stated he talked about that today (Monday 1/23/23) with Debra Mack and Sylvia because they are ready to talk to the auditors about coming in because the 630-22 balances are not perfect yet, but they are getting there. Mr. Erwin stated the auditors can come in and start doing their fieldwork on the balances, and Sylvia has done an enormous amount of reconciliation on the bank accounts and those are a lot better than they were, so we are going to move forward on getting that audit started. Alderman Palacios asked what is the reasonable time frame we are going to ask them to come in. Mr. Erwin stated 30 to 60 days. Alderman Palacios stated he assumes that we have approval for the delay that we already have in submitting our audit that was due on December 1, 2022, and Mr. Erwin stated yes. Alderman Palacios asked if our bank reconciliations are up to date as of December 31, 2022, and Mr. Erwin stated yes. Alderman Palacios asked when will we start the budget process for 2023. Mr. Erwin stated last year had the COG (Councils of Government) staff do the budget but we are not doing that this year and Debra Mack is going to be internally involved. Mr. Erwin stated he and Debra Mack talked earlier today about trying to get a budget calendar in early February. Alderman Palacios stated he was hoping that there was a lot more involvement, which he knows we were in a funky kind of situation last year and that is why we had the COG (Councils of Government) doing it. Alderman Palacios stated positive pay is an automated system our bank offers to review and catch check fraud, which has been a major red flag for Spring Lake, and at the last presentation in October, Mr. Erwin said we were close to having this system automated and asked if it is automated and Mr. Erwin stated no, it is not, however, there is a work ticket out with the bank and with the software provider and Truist changed the whole back end in our software provider, ICS. Alderman Lackman stated several of his questions were answered but the one thing that he would like to see is with a town this size, plan A. was to build from the top down but since we are running into issues on that, he would like to see the finance department to hire techs and clerks in here so that we can get that ground floor built so we can turn this town back into what it is supposed to be. Alderman Lackman stated the other aspect was the audit, which has been a sore point here in Spring Lake, so he wants to make sure that our citizens know that we are working on this and that we need to come up with a good plan so that we can address this so that we can get out from this black cloud that we have got here. Mr. Erwin stated the 630-22 audit will give us firm numbers to stand on so that is what we are driving towards. Mayor Anthony stated two (2) things with the budget process and asked Mr. Erwin if we can please make sure that we get some input as we know that the LGC (Local Government Commission) is the final approving authority for the budget but we had no input at all so at least for our learning asked if we can have some say so input can be present. Mr. Erwin stated yes and maybe a work session in late February or early March to talk about the big picture

like what your goals are and things like that. Mayor Anthony stated we are looking to do a second strategic planning session with Paul Meyer again and of course, LGC will be there, and if we can co-mingle those two (2), that way we go into our strategic planning session with some ideas on what our budget's going to look like, it will help us zero in on those goals a bit more. Mr. Erwin stated we are still massaging the ARPA money as far as revenue recognition and that is concluding, so we can work that possibly in there also with some planning. Mayor Anthony stated we budgeted \$60,000 for the auditors and last year it was only \$17,000 and asked why the huge leap. Mr. Erwin stated originally that was for ten (10) years. Alderwoman Cooper stated it is approximately \$30,000 for each audit and Mr. Erwin stated that is what we were ballparking it at but for the 2021 audit, we are not doing it because it was a lot of 630-22. Mr. Erwin stated he thinks we will not spend the whole \$60,000 but it may be because they got all the beginning of the year numbers because they did not audit them for 2021. Mr. Erwin stated there is a little extra work in there, but it will probably be in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 dollar range if that much. Alderwoman Cooper stated there are some old contracts that we have in existence and one of the things that we wanted to look at in this budget was new contracts, so that is one of the reasons why we want input because there is a lot of redundancy in our budget and we feel like we can reach out to some vendors and combine some of this to save money. Mr. Erwin stated one of the biggest items is salaries and benefits, so the sooner we can start looking at benefits and we can look at different options, particularly the healthcare spectrum.

