

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

June 26, 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
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Lieutenant Justin Bonsignore, Spring Lake Fire Department
Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Michael Porter, Town Attorney
Dysoaneik Spellman, Police Chief
Jason Williams, Spring Lake 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. David Dickerhoff gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Amended additions, under Consent Items, Agenda Item 5b. Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Ingrid Turner VFW 4542, under Presentations, Agenda Item 7c. Presentation of the Framed Art Mural, under Old Business, Agenda Item 8c. Article VI. Parades, Group Demonstrations, and Special Events Ordinance and Agenda Item 8d. Ordinance Chapter 2. Administration Article VI. Business Registration, and under New Business, Agenda Item 9d. Discussion of Town Funding Art Mural.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the agenda with the amended additions, under Consent Items, Agenda Item 5b. Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Ingrid Turner VFW 4542, under Presentations, Agenda Item 7c. Presentation of Framed Art Mural, under Old Business, Agenda Item 8c. Article VI. Parades,

Group Demonstrations, and Special Events Ordinance and Agenda Item 8d. Ordinance Chapter 2. Administration Article VI. Business Registration, and under New Business, Agenda Item 9d. Discussion of Town Funding Art Mural.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

Alderwoman Cooper asked Mayor Anthony to specify why some of these items were added to the Agenda. Mayor Anthony stated some of these items, like the Special Events and the Ordinances, were just finalized, so the Board can now vote on them individually. Mayor Anthony stated the mural was recently framed so it is being presented to the Board, and some other information regarding the Art Mural funding was discovered that the Board needs to discuss so the Town stays informed.

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of June 7, 2023, Special Meeting – FY 2023-2024 Budget Meeting and Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Ingrid Turner VFW 4542.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Palacios asked Alderman Lackman if there were any more vacancies on the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee. Alderman Lackman stated the Committee is now full.

6. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

7. Presentations

- a. LGBTQ+ Pride Month June 2023 Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony read the LGBTQ+ Proclamation that was written for LGBTQ+ Pride Month June 2023.
- b. Juneteenth Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony read the Juneteenth Proclamation that was written for the celebration of Juneteenth 2023.
- c. Framed Art Mural – Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee – Cynthia Wilt and Dr. David Dickerhoff presented the Art Mural to the Board of Aldermen that was framed by Robin Kelly of Lisa's Custom Framing in downtown Fayetteville, so it could be hung in the lobby of Town Hall until it is auctioned or raffled off. Ms. Wilt stated when Dr. Dickerhoff went to pick up the finalized piece, Ms. Kelly stated she was excited about what is going on in Spring Lake and did not charge for the framing. Alderwoman Cooper asked Ms. Wilt and Dr. Dickerhoff if there was any way Lisa's Framing could be honored by possibly adding a small plaque underneath the framed art mural. Ms. Wilt stated she will get with the Committee and see if they can come up with something. Alderman Palacios stated at the May 22nd meeting, Mayor Anthony brought up the idea of having it displayed in Town Hall, so it

will be there until the time comes when to raffle it off to solicit donations for future art projects here in Town.

8. Old Business

- a. Draft Special Event Advisory Committee Bylaws – Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer – Mayor Anthony stated the Board has seen these in the last three (3) Board Meetings. Mrs. Hickmon asked Attorney Porter if everything looked fine and Attorney Porter stated yes.

Action: Approval of the Draft Special Event Advisory Committee Bylaws.

Motion by: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Draft Town Policy #14 Special Event Permitting – Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer – Mayor Anthony stated the Board has seen these in the last three (3) Board Meetings.

Action: Approval of the Draft Town Policy #14 Special Event Permitting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Article VI. Parades, Group Demonstrations, and Special Event Ordinance – Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer – Mrs. Hickmon stated the Ordinance coincides with the policy.

