

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

November 28, 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: Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Board Members Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Robyn Chadwick

Others Present:

Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager
Michael Porter, Town Attorney
Patricia Hickmon, Interim Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Dysoaneik Spellman, Police Chief
Sgt. Lyles, 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

Danny Eudy gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Aldermen Palacios requested to add item c. Application for the Board of Adjustment- Janine Lackman under Consent Items.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the agenda with the amended addition to add item c. Application for the Board of Adjustment- Janine Lackman under Consent Items.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of the draft minutes of the November 14, 2022, Regular Meeting, Application of the Board of Adjustment-Densie D. Lucas, Application for the Board of Adjustment-Janine Lackman.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

No one signed up to speak.

7. Presentation

a. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc- Julian Stackhaus

Mr. Julian Stackhaus stated he was here to give an update on Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's presence in the Spring Lake community. Mr. Stackhaus stated when the fraternity came into the community in 2018 and we came to Spring Lake specifically because we felt a bit of apathy. The apathy had to deal with the schools and the votes in Spring Lake. We felt like our presence might be able to help you and the community resolve issues existing here. Mr. Stackhaus stated that the main one had to deal with voting. Mr. Stackhaus stated that getting out to vote, a welcome back to school program, spelling bee, the battle of the books, and a mentor program were some of the programs that their fraternity provides the schools and the community. Mayor Anthony along with the Board of Aldermen thanked Mr. Stackhaus for the work that the fraternity has done for the schools and the community.

b. Code Enforcement Update-Danny Eudy

Mr. Eudy stated that the Town has had twenty-one minimum housing cases and four of those structures have come into compliance. Mr. Eudy stated that since May the Town has had two hundred twenty-nine nuisance cases and two hundred twelve have been closed. Mr. Eudy stated we are in the process of doing a spreadsheet on the bids that are coming in. Mr. Eudy stated that there were thirteen cases of junk motor vehicles and all thirteen cases are closed. Mr. Eudy stated that there was one zoning case about a fence and that has been closed. Alderwoman Cooper asked once a house has been boarded up, is there an amount of time that it is allowed before you have to demo or get it up to code? Mr. Eudy answered under the state regulation they have one year from the time they boarded and during that year they are supposed to be fixing it but sometimes people don't have the money to do it all at one time. After that year, it is up to the discretion of the Board to further fines or to continue to work with them. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Eudy to give an overview of what types of nuisance people call in and what they don't do. Mr. Eudy answered whatever is in your ordinance.

c. Update About the Parks and Recreation & Senior Center Transition to Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks & Recreation – James McMillan, Assistant

Mr. James McMillan stated that you guys wanted confirmation that the merger and the transition are going smoothly. Mr. McMillan stated that it is going smoothly and we are excited to have Zefrim, Kris, and Tonya on the FCPR's team. Mr. McMillan explained that they have been working very hard day in and day out and that there are a lot of moving parts when merging and there are a lot of individuals who have to say grace over different portions. Mr. McMillan stated we are ten days in and we are already merging information that we can between the departments and working with the computer software with our IT Department. Mr. McMillan stated they have been making site visits and assessments at the parks and