- c. Cumberland County and Municipalities – Interlocal Sales Tax Agreement – Honorable Kia Anthony, Mayor – Mayor Anthony stated we discussed this at the last meeting, but wanted to go over it again. Mayor Anthony stated the documents were long and the Board received digital copies of the interlocal agreements as well as the past agreements starting back from 2003 to current. Mayor Anthony stated basically what it is, the Cumberland County Commissioners are looking to change the sales tax collection from per capita to ad valorem distribution, and what that is, is right now, we are paying our sales tax based on population and they want to move it to ad valorem, and this is where all municipalities would participate, even the ones who are not right now currently paying our participation in sales tax, and they would now be paying into our sales tax. Mayor Anthony stated there have been amendments requested since 2000 and another amendment requested in 2009, 2013, 2016, and again in 2019. Mayor Anthony stated in each of those times, the interlocal agreement to remain at per capita sales tax was extended by five (5) years. Mayor Anthony stated municipalities would be directly impacted by the change of the sales tax distribution method because every tax district would share in the ad valorem method of distribution including those districts that do not share under the per capita method of distribution. Mayor Anthony stated the County Commissioners are electing to change the sales tax distribution and it would result in a substantial increase in the sales tax distribution to the county with proportionate decreases in the sales tax distribution to the municipalities. Mayor Anthony stated Spring Lake is looking to lose roughly 1.4 million dollars in sales tax revenue with the change from per capita to ad valorem. Mayor Anthony stated she is requesting the Board to sign a new interlocal agreement and this interlocal agreement was distributed to all nine (9) of the Cumberland County municipalities. Mayor Anthony stated all the Mayors and the last Mayors Coalition meeting got together to discuss this and unanimously decided that an extension would be simply required because Cumberland County has suffered through two (2) major storms as well as a global pandemic and right now we're

trying to get everything back on track so they are requesting another extension and that would be instead of them voting on that on July 1, 2023, they will be taking the vote on switching from per capita to ad valorem on June 30, 2029. Mayor Anthony stated she is requesting again that our governing body approve this interlocal agreement, so, at the Mayor's Coalition, we as a county can petition our Commissioners to extend this interlocal agreement allowing us more time to make sure that we can budget for this process appropriately. Alderman Palacios asked if this was the draft that was submitted at the last meeting, January 9th, and needed to be approved now. Mayor Anthony stated correct, the Cumberland County Commissioners are looking to vote on this as early as February 23<sup>rd</sup>, so we want to get the resolution signed by all the municipalities prior to their February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the signatures for this interlocal agreement.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro tem Chadwick

**Second by:** Alderman Palacios

**Vote:** Unanimous

Mr. Erwin came up to the podium and stated if the Commissioners did vote on the change, the earliest it could be implemented would be the 2024-2025 year.

- d. Resolution (2023) 2 Authorizing the Acceptance of a Donated Spectrum 100 Detroit 60K Generator from the Town of Hope Mills and to Retrieve the Donated Surplus – Chief Williams – Chief Williams stated Hope Mills has built them a new Town Hall, so they had a generator that we wanted to get from them, so they gave it to us from their town to ours. Mr. Williams stated it is worth around \$60,000 and they donated it to us so we can take it out to Station 2 and be able to run that during storms and everything else. Mr. Williams stated that was a big plus but we must have the Resolution in order to accept it. Mayor Anthony stated a huge thank you to the Town of Hope Mills for that major contribution and it provides our stability of its sustainability for emergencies. Alderwoman Cooper stated on behalf of the Town, we express our deepest appreciation and expression of gratitude through the Town of Hope Mills, the donating agency.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2023) 2 Authorizing the Acceptance of a Donated Spectrum 100 Detroit 60K Generator from the Town of Hope Mills and to Retrieve the Donated Surplus.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderman Lackman

**Vote:** Unanimous

- e. Discussion on Abandoned Properties – Alderwoman Cooper – Alderwoman Cooper stated she gets a lot of complaints from citizens about abandoned and blighted properties including commercial properties in town, and she has been asked if we are following our ordinances and stated we are going to be pushing to make sure we enforce that ordinance and follow through. Alderwoman Cooper asked Mrs. Hickmon how long can a structure stay boarded, and if it is one (1) year. Mrs. Hickmon stated yes one (1) year by General Statues. Alderwoman Cooper stated Mr. Eudy is doing a great job and hopes we will start to see progress and things to start to look better, so we can just



clean up those abandoned properties because they are dangerous if people get in them and get hurt or children get in them and play. Alderwoman Cooper stated that she wanted to bring awareness to the citizens that we are working on that. Alderman Lackman stated as a Board, this is one thing that we agree on and as we begin our budget process for next year, that we really look at code enforcement so we can make Spring Lake look good again, so we can make this town proud, so we can make this place people love and want to call home. Mayor Anthony stated this is not a fast process, so each citizen needs to do their own due diligence in policing the town. Mayor Anthony stated that Alderman Lackman had a monthly clean-up and has picked up thousands of pounds of trash by hand, but it takes a village and pick up five (5) pieces of trash every Friday to do your part to help us clean up the town. Mayor Anthony stated we want it to look great and our Town Manager is working extremely hard to make sure we are purchasing the proper equipment to do this, but we need your help too.

