

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

May 22, 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
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman via Zoom
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
David Erwin, Local Government Commission
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Tim Garner, Director of Water Treatment Plant
Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer
Michael Porter, Town Attorney
Deanna Rosario, Stormwater and Sustainability Administrator
Dysoaneik Spellman, Police Chief
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Spring Lake Police Department
Jason Williams, Fire Chief/Interim Town Manager

1. Call to order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Dickerhoff gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Alderwoman Cooper requested to Table, under New Business, Agenda Item 8c. Draft Ordinance Chapter 2. Administration Article VI. Business Registration & Application – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams and Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman and Agenda Item 8d. Draft Ordinance Chapter 34. Article VI. Parades, Group Demonstrations, and Special Events/Special Event Advisory Committee Bylaws/Town Policy #14 Special Event Permitting – Mayor Kia Anthony and Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the Agenda with the amended Table Items, under New Business, 8c. Draft Ordinance Chapter 2. Administration Article VI. Business Registration & Application – Interim Town Manager Jason

Williams and Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman and 8d. Draft Ordinance Chapter 34. Article VI. Parades, Group Demonstrations, and Special Events/Special Event Advisory Committee Bylaws/Town Policy #14 Special Event Permitting – Mayor Kia Anthony and Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of May 8, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

Dedra Parker stated that she is complaining again about the debris at 146 Chapel Hill Road that has been there since March 2023. Ms. Parker stated she brought it to the Board's attention, here in the Unity for Prosperity at the Town of Spring Lake, and would like to know when something is going to be done about it.

7. Presentations

- a. Art Mural – Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee – Dr. Dickerhoff stated their goal tonight is to reinforce the relationship with Ft. Bragg and uplift city pride with visual arts emphasizing support of our nation's armed forces and the mission will be to have this commission organize, plan, conduct, and evaluate a community-wide mural arts program with knowledge approval and support of the Town's governmental agencies. Ms. Wilt stated in Spring 2022, it was brought to their attention that they had an allocation from the Arts Council so they started looking into the allocation and found out the Art Mural was the perfect example of what the grant could be used for and the deadline for this is Thursday, June 15, 2023, which a report is due. Ms. Wilt stated the last day to use grant funds is Friday, June 30, 2023. Ms. Wilt stated there is a slight change in the site location, as it was originally 108 N. Main Street, but it is currently not able to be used so the next option that has recently been approved is 102 N. Main Street, which is the Beatitude House, and in addition to that, they want to develop a list of businesses that are interested in having a mural put on their area so in order to do a list, they can provide their information to any of the committee members or send it to Deanna Rosario. Ms. Wilt stated they started the use of the RFP (Request for Proposal) to engage artists and specifically said North Carolina artists only, and put it in the North Carolina Arts Council bulletin and the Town of Spring Lake website. Ms. Wilt stated that the chosen artist is Max Dowdle, and this is his final presentation after the edits and tentatively scheduled to be completed in the Fall, with Friday, November 10, 2023, being the absolute last day, and after completion, they are planning a dedication ceremony, which details are pending. Ms. Wilt stated there will be a maintenance plan within the contract, and depending on the contract, it could be 5 to 10 years, but there will be anti-UV protection

and anti-graffiti coating on it, so the artist agreed he will do maintenance on it, as needed. Ms. Wilt stated they are looking for future funding sources, future sponsors, and ways of increasing funds, so anybody wishing to donate will be able to soon as a plan to receive donations is developing, and if anyone donates a \$1,000.00 or more, will be acknowledged. Ms. Wilt stated the contract and details for payment are being finalized within the Finance Department. Mrs. Sutherland stated any finances or donations received will go through the Town, the LGC, as well as the Attorney. Mayor Anthony asked where the original piece going to be stored as she feels like it would look great in the reception area of Town Hall. Mrs. Sutherland stated the final cost of the mural is \$12,500.00, of which \$4,000.00 of it was donated and had to raise the difference. Mayor Anthony stated the Municipal Arts allocation is reoccurring, and the Town has received \$4,000.00 already. Alderwoman Cooper stated she will give the Appearance Committee some funding information regarding Walmart and T-Mobile. Ms. Wilt stated they already have plans to do mini-grants with the Arts Council. Alderwoman Thompson stated to emphasize the money, it is not costing the Town anything as it is not coming out of Town funds.

At 6:30 pm, the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen meeting took a brief Intermission to await the arrival of David Erwin, Local Government Commission, to give the Financial Update. Mayor Anthony reconvened the meeting at 6:45 pm.

8. New Business

- a. Financial Update – David Erwin, Local Government Commission – Mr. Erwin presented a PowerPoint that included the General Fund, Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund, Stormwater Enterprise Fund, Sanitation Enterprise Fund, and Fleet Maintenance Internal Service Fund. Mr. Erwin gave brief General Update Items and an Update on ARPA Funds.

Alderwoman Cooper asked Mr. Erwin what was the parks funds for and Mr. Erwin stated this acronym is mostly some kind of parks grant and was not sure. Alderwoman Cooper stated the North Carolina League has programs and because the Town is on the UAL (unit assistance list), the Town is eligible to get free accounting software and free help with cyber security. Alderwoman Cooper asked Mr. Erwin if the Town has started receiving Budget Amendments and Mr. Erwin stated yes. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Erwin about the grant funds that were not collected or if they have been collected. Mr. Erwin stated around 2020-2021, there was work and all they had to do was send in the documentation and bill it, however, it was not received. Mayor Anthony asked if there was any way the Town can bill now and Mr. Erwin stated that is probably something that should be asked as grants have a time period. Alderman Palacios stated the common theme tonight is stability and thanked the LGC and staff for how great of a job the Town is doing with its finances now but it is also important that the Town gets stability. Alderman Palacios stated for people who do not know, positive pay is something that the bank offers, so anytime a check is written, it cannot be cashed unless the bank knows, who from the Town, wrote that check, and it is an important part of making sure the Town does not have any mismanagement funds, which is currently in the process of getting set up with Truist. Alderman Palacios asked regarding the bonuses for Town staff, was there a general amount that was sent to all Town staff, was it based on seniority, or how was it based? Mr. Williams stated basically the way it was done was for public safety and Mr. Erwin stated it was