looking at ways to improve parks and recreation in the Spring Lake community. Mr. McMillan stated that at 6:00 pm tonight, a robocall will be going out to participants in the Spring Lake database for registration for basketball. Mayor Anthony asked if there are any major changes that the community needs to know. Mr. McMillan stated we are in the valuation stage right now and just looking to see how the operations are and how they are set up to transition smoothly into one operation. Alderman Lackman thanked Mr. McMillan for coming and this was a process that began back in January of this year. One thing that I really wish was better communication between this process and there have been months where there was no communication going on in this process. Here we are today with the citizen and many do not know that Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation has taken over the parks and recreation. I was called by a number of people to this and I could not give them the answers. Alderman Lackman stated that he appreciated Mr. McMillan for coming here tonight to talk with us but the one thing you could take back is that the communication process has not been the greatest. Mr. McMillan stated he appreciates that and only can speak for the recreation operation. The day that the recreation division was given the go-ahead to make contact, we were at Spring Lake Recreation that afternoon. Mr. McMillan stated there are a lot of moving parts and I respect what you say sir. Alderwoman Cooper thanked Mr. McMillan for coming and asked if the community calendar for the Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation will be intertwined with that calendar, so people here will know what event will be happening. Mr. McMillan replied with those things that apply to Spring Lake Recreation Center will be intertwined. Alderwoman Cooper asked if there was an app for Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation. Mr. McMillan answered there is a website and that would be a question for one of our IT personnel. Mayor Anthony asked if the discussion about the advisory boards for the Seniors and for the Recreation for us having a position or a representative from Spring Lake having a seat on the advisory boards. Mr. McMillan answered that would be a question for Mr. Gibson. Alderman Palacios asked about the gate at Mendoza Park and wondered if that would be put on their radar for closing that gate after park hours. Mr. McMillan replied that our parks division has been out and we work very closely with the Police Department within the city limits and we will maintain the same operation here. Alderman Palacios asked with the software updates will cash be taken at the recreation center. Mr. Millan replied that we take cash at all of our recreation centers. Alderman Palacios stated that Spring Lake is maintaining the real property. When it comes to repairs, what is typically the process? Mr. McMillan replied that in reference to budget matters, I'm not prepared to answer that question but with general repairs, staff would submit work orders and the building maintenance of our parks division would address those. Alderwoman Thompson asked if the hours for the recreation remain the same hours or change. Mr. McMillan answered we are still in the assessment phase and I can tell you the hours at our standard recreation centers and they vary. Senior Centers operation starts at 8:00 am and we do have a fitness center that starts operation at 7:00 am. Our general recreation center staff would come in at 9:00 am and the recreation facility opens to the public at 1:00 pm. Mr. McMillan stated since Spring Lake is a combination of the two and your general purpose, I imagine we will sit down and discuss the needs of the community, the participation, and the foot traffic coming in and out. We will look at those regulations and assess. I can see us moving towards hours of operation consistent with ours. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Millan to come back later to give an update to the community.

8. New Business

a Monthly Finance Reports (September & October)- Mr. David Erwin, Local Government Commission

Mayor Anthony stated we will discuss the financial report that we have not received for several months. Aldermen Palacios stated that one of the requirements for the local government is that elected local officials receive financial reports. One thing that was thought during orientation from the LGC was to require a monthly financial report and we are now behind by two months. The further this gets delayed, the further

we have answers and we also need an answer to our audit which is due on the first. Mayor Anthony stated that we signed a Fiscal Accountability Agreement stating that we will receive these monthly reports from the state auditor. Alderman Lackman stated that this is one of the things that got us in this trouble was our financial accountability and we are trying to work with the LGC to get our finances under control without getting these updates this impacts you. Alderman Palacios wanted it kept on the agenda to bring light to this, so you would know we are in the process to get this done and move us forward. Alderwoman Cooper stated we did sign a new Fiscal Accountability Agreement which requires that we have regular financial updates, so if we are not presented with that information then we can't take hold of our Town finances back because we are being held captive by the LGC when they don't provide us the information. We need to make good decisions.

b. Discussion of Town Historian- Alderwoman Cooper

Alderwoman Cooper stated we do have a Town appointed historian and there is no real duties layout. That the Town was incorporated on April 9, 1951, and that a mere seventy-two years. We have had a plethora of challenges but I believe in time we will experience exponential growth. Alderwoman Cooper stated she believes we should work toward establishing the Town of Spring Lake Historical Society and a permanent place to store historical documents and artifacts. Our history is being held in filing cabinets and we need to have that in the cloud, so anyone could access it. Alderwoman Cooper stated that this society would help to protect and preserve the historical records of the town as well as share information with the public through public events. We need to all work together for the history of our Town. Alderman Lackman stated he appreciated the email left on our tables and that we do have the Honorary Historian here tonight. Alderman Lackman asked if Ms. Jami McLaughlin would brief the Board on what the Town Historian does. Ms. McLaughlin stated that the Town Historian is an Honorary Title that I was appointed to. Mr. Howard Pate had worked diligently on preserving artifacts for Spring Lake. Ms. McLaughlin stated we wrote a book together in 2004 called Images of America-Spring Lake North Carolina. Ms. McLaughlin stated a year later he wrote Spring Lake A Brief History in 2005. Ms. McLaughlin stated she is working on a third book for the next 25 years, so for the 75th Anniversary of Spring Lake. Ms. McLaughlin stated that this is a passion of mine and my background is in downtown development and I worked with historical societies. Ms. Laughlin stated she has been archiving the Town's history for all of this time. Mayor Anthony stated she would formalize this position instead of being honorary and put a committee together to give support in case the narrative is able to share all kinds of stories. Ms. McLaughlin stated that the Facebook page was Images of America Spring Lake North Carolina.