- f. Discussion on Damaged/Missing/Unreadable Road Signs – Alderwoman Cooper – Alderwoman Cooper stated when she rides around town sometimes, she sees signs that cannot be read or what it says, signs that are half in the road or knocked down. Alderwoman Cooper stated she saw a stop sign that was no more than three (3) feet high so she wants the manager to direct staff to start making notes of those signs and either replacing them because Alderman Lackman had a sign replaced by D.O.T. in a couple of days. Alderwoman Cooper stated if the signs are not needed anymore, get them up and throw them away. Mr. Williams stated he started that project today and if employees are out working on a road and the signs look bad, they are replacing them. Mayor Anthony stated as far as signs, she would like to look into purchasing some slow-down signs. Mayor Anthony stated if anybody lives in Deerfield, they know that the traffic light coming out of that subdivision is extremely dangerous. Mayor Anthony stated we have had fatalities at the light, as it is the first stoplight coming off the expressway, so if you live in Deerfield, you know not to pull out when the light turns green, as to wait a few seconds to make sure no one is coming through and then go. Mayor Anthony stated if you go up 87 North before you reach Carolina Trace, they have just recently installed these signs that say slow down when lights blinking to let you know that the stoplights about to change from a farther away distance which preps people from running that light. Mayor Anthony stated it is a very small measure that she thinks is going to be extremely effective, especially with those semi-trucks. Mayor Anthony stated our last fatality was because a semi-truck blew through and took out one of our neighbors who was crossing the street. Mayor Anthony stated he made it all the way across the street and the brakes were not applied until the truck bed was all the way through the light, and it killed our resident here, so we want to prevent that from happening. Mayor Anthony stated it is a yellow caution diamond-shaped sign that says be prepared to stop when lights flashing. Mr. Williams stated that will be a D.O.T. thing and that he will be on the phone first thing in the morning. Alderman Lackman stated that we have 67 miles of roadway in Spring Lake and if one (1) of these signs is no longer readable, a dead-end sign that you cannot read anymore, bring that to our attention. Alderman Lackman stated to call Mr. Lemon at 910-436-0241 and report that sign and location, Mr. Lemon will get that information passed so we can address it and get it done.
- g. Mayor's Report – Honorable Kia Anthony, Mayor – Mayor Anthony stated again, we got our water outages repaired and they are going to keep us updated if anything changes. Mayor Anthony stated

if you were driving in and wondered why our flags were at half-mast, it is because President Biden issued the order to put flags at half-mast to honor the fallen from the mass shooting in Monterey Park, California, so we are obedient and set our flags at half-mast as a mark of respect for such a senseless act of violence. Mayor Anthony stated she received notification that the Senior Games were back on and normally the recreation center puts out that information, but now they are Cumberland County so she gets the privilege of telling us about the Senior Games with Mid Carolina. Mayor Anthony stated she did not know all the details but will leave a document with the manager if interested in participating in our Carolina Senior Games, and please reach out to our Town Manager for further details. Mayor Anthony stated she has said several times that we are trying to schedule a meeting with the Treasurer, so to let everyone know, she will be having a sit down with Treasurer Folwell to discuss Spring Lake and what is on the agenda for us moving forward this coming Tuesday (1/24/23). Mayor Anthony stated she would like to start something new, and she would like to wish our January employees a Happy Birthday!

- h. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – Alderwoman Cooper stated everybody knows that she is the Covid lady so she wants to let everybody know the most dominant variant right now in North Carolina is XDB 1.5 and it is the most transmissible. Alderwoman Cooper stated it is not as deadly but with all the different respiratory issues going around and if you are in a space with a lot of people, she would suggest you wear a mask. Alderwoman Cooper stated a tick-borne parasitic disease called baby celosia has also popped up in North Carolina. Alderwoman Cooper stated you would get that in the woods so be mindful if you are out in the woods walking. Mayor Pro tem Chadwick stated she has no updates at this time. Alderman Palacios stated he is taking over for Alderman Lackman on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the town cleanup and will meet at Skyland Plaza to do a couple of hours of spot cleaning here in town and wanted to thank the town staff for making it harder to find locations because they are continuing to clean up themselves. Alderman Palacios stated the Appearance Committee is meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 4:00 pm, and today we just appointed our last member to that committee, so thank you to Mr. Bryant for volunteering to serve. Alderman Palacios stated the Appearance Committee led specifically by a member of that committee Cynthia Wilt, has been spearheading getting a mural here in Spring Lake for the purpose of uplifting our culture, and our history and specifically for the first project for a mural to share our patriotic heritage here. Alderman Palacios stated our relationship with Ft. Bragg/Ft. Liberty, which will be named Ft. Liberty in June, and she has been working with the Arts Council, the Sandhills Chamber, and the City of Sanford to bring the mural to Spring Lake and they are finalizing the RFP to send out to local artists with some grants, donations, and volunteers from the community and will hopefully be starting that here this year. Alderman Palacios stated the purpose is to get it on Main Street and we have a long-term goal of revitalizing Main Street but to bring some attention and beautification to that area. Alderman Palacios stated we are looking for a building, so if you know any property owners or tenants that would be interested in featuring our first mural here in Spring Lake, please share that with him or the Appearance Committee. Alderman Palacios stated the RFP is a call for artists to share their vision, of course, that would be painted as a mural on a piece of property, and then it would also include estimated costs. Alderman Palacios stated when that comes out and hopefully, that will be within the next month, we hope that everybody can get involved and share that information with local artists. Alderwoman Thompson stated the only thing she has is the Meeting with the Cops in the Community will not have a meeting

