

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

April 24, 2023

MINUTES

6:00 pm

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  
Alderman Marvin Lackman  
Alderman Raul Palacios  
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

**Others Present:**

Carly Autry, Town Clerk  
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator  
Tim Garner, Director of Water Treatment Plant  
Michael Porter, Town Attorney  
Dysoaneik Spellman, Police Chief

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Additions or Deletions**

There were no Additions or Deletions.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Action: Approval of the Agenda with no Additions or Deletions.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

**5. Approval of Consent Items**

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of April 10, 2023, Regular Meeting, and Spring Lake Military & Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Electa Coleman.

Motion by: Alderman Lackman

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

## 6. Public Comment

Crystal Johnson, 254 Goodyear Drive, stated Spring Lake needs to enforce landlords to interact more with their tenants and their properties. Ms. Johnson stated she wanted to look more into code enforcement and understands that the Town only has one (1) code enforcement officer. Ms. Johnson also stated as the weather is getting warmer and with vacant houses in Spring Lake, she would like for the grass to continue to be cut but again, the Town needs to enforce these landlords and their properties to do better, people who are renting shops, and the list goes on and there needs to be a standard.

Cathleen Johnson Moore, Holly Hills, stated she has previously spoken to Alderwoman Cooper about placing speed bumps in her neighborhood, especially on Mack Street because there are constant speeders and worries about her grandson and the other children in the neighborhood. Ms. Moore also stated there are some neighbors who need to put their garbage cans inside their gates because they leave their trash cans out and it looks bad.

## 7. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

## 8. New Business

- a. Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Collection of Taxes Between Cumberland County and the Town of Spring Lake – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated she wanted to applaud the due diligence of the Audit Committee for this catch. Mayor Anthony stated while going through our budget line by line, it was noticed that the Town was paying the county for tax collection, and of course, the Town is looking for as many ways as possible to make sure that money is not wastefully spent, so the process of looking into what is more beneficial for the Town, whether it was for the Town to collect taxes or stay with the county. Mayor Anthony stated the Town reached out to the county to find out what the current tax collection agreement was and found out that there was no current tax collection agreement on record and there have been some changes made at the county in the past few years that has lowered the Town's tax collection. Mayor Anthony stated a new tax collection agreement has been drafted which is going to save the town \$20,000 per year on tax collection, however, the wording of the agreement tends to go back and forth between Town and City, so before this agreement is signed, the Town needs clarity on if the Town of Spring Lake is a "Town" or a "City." Alderman Palacios asked since there was no prior agreement, how did the Town find out there was a savings of \$20,000? Mayor Anthony stated that was based on what the Town pays through Finance, by what the Town is currently paying, and matched that up to what the Town is supposed to be paying, showing a \$20,000 cost saving and it is also less than what the Town would pay if a tax collector was hired by the Town. Alderman Lackman asked about the Town paying .75 percent of the taxes collected and Mayor Anthony stated the Town was paying 1.75 percent and now paying 0.75 percent, so it is the percentage change that is giving the Town the \$20,000 savings, as it went from charging all municipalities 1.75 percent to 0.75 percent. Mayor Anthony stated she wanted a motion to be made to table this agreement until

corrections have been made and additional information provided, and then the Board can adopt the agreement.

Action: Approval to Table Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Collection of Taxes Between Cumberland County and the Town of Spring Lake.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Rural Transformation Grant Fund – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated the Town is in the process of making real headways with Main Street revitalization and last month, Janine Eckles came and presented the opportunity to do a Rural Transformation Grant that is going to provide some much-needed updates and renovations to Main Street. Mayor Anthony stated that staff has been heavily involved in the process and the Board gave the consent for Ms. Janine to work with staff in order to get this grant for the Town. Mayor Anthony stated this is a five (5) phase grant and explained and described each transformation phase. Alderman Palacios stated he sees that this is a two (2) to five (5) year time frame and thinks everybody in this Town agrees that Main Street needs a lot of attention and the best way to do this is in a way that makes it expedient and cost-effective. Alderman Palacios stated the Town has its mural project going on and they have selected a finalist and the final rendering, so at the Board Meeting on Monday, May 22, 2023, the Committee will present it to the Board. Mayor Anthony reiterated this is a Rural Transformation Grant meaning this grant funding is ongoing, so as the Town runs out of money for projects, the Town will always be in the process of reapplying for this grant, which is why it is broken down into phases to show that the Town will continue to pursue this funding for minimal financial impacts on the Town.
- c. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony started off by wishing Happy Birthday to all Town employees who have April birthdays. Mayor Anthony stated trash has been an issue the past few weeks and there have been back-to-back vehicle malfunctions. Mayor Anthony stated there are not town-owned vehicles, we contract out through GFL, so what information is given to the Town is passed on to the residents, but they are working diligently as possible to try to get things up to date and hopefully try to minimize this, so please bear with us as they try to repair their issues. Mayor Anthony stated the Splash Pad at the Spring Lake Recreation Center opens on Monday, May 1, 2023. Mayor Anthony stated the H.O.P.E. Course is now open for enrollment for welding and it is paid training, so when signed up for this training, a stipend is offered to subsidize income while working, but it may fluctuate per class as it is a work-study program. Mayor Anthony stated she had the chance to go to the Economic Development Academy and learn about Economic Development, and as there is not an Economic Developer on staff, the Town must lean on the County for Economic Development. Mayor Anthony stated she is working directly with them to find out the data on Spring Lake because it is hard to build economically if you do not have the data, so there are tons of current financial data on Spring Lake to work with and now we can use this data to talk to potential investors or businesses to entice them to come to the community, so this is the foundation to rebuilding the business community here in Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated

all this information will be made to the public of the community because the town should know the current financial status. Mayor Anthony stated the Board should have received approximately thirteen (13) documents via email and to please review them as it is phenomenal information and statistical data about the community. Mayor Anthony stated she and a few other Board Members will be attending CityVision from Tuesday, 4/25/23 to Thursday, 4/27/23, and CityVision is a conference offered by the National League of Cities (NCLM) for training and professional development for elected officials and town or city staff. Mayor Anthony stated we are going to network and hopefully bring back some good resources to become sharper and better politicians, elected officials, and leaders for the community. Lastly, Mayor Anthony stated she was nominated for the North Carolina Mayor's Association Board of Directors and this is a huge deal to be able to advocate for the Town, and not just for the Town, but to be able to advocate for other small communities that go through issues like the Town of Spring Lake faced. Mayor Anthony stated it is a way for her to become more informed, network more, and be able to advocate better for the Town, and the vote will be taken while at CityVision this coming week.

- d. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Cup Boxing Tournament hosted by Nathaniel Finch is Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 3:00 pm at True Vine Ministries. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick reminded parents of the upcoming EOGs are Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and it is National Library Week, Sunday, April 23, 2023, through Saturday, April 29, 2023. Alderman Palacios stated the next Appearance Committee Meeting is Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 4:30 pm. Alderman Palacios stated Earth Day Clean-up was Saturday, April 22, 2023, but it scared a lot of people away because everybody expected storms, so everybody got out there and rushed to clean up the town and it went well. Alderman Palacios stated "Yard of the Month" is starting back by recognizing our neighbors for their outstanding work maintaining their property, as well as it helps keep Spring Lake looking good. Alderman Thompson stated Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 8:15 am is Registration for the Special Olympics Torch Run and the event starts at 9:00 am at Veteran's Park. Alderwoman Thompson stated you can run or walk and T-shirts are still available for \$20.00. Alderwoman Thompson stated with the weather changing, there are a lot of elderly and disabled people, so please check on them and see if they need anything, as far as their lawn being cut, because some of them cannot afford it or cannot get out there and do it themselves. Alderman Lackman stated with the clean up this past weekend, there were 30 bags of trash, 61 tires, two (2) waste items which are anything with a cord (vacuum cleaners), and another thirteen (13) bags of trash that Chuck picked up. Alderman Lackman recognized everyone who came out and helped clean up and he and Alderwoman Thompson cleaned up two (2) illegal dump sites and picked up two (2) old TVs, tires, beer bottles, beer cans, clothes, and trash. Alderman Lackman stated the Military Veterans Affairs Committee is going to meet tomorrow night, Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 6:30 pm right there in this conference room, and lastly, Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 8 am at Southwinds Plaza, going out to clean up some more streets in Spring Lake.
- e. Manager's Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams was not present for the meeting.

- f. 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 Thompson

Second by: Alderwoman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to come back into open session. No action was taken, however, a consensus of the board in a preliminary discussion to gauge interest with our town manager finalists.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

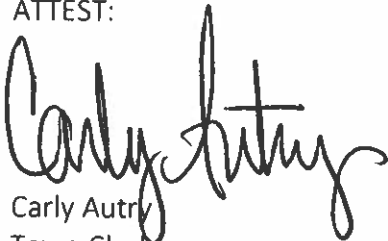
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Motion: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:



Carly Autry  
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony  
Mayor