Action: Approval of Article VI. Parades, Group Demonstrations, and Special Event Ordinance.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- d. Ordinance Chapter 2. Administration Article VI. Business Registration – Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer

Action: Approval of Ordinance Chapter 2. Administration Article VI. Business Registration.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

9. New Business

- a. Case No. DEV-0205-22 – Patricia Hickmon, Executive Assistant/Zoning Administrative Officer – Mayor Anthony stated this should be presented by the County, but Chris Portman is unavailable to attend the meeting. Applicant is requesting approval of development plan containing approximately 2.22 +/- acres; located at 706 Shell Drive, zoned R5A for a group development apartment complex expansion (30 additional dwelling units) with a variable 35' wide ingress, egress, and regress easement to serve lot 6.; submitted by Moorman, Kizer, and Reitzel (Agent) on behalf of Waterford at Little River Investments, LLC. Mrs. Hickmon stated this zoning is R5A and the Board approved the rezoning for this apartment complex previously on April 25, 2022. Mrs. Hickmon presented an aerial view and the site plan. Mrs. Hickmon stated there are 30 apartments, 3-story, and a group development that falls on the subdivisions which take the Board of Aldermen's approval. Mr. Kizer, the engineer, was present at the meeting in case there were any questions. Alderwoman Cooper asked if the County weighed in on this. Mrs. Hickmon stated yes, both County and Town staff and all conditions were looked at and are complying.

Action: Approval of Case No. DEV-0205-22.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Discussion Regarding Spring Lake Water Bills – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated there has been a lot of feedback about what is happening with the water situation and why there have been rate increases on water bills. Mayor Anthony stated the Town buys water from Harnett County and PWC (Public Works Commission) in Fayetteville and there is a standard rate they charge. Mayor Anthony stated the Town currently pays Harnett County, for the first 2000 rates, \$20.00 per gallon for residential, and rates per additional 1,000 gallons, is \$5.50. Mayor Anthony stated the Town pays PWC, for the first 2,000 gallons, .00218 cents per gallon, and it goes up incrementally to .00260 per gallon for the next 2,001 to 5,000 gallons, and citizens are paying \$5.78 per gallon for the flat fee for water usage. Mayor Anthony stated Spring Lake has not increased fees for water and sewer since 2016, however, in 2022, the fees increased, and a rate and fee study was conducted by MacConnell and Associates, and the Town is operating at the rate and fee for 2022. Mayor Anthony stated the Town is a business and must pay bills and if rates are not increased to meet what the Town pays, the Town will end up undercharging and will have to take on that cost. Mayor Anthony stated this is not the Town of Spring Lake trying to recover any lost funding, mismanagement, or trying to go after revenue, this is making sure the Town is following the rate and fee structure for water services and there will be another increase next year because the Town must maintain. Mayor Anthony stated every time the rates increase for the Town, it will increase for the citizens because if the Town does not go after this revenue, it may cause the Town to go bankrupt. Mayor Anthony stated the Town also gets revenue through property and sales tax, and other different methods for the Town to make money. Alderwoman Cooper added to Mayor Anthony's discussion that this is good governance and she has sat in this seat and saw Harnett County and PWC raising rates and voted not to pass it on to the citizens which is how the Town got into some of the financial issues.

Alderman Cooper stated water is an enterprise fund, which is separate from taxes, that cannot be combined and is another reason why the Town got into a little bit of trouble, as the Town was getting money from the enterprise funds to balance the Budget. Alderman Palacios stated the Town had the study done in 2020 but the rates were not increased until 2021 because the Town must maintain the infrastructure and cannot afford the issues that went on with the aging infrastructure. Alderman Palacios stated the Town is raising rates at this standard of this completed rate study, however, this fiscal year, another study will be completed to ensure the Town is on the right track. Mayor Anthony stated if anyone wants any of this information, it will be made available. Alderman Cooper reminded Mayor Anthony to discuss the technical issues with the new online payment option. Mayor Anthony stated she spoke to Mrs. Renee Robinson, the Revenue Supervisor, and has some information for the citizens. Mayor Anthony explained in detail how to use the new online payment system and gave important dates regarding when bills are due and late, when bills start incurring fees, and the disconnection date. Alderman Cooper stated there are people struggling to pay their bills and asked if the Water Department is giving any type of grace period. Mr. Williams stated that is on a case-by-case basis which is looked at with the customer. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated citizens reached out to her regarding the issues with the online payment system. Mayor Anthony stated the Town is aware the system not allowing online payments for several weeks. Mr. Williams stated if any citizens tried to make a payment but could not, the Water Department will work with them to make sure their water is not shut off.

- c. Endorsement of the Town of Spring Lake Budget Ordinance FY 2023-2024 – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated Monday, June 12, 2023, the LGC held a Public Hearing regarding the Budget, which included Board and citizen input. Mr. Williams stated today, Monday, June 26, 2023, at 1:30 pm, the LGC approved the Budget. Mayor Anthony acknowledged the Finance staff, Town staff, Mr. Williams, the Board, and the Audit Committee for all the hard work they put into the Budget. Mayor Anthony stated last year, the Town had no say whatsoever, but this year, the LGC brought it to the Town and worked with the Board throughout the entire process from start to finish and came out with a rock-solid budget. Mayor Anthony stated the Board has a new method for budgeting that is more concise and accurate and every Department literally went through every line item and found what was either necessary or not because the Town had to know what was absolutely needed, how much to spend, and how to spend conservatively. Mayor Anthony stated the Town does not spend money just because it is there, and if it is not needed, it went back into the General Fund to start banking reserves so the Town can start venturing out and doing some capital projects to see improvements throughout the Town. Alderman Palacios stated if any resident wants a copy of the full Budget, please ask for it from either a Board Member or the Town Clerk. Alderman Thompson asked if the Budget is online and Mayor Anthony stated yes, the Budget is online but if requesting a paper copy, please submit a Public Records Request to the Town Clerk to receive a copy. Mayor Anthony asked the Board to make a consensus to endorse this Budget and requested the Board of Aldermen to each personally endorse, which all stated they endorse this Budget, including Mayor Anthony.

- d. Discussion of Town Funding Art Mural – Alderman Raul Palacios – Alderman Palacios stated he wanted to bring this to the public and to the Board because he looking for a consensus, and this is about the wall mural that will be on Main Street, with a total cost of \$13,540, \$4,000 of which the Town already has through a grant, another \$4,000 is expected next month (July 2023), totaling \$8,000, and remaining balance of \$540.00. Alderman Palacios stated before the Town can enter a contract with the Artist, the Finance Department needs to do a pre-audit, which means the Town cannot enter a contract unless the Town has the funds specified for this project and asked the Board to approve a budget amount of \$13,540 for the project. Alderman Palacios stated he previously indicated \$8,000 is already accounted for, however, the difference will be at the cost of the Town of Spring Lake taxpayers, which will be \$540.00, however, the Appearance Committee intends to raise and solicit funds through donations. Alderman Palacios stated one of the ways the Committee is going to raise funds is by raffling off the art piece and other methods that will be discussed in detail later. Alderman Palacios stated he is looking for Board consensus about getting this in the Budget. Mayor Anthony asked if the Town will be reimbursed and Alderman Palacios stated the Town will be reimbursed for those costs by donations, which will hopefully raise funds for future art projects as well. Alderman Palacios stated he is working on a grant with T-Mobile, the HomeTown Grant, to raise \$50,000 for future art projects and will be submitting it this week. Mayor Anthony stated in her opinion, if the Town is not reimbursed the \$5,000 for what that is going to add to downtown Main Street, will still be 100% worth it, along with the efforts that will be put into continuing to beautify this Town, are also well worth it.

