

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

February 27, 2023

MINUTES

6:02 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  
Lieutenant Sutton, Police Department  
Tim Garner, Director of Water Treatment Plant  
Michael Porter, Town Attorney

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Bettye Sanford gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Additions or Deletions**

Mayor Anthony added under Presentations agenda item 7b. Streetscapes Grant – Janene Ackles. Mayor Anthony added under New Business agenda items 8e. Sales Tax Agreement – Mayor Kia Anthony and 8f. Discussion of Hillside Cemetery – Mayor Kia Anthony.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Action: Approval of the agenda with the amended additions to Presentations agenda item 7b. Streetscapes Grant – Janene Ackles. Mayor Anthony added under New Business agenda items 8e. Sales Tax Agreement – Mayor Kia Anthony and 8f. Discussion of Hillside Cemetery – Mayor Kia Anthony.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

## 5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting, and Appoint Patricia Hickmon as staff liaison to the Board of Adjustment.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

## 6. Public Comment

Dedra Parker stated the cleanup at 143 Chapel Hill Road, they left quite a bit of debris and it is a snake-infested area because of the water and everything that is around there. Ms. Parker stated she would like to know if someone is going to come and complete the cleanup because before you know, snakes and stuff will really start coming out because we have had some warm weather. Ms. Parker stated she would like to know about the cleanup of the casket that is hanging outside of the graveyard as there is no tomb or anything, it is just sitting there rusted out and when it rains, the fetus and all of that comes out of there and has concerns about it.

Bettye Sanford stated the houses in these neighborhoods are atrocious with mess and need to be cleaned up as there are cars everywhere, some are wrecked, and tree limbs on wires need to be taken care of. Ms. Sanford stated we need to get the bus system back because there are elderly people that need the buses to get from point A to point B. Ms. Sanford stated we need to get good restaurants like Chick-fil-a, not fast food, nice restaurants, and a bowling alley, something for kids because everything is in Fayetteville.

## 7. Presentations

- a. Cumberland County Community Development – Delores Taylor, Director – Ms. Taylor presented a PowerPoint regarding the Cumberland County Community Development Department. The Community Development is responsible for the administration of Federal, State, and local grant funding to develop and implement housing and community development programs for the County. Ms. Taylor discussed Entitlement and Competitive Grants, National Objectives regarding Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and Program Objectives regarding HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Ms. Taylor discussed Housing Programs such as Eligibility requirements and Types of Repairs regarding Housing Rehabilitation Programs (Deferred Forgivable Loan) Minor Repair (Grant) with Before and After pictures, Rental Rehabilitation Loan Programs (Low-Interest Loan or Deferred Forgivable Loan), Homebuyers Programs regarding qualifications and how to apply. Ms. Taylor discussed Affordable Housing Development regarding the Types of assistance provided to developers and the Purpose of the program, Before and After pictures of Current Affordable Housing Development Projects, provided examples of eligible activities regarding the Public Services Program, Public facilities/Infrastructure, and Homeless Programs such as the Continuum of Care Program (CoC). Ms. Taylor discussed Fair Housing and Citizen Participation Meetings.

Alderwoman Cooper asked Ms. Taylor if they planned to put any satellite offices for those that do not live in the Fayetteville area and Ms. Taylor stated they did not plan on that at this time but will make a

note of it. Mayor Anthony stated we have the resource center here in Spring Lake and would love to have the CCCD Department set up a satellite station there because it would get information out to residents and would also love to participate in doing that. Alderman Palacios asked Ms. Taylor if the website was the Cumberland County website and Ms. Taylor stated it was. Alderman Palacios also provided the phone number to Community Development, which is 910-323-6112. Mayor Anthony asked Ms. Taylor to explain more about how municipalities can get involved and whether are funds for matching funds or what can be used for regarding the Public facilities/Infrastructure. Ms. Taylor stated they currently have an RFP (Request for Proposal) out that includes soliciting agencies that want to apply for funding for public facilities and have about \$200,000 available for that program. Ms. Taylor stated if interested in applying for the funding, contact the office and an application with the guidelines will be sent, complete the application, submit it back to the office by the deadline date, and then they will follow up with the selection committee where all applications received are reviewed, and they score and rank those applications based on the criteria that are indicated. Ms. Taylor stated the funds are used for a wide variety of activities. Ms. Taylor stated if your application was not selected that round, it will be kept on hold because occasionally there is additional funding, so they try to go back to those projects and contact the agency or the municipality to see if they were still interested in using their funding.