c. Discussion about Boys & Girls Clubs Contract- Alderwoman Cooper

Alderwoman Cooper stated that the Boys and Girls Club have two different sets of children, one is the middle school children and they have their club at the Middle School. So, I want to know if would it be possible to have the elementary children at one of the elementary schools here in Town. Alderwoman Cooper stated that we might have an issue with the contract since we haven't signed one since 2019 and haven't been getting payment and we need to figure out if we are getting paid. Alderwoman Cooper explained that she would like to have the Recreation Center available for the citizen since she receives calls that the Recreation Center is booked due to the Boys and Girls Club having it. Mayor Anthony stated that the contract was executed in 2018 and any decisions need to include Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation. Aldermen Lackman thanked Alderman Cooper and stated that we need to address this and see where we are at. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Jason Williams to reach out to Mr. Gibson. Mr. Williams stated that we have had a conversation and emails. Mr. Williams stated that Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and

Recreation said they would honor the Boys and Girls Club on their end now, so it will take it off of us and I will get you some more information on that.

d. Board to Determine Meeting Schedule for December 26, 2022- Honorable Kia Anthony, Mayor

Action: Approval of canceling the December 26, 2022 Board of Aldermen Meeting and call a special meeting if necessary.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

e. Update on Town's Organizational Chart- Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager

Mr. Jason Williams explained that we will be updating the organizational chart and it will be brought to you for approval. Alderman Palacios asked if it has been already updated that the Finance Director falls under the Town Manager. Mayor Anthony stated that the Town Charter was changed from the last administration. Alderman Palacios asked have we determined Mr. Lemon. Mr. Williams replied yes and that he would report to the Town Manager and the Town Clerk.

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

Mayor Anthony stated Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. Mayor Anthony stated we are having our Annual Tree Lighting on this Friday, December 2nd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Mayor Anthony stated she would like to give a brief update on the Town Manager search and we are still in limbo. We haven't had a chance to set a meeting with the Treasurer, as he requested, and provided several dates none of which were visible. Mayor Anthony stated we are trying to find other methods to get this moving and there was an updated press release from the Town of Keny that they have clarified their statements for Ms. Justine Jones. That the allegations against her were baseless and that it was a change of direction for the Board. Mayor Anthony stated that we are updating the sunshine list in accordance with North Carolina General Statute to fill out a form to be added to the sunshine list. Mayor Anthony stated that our Town is looking good and thanked the staff. Mayor Anthony recognizes Alderwoman Cooper for being re-elected as the Regional Director at Large for the National Black Caucus of Elected Officials.

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

Alderman Lackman thanked Mayor Anthony for the sunshine list and the best information comes from the Town. Alderman Lackman stated that the Town looks so much better and that the Holiday/Christmas flags are being flown and the appearance of our Town is approving. Alderman Lackman stated that clean-up is this Saturday at 8:00 am in the Big Lots parking lot.

Alderwoman Thompson stated it is flu season and please don't send children to school sick.

Alderman Palacios stated that the Appearance Committee will honor Christmas decorations. That will start on December 15th and will be honored at the January 9th meeting. Alderman Palacios stated that the next meeting for the Appearance Committee is on January 11th and no meeting for December. Alderman Palacios stated there is one vacant seat for this committee. Alderman Palacios highlighted the Police Department for having cops and conversations at the Lavista Restaurant early this month and the next cops and conversation is on December 15th at 5:30 pm at Ruby Tuesday.

Alderman Cooper stated that last week the Nation League of Cities came together in Kanas City, Missouri and this is my third year serving on the Human Development Federal Advocacy Committee. Alderman Cooper stated she is a member of the Small City Council which is any city under 50,000 and they help with resources.

h. Manager's Report- Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager

Mr. Williams stated he did not have anything to report.

i. Town Attorney Report- Michael Porter, Town Attorney

Mr. Porter stated he did not have anything to report.

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: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Cooper made a motion, seconded by Alderman Palacios, to reconvene in open session.

Alderman Cooper stated that we made a decision to hire a clerk and she will be starting on December 5th and we will swear her in on December 12th. Mayor Anthony stated that this action was not taken in close session and it was a previous decision.

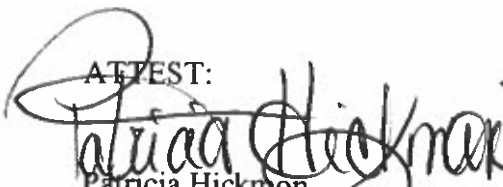
10. ADJOURNMENT

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Thompson

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Patricia Hickman
Interim Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor