

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

October 24, 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
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Jason Williams, Acting Town Manager
Patricia Hickmon, Interim Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Sgt. Lyles, Police Department
Lt. Sutton, 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

Mayor Anthony requested a moment of silence for the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Mayor Anthony requested that the agenda be amended to add item f. Special Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022, to correct the adjourned time under consent items.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval with the agenda be amended to add item f. Special Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022, to correct the adjourned time under consent items.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of the draft minutes of the August 22, 2022 Regular Meeting, draft minutes of the September 26, 2022 Work Session Meeting, draft minutes of the October 10, 2022 Regular Meeting, draft

Minutes of the October 17, 2022 Special Meeting, Application Board of Adjustment-Ar'Triel A. Kirchner, draft Special Meeting Minutes September 15, 2022 to correct the adjourned time.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

Betty Sanford was not present at the Board meeting.

Thomas Brock was not present at the Board meeting.

Kelly Jo Metz was not present at the Board meeting.

Sondre Byndum, 1414 Verlie Ave., stated I'm new here to Spring Lake and there are a lot of things that I don't know. I just moved to this residence and I wasn't told about moving at the end of the year. Ms. Byndum stated that she fell in her residence and ended up with a tear in her shoulder and her knee. My friend fell into a hole in the trailer and ended up in the hospital. Ms. Byndum stated that she feels like she has been taken advantage of and can't work because she is disabled. Ms. Byndum stated that last week there was a meeting about water being so high and mine's one of them. Ms. Byndum stated that a lady from here told her that someone would come out and check and no one has shown up. Ms. Byndum stated that she was tested because she broke out and her throat closed up, she was allergic to two types of molds and she is allergic to roaches, both are at her residence.

Theodore Queen was not present at the Board Meeting.

Reginald Thompson, 1008 Dianne Circle, stated he has been a resident for 53 or 54 years as I live as a teenager in his parent's house. Mr. Thompson stated he has three concerns the first is with the hiring of the town manager was completely wrong and if Spring Lake is trying to grow and get out of the hot water and trying to hire somebody that's constantly in the news would have been a big mistake. Mr. Thompson stated he has a problem with the trash and he has a neighbor who has trash, beds, and mattresses in their front yard for the past two weeks and nobody has not picked it up. Mr. Thompson stated his third concern is when he calls, he cannot reach anybody and nobody calls him back. Mr. Thompson stated that he called four or five different people and there was no phone call back or their voicemails are full or not set up.

Harold Belton, 206 Tram Road, Mayor Kia Anthony read the letter that was prepared by Mr. Belton since he could not be present. (A copy of Harold Belton's letter is incorporated into these minutes as Appendix A.)

7. New Business

a. August Monthly Finance Report

Mr. David Erwin stated that he doesn't have September Audit Report done yet because he has been busy with other towns. Mr. Erwin stated that the sale taxes for July and August was received for the Town but they were accrued back to last year June 30, 2022, which is a good thing. Mr. Erwin stated that the General Fund is typically a low point since you are not receiving property taxes. Mr. Erwin stated that the cash flow

looks pretty expected at this point of time in the year. Mr. Erwin gave kudos to Debra Mack for harping on Fayetteville for revenues that they owe us and they are finally coming through with that, and we are expecting around \$100,000.00 that will accrue to last year's budget. Mr. Erwin stated that we are trying to clean things up, so we can get a 2022 audit. Mayor Anthony asked if there is a closer timeline for that audit. Mr. Erwin stated that we don't have a timeline yet and that we are trying to get the reconciliations done. Alderman Palacios asked if the bank recons are up to date through August of this fiscal year. Mr. Erwin replied it is and part of the sheets are working on the outstanding checks to find out which ones are truly outstanding. Mr. Erwin stated that there is one large check to the uniform people which is showing outstanding but we verified that it was replaced and we were able to reverse that check and all the current transactions are reconciled. Alderman Palacios stated that you recognized the staff for their due diligence but have there been any red flags internally or externally? Mr. Erwin stated not that we have seen. Alderman Palacios stated that positive pay is a service provided by our bank to help mitigate check fraud. Are we set up on this yet or is this still handled internally? Mr. Erwin stated we were doing it manually very time-consuming and the current staff is looking at the bank account every day, so we don't have the manual positive pay but we are working closely to get it automated. Alderman Palacios asked if there have been any discussions on a pay study for the Town employees. Mr. Erwin stated that not to his knowledge. Alderwoman Cooper stated that you mentioned the money coming from Fayetteville. Is there something we should put in place to keep that from happening in future years? Mr. Erwin stated that some of it seem to be recording issues on the Fayetteville side but Fayetteville has to calculate what it is and we know what we are going to get like beer and wine tax. Alderwoman Cooper stated that you have to put some things in place before we can start the audit because that is due October 31 but was extended to December 31. Do you think we are going to meet January? Mr. Erwin stated if we can get started in the next month then we are looking at the end of February. Alderwoman Cooper stated that she knows that our last audit was waived and I didn't see that on your website. Mr. Erwin stated he will get that updated.

b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Anthony stated that she wants to make sure that the Town is aware that we are in the middle of finalizing our decision on a new manager and waiting on getting a response back from the State Treasurer's office to set up some time to discuss how we are going to proceed further. We are moving forward with Chief Williams as our Acting Town Manager and we will update the community as we are updated. Mayor Anthony stated the Halloween hours are on Monday, October 31, 2022, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Mayor Anthony stated she has received several calls about graffiti at our parks and it has been addressed. Mayor Anthony stated that she and Alderman Palacios attended a phenomenal training given by the Cumberland County Board of Adjustment.

c. Board of Aldermen Report

Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated she is looking for some members to help with the Town's Board of Adjustment. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated that she wants to remind everyone to please look at the school board and make sure you do your due diligence and vote. Mayor Anthony stated she will piggyback off that we are in the middle of midterm elections and one-stop early voting is at the Recreation Center.

Alderman Palacios stated that he wanted to publicly thank our Acting Town Manager and our Interim Town Clerk for work and service for the Town beyond their normal duties within the Town. Alderman Palacios stated that the next Appearance Committee meeting will be on November 9th. Alderman Palacios stated that he will piggyback off what Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick said about needing members for the Board of Adjustment and which is a powerful board and with a couple of other boards that are disbanding resulting

in the merger with Fayetteville Cumberland County Recreation Department. Those committee members would be very helpful and great in serving on some other Town boards.

Alderwoman Thompson stated that a new restaurant is opened at 1161 N. Bragg Boulevard called Kita Dee's.

Alderman Lackman stated he would like to thank all the citizens that came out tonight and he appreciates you taking the time out tonight to see what is going on in our Town of Spring Lake. Alderman Lackman stated that your voices are heard and we appreciate the words that you say to help us formulate what needs to be done. Alderman Lackman stated that please make sure your voices remain heard and if you are afraid of public speaking type it up so it can be read. Alderman Lackman thanked Chief Williams for riding him around on Friday to the maintenance shop and the Waste Water Treatment facility. Alderman Lackman thanked Mr. Tim Garner for the folks that he talked to on Friday. Alderman Lackman stated that the Military Veteran's Affair Committee will meet tomorrow night at 6:30 pm as we are getting ready for Veteran's Day as we appreciate all of our military members, our veterans, those who have served, and those who continue to serve. Alderman Lackman stated that Halloween is coming up and we have the Police Department out there, please keep our young future generation safe. Alderman Lackman stated that great things are happening in Spring Lake and if you have noticed that demolition has been going on and buildings are coming down and thanked Mrs. Hickmon. Alderman Lackman stated that the next cleanup will be the first Saturday of the month.

Alderwoman Cooper stated that we do have early voting in Spring Lake. Alderwoman Cooper stated she has been working on Haunted Lakes with several people in the community, partnering with two churches, with the Fire Department, and with the Interim Clerk. Alderwoman Cooper stated she has been talking to someone sponsoring Operation Turkey on Thanksgiving here in Spring Lake with We Are One Big Family.

Mayor Anthony thanked Alderwoman Cooper for the work she has done for Halloween this year.

Alderwoman Thompson stated that after ten years, Saucy Wings will be closing its doors on Friday.

Alderwoman Cooper stated that Haunted Lakes will be on October 29th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

e. Town Attorney Report

Mr. Porter was not present at the meeting to give a report.

8. CLOSED SESSION

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

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

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

Mayor Anthony stated we will send the contract to hire Ms. Jones to the LGC for their action and response. We are right now on track to meet the deadline set out on our Fiscal Accountability Agreement and this decision or comment from the LGC from Treasurer Folwell has us stalled, we really want to stay on track with our Fiscal Accountability Agreement and we are moving forward with the contract by sending it to the LGC to get an official action and response to this situation.

Action: The Board approved a motion to make Jason Williams as Interim Town Manager pursuant to N.C.G.S §160A-150 contingent on the LGC approval of the contract.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Palacios thanked Chief Williams for stepping up into this role and this motion is being made for clarity because we have a vacancy in our Town Manager it is not a temporary vacancy and that is why we are appointing what was an Acting Town Manager to an Interim Town Manager.

10. Adjournment

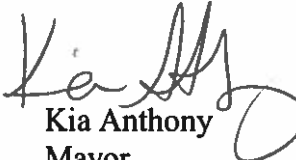
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous




Kia Anthony
Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia Hickmon
Interim Town Clerk