- b. Streetscapes Grant – Janene Ackles – Ms. Ackles stated this would be a great fit for the Town of Spring Lake as she brought in \$800,000 for the Town of Rocky Mount for this same project, so she knew this was something that could be used here. Ms. Ackles will be writing this grant for the Town of Spring Lake and it is open for only two (2) months. Ms. Ackles stated it is through the North Carolina Department of Commerce that is through Community Block Development grants as well, however, they do have money set aside for these types of programs. Ms. Ackles stated the Golden Leaf Foundation is also partnered with this grant and has some stuff open right now to allow even more money.

Ms. Ackles provided documents regarding Rural Transformation Grant Fund Guidelines that explained the Fund Overview, the Purpose of The Fund and what programs the project support, and Eligible Applicants. Ms. Ackles discussed Eligible Activities, Eligible Project Areas, Funding Amounts, the Application Process, and Application Requirements. The documents explained a Monitoring Process, Reporting Requirements, Local Government Roles and Responsibilities, and Procurement. Ms. Ackles discussed Compliance Requirements, Program Amendments, Budget Amendments and Budget Revisions, Financial Management Requirements, and Recordkeeping Requirements. Other topics explained were Contracting with Small and Minority-Owned Businesses, Women’s Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms, Use of NC Licensed Professionals, Community Engagement Requirements, and Other Requirements. Lastly, the document explained the Application Checklist stating all applicants should review the Grant Application Checklist to verify the information and documentation needed to apply for funds. The fund will support projects under four (4) programs which are Downtown Revitalization, Resilient Neighborhoods, Community Enhancement for Economic Growth, and Rural Community Capacity Building.

Consensus to instruct and allow staff to work directly with Ms. Ackles and to provide her with whatever information she may need in a timely manner to get started on this.

## 8. New Business

- a. Discussion of Legislative Priorities – Mayor Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated she wanted the Town to know that we did have a chance to meet with our full Delegation, Representative Lucas, and two (2) other members of the Cumberland County Delegation, and had the chance to speak with Senator McGinnis and provided him our Legislative Priorities. Mayor Anthony stated we are petitioning the state to help get funding. Mayor Anthony went over the seven (7) bullet points, which are, 1) Invest in infrastructure and Public Works projects to maintain and improve the roads, bridges, and public parks, 2 ) Promote and incentivize businesses to create jobs and spur economic growth, 3) Increase funding and resources for Public Safety, including police, fire, and Emergency Services, 4) Enhance and expand public transportation options to improve access to jobs, health care, and other services, 5) Strengthen regulations to protect the environment and natural resources because we have Mutzburg Park and a state park here and need to be paying more attention to our environment, 6) Increase access to affordable housing and rental assistance, and 7) Increase access to Social Services and programs for our vulnerable population. Mayor Anthony stated those are a few of the items that we are currently petitioning our legislators for. Mayor Anthony stated this will be released via Press Release and will also be posted on the Town website.
  
- b. Resolution (2023) 3 Amending the Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee Bylaws – Alderman Palacios – Alderman Palacios stated this was brought before the Board at our last meeting and the suggestion was to have the Attorney review it to make sure that we are in line and the objective is to change the Bylaws to increase the number seats available on the Appearance Committee and also clarify the statement that the Board approves and appoints people to the Board of the committee and can remove people from the Board of the committee. Alderman Palacios stated the Appearance Committee is repackaging the Adopt-a-Street Program, there is a request for proposals for a mural in downtown Spring Lake and that information can be found on our website, [www.townofspringlake.com/communityinitiatives](http://www.townofspringlake.com/communityinitiatives), and Earth Day cleanup coming up April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Alderwoman Thompson stated these meetings are public so if you want to attend, please do. Mayor Anthony stated that means open to suggestions, but you are not allowed to vote, but you are allowed to participate in the discussion and come and observe.

Action: Approval of Resolution (2023)3 Amending the Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee Bylaws.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Draft Ordinance Chapter 16. Environment. Article V. Donation Box – Patricia Hickmon – Mrs. Hickmon stated staff had a consensus with the Board to draft these orders for donation boxes, and the draft ordinance breaks down definitions, and the placement, also tells you of the real property, if it is the permit holder, and the real property owner will be responsible for cleaning up of around the donation boxes. Mrs. Hickmon stated any appeals will go to the Town

Manager, and it is written that if they are in violation, it will be part of the nuisance ordinance that is already in existence. Mrs. Hickmon stated Attorney Porter has reviewed this ordinance and gave the approval of the language but this is not a restricted ordinance. Mrs. Hickmon stated it does not go into the zoning of the uses and what zoning districts that the donation boxes are in, this is just to maintain improvement. Alderwoman Cooper asked what the permitting cost is and Mrs. Hickmon stated right now there is no cost since LGC (Local Government Commission) oversees the budget, but maybe we could shoot for the 2024 budget to add a cost in because an Amendment would have to be done due to the budget ordinance opted for a fees schedule right now, so maybe this is something that we can do for fees, may \$100.00 a box, but that is something we can look at in 2024. Alderman Palacios asked about the annual renewal, if an application is done, is there a yearly cost other than the upfront cost? Mrs. Hickmon stated just for the cost of the permit. Alderman Lackman stated this is not done to eliminate the donation boxes, however, we have heard that people dump stuff off at, near, and around these boxes and it has created a stain on Spring Lake, and there are several organizations that you can donate items to, not just these boxes, so this is to clean up our town. Attorney Porter wanted to clarify that anybody who wants a donation box to help charities or for whatever reason, is going to get approved unless there is some other reason and this is more about policing after it is already there or if someone already has a bad history. Mayor Anthony stated the only stipulation is no more than two (2) donation boxes in one parking lot. Mayor Anthony stated to work on getting a fee schedule in place because we need to have some consequences attached to violations.

Consensus to approve the draft, get the public hearing drafted up, and instruct staff to get a copy of the approval.

- d. Draft Ordinance Chapter 34. Streets, Sidewalks, Other Public Places And Driveways. Article VII. Parking, Maintaining, Repairing Commercial Or Industrial Vehicles And Equipment On Private Or Public Streets – Patricia Hickmon – Mrs. Hickmon stated this ordinance is to cut down parking on right-of-ways, dead-end roads, and cul-de-sacs in the town and this is a restricted ordinance, so vehicles cannot park right-of-ways. Mrs. Hickmon stated the definitions are there and they are very specific about what a cul-de-sac is, a dead end, a private street, and a public street is, so it will be unlawful to park in any of those areas. Mayor Anthony stated we will have public hearings before these ordinances are accepted or approved.

Consensus to approve the draft, get the public hearing drafted up, and instruct staff to get a copy of the approval.

- e. Sales Tax Interlocal Agreement – Mayor Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated we have been talking about Cumberland County switching from per capita sales tax collection to ad valorem sales tax collection and a few members of the Mayor's Coalition were able to sit down with the Cumberland County Commissioners Chair and Vice Chair to discuss a possible extension for our sales tax agreement. Mayor Anthony stated the board has thwarted this information as soon as it was received, but we will make a copy of it if we decide to sign and approve this new sales tax agreement and then we will make it available for the public but basically, it is

extending the decision for them to move from per capita, them being the Commissioners, to ad valorem by one (1) year. Mayor Anthony stated as of right now, the decision is scheduled to be made in March, however, with some pushback from all of the municipal leaders, simply because Spring Lake is in a position to lose \$1.4 million dollars in sales tax of revenue every year, so they petitioned Mayor Warner, Mayor Turpin, and the Commissioners to extend that agreement and after several hours of negotiation, it was extended one-year allowing municipalities to prep their budgets so we can have some time to make up for the funds that we are going to lose. Mayor Anthony stated at this point, they are saying if we do not sign this extension, they are going to go ahead and approve the switch this year, so in 2024, we will begin losing those \$1.4 million dollars in sales tax agreement. Alderman Lackman stated this is not something that he cannot go along with, it needs to be reworked, and his fiduciary responsibility will not allow him to go along with it. Alderman Lackman stated we need to tell these Commissioners unless they can tell us what this is going for and how this benefits the residents of Spring Lake, he is a firm no in regards to this. Mayor Anthony stated it is out of our hands at this point as this is a 20-year process that has been extended incrementally every four (4) years. Mayor Anthony stated it is in the hands of the county and they have made the decision, we are going to switch, but is it we switch now or we switch in a year, the decision is not final as it has not been voted on yet. Mayor Anthony stated we need to find alternative funding methods and sources and find and start to solicit developers to bring in funding for this community to offset that \$1.4 million dollar deficit that we are going to experience.

Action: Approve the new Interlocal Sales Tax Agreement to stand with the Mayor's Coalition and the rest of the Cumberland County municipalities to extend the time frame for approving the ad valorem sales tax.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: 3-2

- f. Discussion of Hillside Cemetery – Mayor Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated Hillside Cemetery is in Manchester District Cumberland County and is technically not in the incorporated areas of Spring Lake, however, the town does have authority to assume ownership or care of a cemetery as long as it explicitly states it in the statute, but it has to be in the incorporated town limits of Spring Lake, and again, that property is not, so the Town should have never gotten involved in the maintenance, care or transfer of authority of this piece of property. Mayor Anthony stated the ground caved in and DOT (Department of Transportation) needed access to an access road to do the repairs and was contacted by a trustee from Williams Chapel stating they were no longer going to take care of the cemetery and were passing responsibility back to the Town of Spring Lake, so she did some digging and found out the deed says Bethel and Williams Chapel are the owners of this land, so all responsibility and care is in their hands. Mayor Anthony stated, again, the Town of Spring Lake has no responsibility to this piece of property, however, it would be in terrible taste and bad spirits for us to not do as much as we possibly can to try to assist with this situation and frankly it could not have come at a better time as the county received a substantial amount of funding to survey areas of Cumberland County and identify historical sites. Mayor Anthony stated in our digging, we found out Hillside Cemetery was developed in 1936 which is 80 plus years old and it can be identified as

a historical landmark, so we could use funding from the state to take care of this because the town cannot take ownership of this as it would be turned over to the state. Mayor Anthony stated the state would deem the cemetery closed and people would not be able to enter the cemetery at all, so people whose relatives are buried there would no longer be able to go there and refuses to allow that to happen without the town doing as much as we possibly can, to preserve the history of the community, to respect the deceased, and the family members of those deceased. Mayor Anthony stated we are looking to have staff work with the county to identify these sites. Mayor Anthony stated Lillian Black will be another one that will be included in that survey because Lillian Black was established in 1936, and if there are any other historical landmarks that you want to see identified please send an email or let us know. Mayor Anthony stated this is for homes, plots of land, and landmarks, but we want to preserve the history of the town and make sure ancestry is respected. Mayor Anthony stated she has spoken with the trustees of Bethel and Williams Chapel and they have agreed to hold off on allowing this to be transferred back to the state until we can figure out what can be done with the county, and if we can, get this piece of land protected and preserved.

- g. Mayor's Report – Mayor Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated the board went to the Town and State dinner in Raleigh with some North Carolina legislators and local elected officials and got feedback and input from municipalities who have been where we are and who are going where we want to go, so moments like this is critical for governing bodies to be able to go out and network. Mayor Anthony stated this is where we find alternative resources, where we get tutelage, instruction, and mentorship, and where we can find other programs. Mayor Anthony stated the delegation meeting with Senator McGinnis was very productive. Mayor Anthony stated we are going to start to get the ball rolling on the legislative priorities making sure that we get the proper infrastructure in place. Mayor Anthony stated the “New Spring Lake Way” was termed at our Strategic Planning session with Mr. Paul Meyer, who was our original Strategic Planning session moderator and came back to help lay some groundwork and measure goals. Mayor Anthony stated this past Friday, 2/24/23, she attended ServiceStar’s “It Takes a Village,” which is a mentorship program for eighth-grade boys at Spring Lake Middle, so she got to stand alongside Mayor Colvin, Honorable Larry Dobbins, and Lieutenant Sutton. Mayor Anthony stated these groups of kids were young black males, so to have the police force go and help dispel these myths that are circulating throughout our country that cops are bad and are against us, they see our police force take time out of their schedule for these boys. Mayor Anthony stated there is a Chamber quarterly power lunch tomorrow from 11:30 am to 1 pm, so if you are a business owner, a part of the business community, or just want to get involved with the Chamber non-profits, come to the luncheon. Mayor Anthony stated registration is required because space is limited and it is held at the Chamber office at 127 North Main Street, Spring Lake.
- h. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated she had nothing to report at this time. Alderman Palacios stated the next Appearance Committee is Wednesday, 3/8/23, in this room at 4 pm. Alderwoman Thompson stated on Thursday, 3/2/23, she going to be meeting with Chief Spellman regarding the Special Olympics and will report updates as they come in. Alderman Lackman stated Saturday, 3/4/23, at 8 am, we will meet at Southwinds Plaza to go and clean up the streets of Spring Lake. Alderman Lackman stated tomorrow, 2/28/23,

at 6:30 pm, the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee is going to meet here in this room, and these meetings are open to the general public, so if you want to come out and voice your opinion, have ideas, feel free to come out, but the only thing you cannot do is vote. Alderman Lackman stated this past Saturday, 2/25/23, there was a food giveaway hosted by Sandhills Family Heritage Association with the Carolina Heartbeats and the Second Harvest Food Bank and they had enough food for 500 families. Alderwoman Cooper stated she wanted to make one correction, it was the Community Heartbeats, which is one of her organizations, but they plan to try to do another food giveaway in about two (2) months. Alderwoman Cooper stated she attended the Town and State Dinner with several board members, and then went to Chapel Hill for two (2) days for the North Carolina Municipality Board of Directors meeting where she was given tips on hiring in small towns, some things to use to make it better or better working in a small town. Alderwoman Cooper stated they introduced a new fire department risk assessment program and believes the Police Department is currently going through their police department one, and it is at no cost to the town and it is very comprehensive, so she asked Mr. Williams to look into it to see if we can get that done for our fire department. Alderwoman Cooper stated we also talked about software and technical assistance for the town, and lastly, we got CityVision in Concord, NC coming up from April 25<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, and hopes several of us can attend because again that is where most of your information is from, networking and talking to other people.

- i. Manager's Report – Jason Williams, Interim Town Manager – Mr. Williams stated Odell Road, March 1<sup>st</sup>, the water will be cut off again so they can finish the Housing Development. Mr. Williams stated anytime you see people dumping trash, let us know, this is your town and the team that we have is really shaping up and doing a great job. Mr. Williams stated the streets are looking better due to the street department.
- j. Town Attorney Report –Attorney Porter – Attorney Porter stated he had no updates to report at this time.

## 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 Cooper

**Second by:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Vote:** Unanimous

Alderwoman Thompson made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Cooper, to reconvene in open session.

Alderman Palacios stated an update for the closed session is that we narrowed down the list of applicants to interview and we are yet to do those interviews and those names will be confidential.

**Vote:** Unanimous



10. ADJOURNMENT

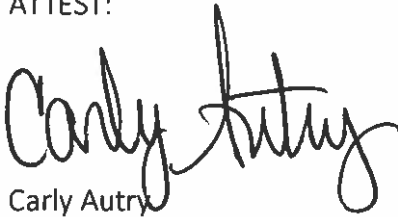
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:



Carly Autry  
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony  
Mayor