this month but will have one next month and right now the location and date are to be determined. Alderwoman Thompson stated once she gets that information, it will be put out to the public. Alderwoman Thompson corrected the cleanup location to the old Pizza Hut Plaza (Southwest Plaza), not Skyland Shopping Center. Alderman Lackman stated in January, there were three (3) of us out there and we cleaned up along Deerfield and Odell Road, and we collected over 20 bags of trash so you can see a much-improved area over at Deerfield on car parts and commercial equipment, trash in general. Alderman Lackman stated we are trying to make our town better and just imagine what we can do with 20 people. Alderman Lackman stated we would love to get out there and clean up different areas and all it takes is helpful participation to beautify the community properties. Alderman Lackman stated last year, we collected 3,360 pounds of trash that we took off the streets of Spring Lake just by volunteers and all it took was an idea and some action. Alderman Lackman stated the aluminum cans are getting full but if you collect aluminum cans, bring them to the Fire Department. Alderman Lackman stated the money that is raised from that goes to the burnt Children's Fund and Chief Williams does not promote this enough, that the money that is collected for this helps the Children's Fund for the burn center or hospital. Alderman Lackman stated this money that is raised helps some of these families survive, get to and from the hospitals, and be with their children. Alderman Lackman reminded the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 cleanup date at 8:00 am at the Southwest Plaza (the old Pizza Hut where it is now going to be a car wash). Alderman Lackman stated we will have bags and grabbers, and come out to clean up. Tomorrow (Tuesday 1/24/23), we have the Military Veterans Affairs Committee meeting and we are getting ready for Memorial Day. Alderman Lackman stated Memorial Day is coming soon and these meetings are open to the general public, so if any citizens want to come, have ideas, want to participate, or see what is going on with our Military Veterans Affairs, it is always the fourth Tuesday of each month. Alderman Lackman thanks Pastor Rob and his family for coming tonight to provide the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance with their aspiring words.

- i. Manager's Report – Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager – Mr. Williams stated one of the biggest things is Odell Road. Mr. Williams stated Odell Road is a mess and he apologizes on behalf of himself, the Board, and the Mayor that it looks that way. Mr. Williams stated to a point, it really has nothing to do with us as it is not a Town issue, it is the contractors that are over there working and have really dropped the ball. Mr. Williams stated he, Tim, and Stormwater will be there and they are going to report them to the state to make sure that they start doing the right thing like covering holes and so hopefully that will change. Mr. Williams stated tomorrow (Tuesday, 1/24/23), you will see our street department over there filling in some holes and getting it where you can go through without any problems. Mr. Williams stated he was there the other day with a shovel trying to move some of that stuff. Mr. Williams stated it is really embarrassing for us that people must see that, so he apologized and stated it will be cleaned up. Mr. Williams stated that the phone lines have been checked on, however, it is still ongoing. Mr. Williams reminded to boil water if you live in the Deerfield area and they still working on that as quickly as possible. Mr. Williams stated there are some big projects going on around town right now that are pulling people everywhere but want the citizens to know we care and thanked everyone for being patient
- j. Town Attorney Report – Michael Porter, Town Attorney – Attorney Porter was not present at the meeting.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney–Client Privilege and Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel

**Motion:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Second by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

Alderwoman Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Chadwick, to reconvene in open session.

Alderwoman Cooper stated we entertained a motion to file a record of complaint with the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners in reference to the services provided by our previous auditors S. Preston Douglas.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

**Motion:** Alderman Palacios

**Second by:** Mayor Pro tem Chadwick

**Vote:** Unanimous

ATTEST:



Carly Autry  
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony  
Mayor