Action: Approval of the Town funding the Art Mural.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- e. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor, "Let's Talk Lunch," is this Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at MiCasita at 12 noon. Second, Mayor Anthony stated the Town was not selected this round for the Rural Transformation Grant the Town applied for, even though the Town was endorsed by the LGC (Local Government Commission) for this grant. Mayor Anthony stated she was not sure why the Town was not selected and she did reach out to the Committee to find out their reasons why, however, this grant will come up again, and will make sure any shortfalls are corrected. Mayor Anthony stated this did not stop the Town from continuing, as research for more grants is already in progress that can be used for downtown Main Street and other projects in the community. Last, Mayor Anthony stated the next scheduled Board of Aldermen meeting, which is Monday, July 10, 2023, has been canceled.
- f. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – First, Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated she had the opportunity on Friday, June 16, 2023, to attend the Unveiling of a Historical Marker that is located downtown beside Fascinate-U and the best thing about it was how involved Fayetteville State was in becoming a movement. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated Fayetteville State students and the community organized the artists and sit-ins leaving

downtown businesses to end discrimination, as Dr. McLeod was very instrumental in bringing about the change of downtown. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated there is a lot of rich history in Fayetteville and hopefully, this is something Spring Lake can do because there is also a lot of rich history in Spring Lake. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated the Town will be working with Sandhills to bring some beautiful land markers to go along with the art mural. Second, Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated Saturday, September 30, 2023, is the first Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. 5K Cancer Run and wants the community to know the Town is very supportive of the citizens that may have had this type of diagnosis. Alderman Palacios stated the next Appearance Committee meeting is Wednesday, July 12, 2023, with the biggest talk being the art mural. Alderman Palacios stated future projects may not be military-related so if anyone would like to provide input, please come, and share. Alderwoman Thompson stated Cops and Conversations is every 4th Thursday of the month, which the next will be Thursday, July 27, 2023. Mayor Anthony stated she encourages citizens to attend Cops and Conversations because community-related issues can be addressed, youth opportunities, and learn what Police Officers do on a day-to-day basis. First, Alderman Lackman stated the next Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6:30 pm in this Boardroom and is open to the general public. Second, Alderman Lackman stated the Town Clean-up has been rescheduled to Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 8 am at Southwinds Plaza as the meeting location. First, Alderwoman Cooper stated she put something on social media last week regarding the disrepair of Spring Lake Middle School, and she, Alderwoman Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick, and some other people met at the school to speak with the new Principal, Mr. Godbolt, and they will be having a meeting with him on Monday, July 24, 2023. Alderwoman Cooper stated she spoke with T-Mobile regarding this and found out there is special funding available for schools because something needs to be done about the appearance of the school and is hoping to get support from the community. Second, Alderwoman Cooper stated she is leaving Wednesday, July 28, 2023, to go to Asheville for a Board of Directors meeting with the North Carolina League to discuss Strategic Communications and Community Engagement. Last, Alderwoman Cooper stated she will also go to Tacoma, Washington for the National League of Cities Summer Board Leadership and wanted the citizens to know these trips are no expense to the Town.

- g. Manager's Report –Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams acknowledged the staff for their hard work cleaning up the Town.
- h. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter stated he had no updates to report at this time but commented briefly on how hard the Town staff works.

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: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to reconvene in Open Session. No action was taken.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

10. ADJOURNMENT

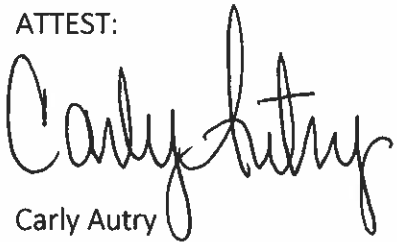
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Motion: Alderwoman Thompson

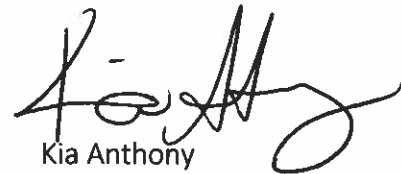
Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:



Carly Autry
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony
Mayor