prorated for time worked during that window. Alderman Palacios stated 1.6 million to around 12 million, and it has not even been a full two (2) years, and at that same time, the Town was borrowing money from other funds, like the water-sewer fund, but with the wrong management and the wrong staff, leaders, and board, a lot can have an impact on that. Attorney Porter asked Mr. Erwin how much of the agreement with the LGC does Spring Lake have left, and how much longer will the LGC be with the Town. Mr. Erwin stated the Fiscal Accountability Agreement must be amended but thought he was going to get it done; however, he is waiting for some cleanup work to finish so the LGC can get a good picture of where the Town is towards the year-end 2023, and then hopefully have some discussions about how much longer. Attorney Porter asked if it is possible that this could be completed, maybe not this fiscal year, but calendar year, and Mr. Erwin stated that is a possibility, however, it is getting through the two (2) audits that are crucial, and the 2022 audit is about to start, which will take longer than the 2023 audit, but if both are done by year-end, that would be a big plus.

- b. Monday, July 10, 2023 Board of Aldermen Meeting – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated it was customary throughout the Town after the budgets were prepared, for the Board to cancel the first meeting of July, however, it was not canceled last year because the Town was in a dire financial position and did not have the leeway to take any meetings off but after the amazing update from the LGC and all the hard work from staff and Board Members, she would like to ask the Board to consent to cancel the first meeting in July, just as a break, a breather, and some time off.

Mayor Anthony entertained the motion made by Alderwoman Cooper to cancel the July 10, 2023 meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Thompson. Mayor Anthony asked for any discussion, which Alderman Lackman and Alderman Palacios stated they were not in favor of. Alderwoman Cooper suggested amending the motion to if any pressing business arises, the Board would call a meeting.

Action: Amended the motion to cancel the July 10, 2023 meeting unless there are pressing issues on the table, then a Special Meeting will be called.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated in the past two (2) weeks, there has been a lot of training as she, Alderwoman Cooper, Carly, and Renee from Water Revenue, were all able to attend a Viable Utilities Education Workshop. Second, Mayor Anthony stated she had the chance to meet with Colonel Wilcox as he is now hosting a monthly Mayors update with the Cumberland County Mayor, so the Town is again bridging those gaps with Fort Bragg and that was one of the commitments of the Board, to rebuild connections outside of the municipality, and this is also one way the Board can engage military counterparts. Third, Mayor Anthony stated she attended the RLUAC meeting and Fort Bragg is discussing changing their flight line-compatible rating system, which will affect Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated right

now, it is at about a thousand feet and they want to increase this to 3,000 feet, which will affect the property line in Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated this property was once owned by the Town, but not anymore, and they will keep the Board updated on what is happening with the expansion and if they will be bringing that into the Town of Spring Lake. Fourth, Mayor Anthony stated the Town has a new roller, so paving of streets is to begin very soon. Last, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor, "Let's Talk Lunch," is Wednesday, 5/24/23, at Kitadees's at 12 noon.

- d. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated she had no updates at this time. Alderwoman Cooper stated she registered for the NC Military Summit that will be in Raleigh, NC in September 2023. Alderman Palacios stated the whole Board is attending the changeover from Fort Bragg to Fort Liberty on Friday, June 2, 2023. Second, Alderman Palacios stated the Stormwater Department is working on Wapiti Drive, in the Deerfield subdivision, as the issue with the drainage has been discovered, which is a rootball, and they will also start coordinating their plans to begin work on Goodyear Drive, in the Holly Hills subdivision. Alderwoman Thompson stated Cops and Conversation is this Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 6 pm in this Boardroom. On behalf of Alderman Lackman, Town Clerk, Carly Autry, gave his updates. Ms. Autry stated the Military and Veterans Advisory Committee is in this Boardroom tomorrow, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 6:30 pm. Second, Ms. Autry stated the Memorial Day Ceremony is this Friday, May 26, 2023, at 11 am at Veteran's Park. Last, Ms. Autry stated the next Town Clean-up is Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 8 am at Southwinds Plaza as the meetup location.
- e. Manager's Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams acknowledged the Town employees for their hard work and acknowledged the LGC for helping the Town keep the finances in order.
- f. Town Attorney Report –Attorney Porter – Attorney Porter stated Mayor Anthony has him looking into a few matters and in the spirit of the good news the Town received tonight, hopefully, this will be the last calendar year of the LGC. Second, Attorney Porter acknowledged the hard work of Mayor Anthony, the Board, previous Interim Town Manager Joe Durham, and Interim Town Manager Mr. Williams, and is proud to be a part of this team.

10. ADJOURNMENT

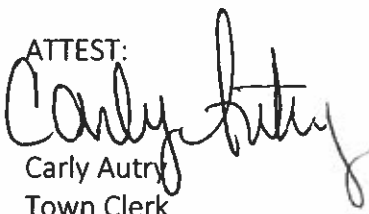
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

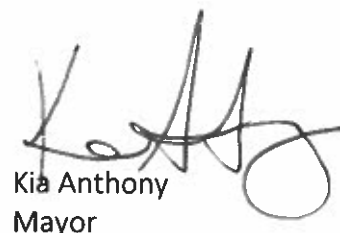
Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:


Carly Autry
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor