

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

August 28, 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:

Lieutenant Justin Bonsignore, Spring Lake Fire Department
Patricia Hickmon, Inspections Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Officer
Devon Gloria, Spring Lake Firefighter
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Captain Timothy Patterson, Spring Lake Fire Department
Michael Porter via Zoom, Town Attorney
Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman, Spring Lake Police Department
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Police Department
Antonio Villatoro, Spring Lake Firefighter
Lieutenant Gregory Wilkerson, Police Department
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

Bettye Sanford 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 Lackman

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of July 24, 2023, Work Session, Draft Minutes of August 14, 2023, Regular Meeting and Table March 25, 2019, Closed Session Minutes, February 24, 2020, Closed Session Minutes, July 13, 2020, Closed Session Minutes, August 10, 2020, Closed Session Minutes, January 25, 2021, Closed Session Minutes, February 22, 2021, Closed Session Minutes, March 8, 2021 Closed Session Minutes, March 22, 2021, Closed Session minutes, and April 12, 2021, Closed Session Minutes.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Palacios stated he wanted the Closed Session minutes on the Consent Items to be Tabled until Attorney Porter was able to join the meeting stating he reviewed them.

6. Public Comment

Bettye Sanford, 104 Wapiti Drive, stated trash in the community needs to be cleaned up, grass at the Deerfield entrance sign needs to be mowed, along with grass in yards, and some houses have too many cars piled up in driveways that need to be removed. Last, Ms. Sanford wanted to know when is the Town getting a new Town Manager.

7. Presentations

- a. Alliance Code Enforcement, LLC – Brandon T. Emory, President – Mr. Emory presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the new cases that were opened since Alliance became the new Code Enforcement company for the Town in mid-July and explained in detail what everything meant on the Monthly Report, which is also provided on the PowerPoint. Mr. Emory stated the primary goal is to help educate the citizens and individuals who own properties or live in properties here in Town and make sure they understand there are certain standards that must be met. Mayor Anthony stated she and Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick found Alliance Code Enforcement at the CityVision Conference they attended in July. Alderwoman Cooper asked Mr. Emory if the signs the Town has for yards going to be utilized and Mr. Emory stated they could, and the signs also let people who complain to the Town know something to be done about the violation. Alderman Lackman asked what is the process to identify, notify, and come into compliance and Mr. Emory stated the first thing done when identifying a property, is to attempt to make physical contact, and if that does not work, a courtesy letter/notice of violation is issued to either the Owner or Landlord, which is required by Ordinance and General Statue. Mr. Emory stated if the violation is not corrected in the timeframe, then they will move forward with trying to get it debated. Mr. Emory stated if it is something that needs to be removed from the property, a hearing will be held with those individuals to give them the opportunity to come meet and talk. Mr. Emory stated NCGS §160D is looked at as the Ordinance is the bare minimum that must be done to act, but they want to do more than just the bare minimum. Alderman Lackman asked if the courtesy letter was a registered letter or dropped in the mail and Mr. Emory stated it is regular mail. Alderman Lackman asked how soon after you knock on the door should that letter be initiated to them and Mr. Emory stated a couple of days depending on where it is mailed from, but the Ordinance is followed.

- b. Citizen Recognition – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated she attended the black barbecue cook-off in Fayetteville where William Jerome Wright represented Spring Lake amongst several other Pit Masters and Spring Lake got the most awards for Mr. Wright's fabulous barbecue and presented him with an award on behalf of the Mayor and the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen. Mr. Wright is the Owner of Spring Lake FatBoyz BBQ and won the Reserve Grand Champion. Mr. Wright took a picture with Mayor Anthony and the Board holding his award.

- c. Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Updates – Armond Caron, Co-Chair – Mr. Caron stated the Veterans Service Day, which is Saturday, November 4, 2023, is to help Veterans with any issues they may have and on the same day, the Director of Sandhills Cemetery will also be there to help. Mr. Caron stated the Veterans Day Ceremony will be on November 10, 2023, at Veterans Park along with Alderman Palacios and the Appearance Committee regarding the Art Mural Ceremony. Mr. Caron stated in May 2024, they are planning another Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park. Mr. Caron stated on September 14, 2024, they are planning a suicide prevention and part of the plan is either a bike or car run, which all proceeds will go to a suicide prevention program. Mr. Caron stated as of right now, the run is from here to Sanford to Lillington and then back to Spring Lake, and there will also be other events, but at the next meeting, he is meeting with the Suicide Prevention Coordinator from the VA and she will be coming to speak and give ideas. Last, Mr. Caron stated that hopefully there will be another Service Day next year. Alderman Lackman stated there are two (2) vacancies open, as Ms. Clyde and Ms. Coleman have resigned, and these meetings are open to the general public.

8. New Business

- a. Financial Update – David Erwin, Local Government Commission – Mr. Erwin stated the LGC will not know the full accrual until the middle of September, however, he presented a PowerPoint of the Financial Status of the Town as of year-end June 30, 2023, detailing the General Fund, Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund, Stormwater Enterprise Fund, Sanitation Enterprise Fund, Fleet Maintenance Internal Service Fund, ARPA Funds, and an Audit Update. Mr. Erwin also provided a Financial Summary Report for the period ending June 30, 2023. Mayor Anthony and Alderwoman Cooper acknowledged the Board, staff, Finance Department, Audit Committee, and the LGC for their hard work. Alderman Lackman stated those items on the slide regarding ARPA purchases were well-needed and commended Debra Mack for her hard work. Alderman Palacios stated he felt compelled to write a note and read it during the meeting (**Attachment #1**). Alderwoman Cooper stated the Town no longer owes money to the Water and Sewer Fund, so the Town can now apply for funding. Mr. Erwin stated the Town can apply for State Grants and Loans with no penalty and no inner funds debt. Mayor Anthony stated for the things that were purchased, the Board could make recommendations but was not something that had to be officially voted on, as the Town Manager took care of that, the staff had input as well, and the LGC must approve everything.

- b. Special Event Permit – First Friday on Main (Greater Sandhills Chamber) – Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman – Chief Spellman stated the Special Event Committee received an application from the Greater Sandhills Chamber for the First Friday on Main event for Friday, September 1, 2023, from 6 pm to 9 pm, and on August 14, 2023, the Committee met and discussed the event, which was a census from the Committee to move forward and bring before the Board for approval. Chief Spellman stated everything

fits the criteria to move forward. Taneisha Kerr, President of the Greater Sandhills Chamber, approached the podium and stated approximately 15 months ago, she came before the Board for the first time to talk about the Greater Sandhills Chamber and one of the things that was important to the Board at the time, was to create an environment for people to get excited about Commerce in the City, for businesses to feel supported, and to create an environment for growth. Ms. Kerr stated First Friday on Main is an event the Chamber has been wanting to bring to life, which would be a series of festivals to celebrate all the wonderful things that are happening in Spring Lake, to celebrate the resilience of the Town, to celebrate the people and their tenacity for everything the Town has gone through, so this Festival as the name suggests, First Friday on Main, will be held on Main Street in the heart of the Town between Spring Avenue and Johnson Street. Ms. Kerr stated the Chamber has requested approval to close off the streets so citizens can come out and walk freely, invited vendors to come and fill the streets, a kid's area with a bounce house and a rock wall, opportunities for shopping, and of course, food trucks, confections, and live music. Ms. Kerr stated the Chamber will continue this through the Fall, so they are requesting the permits to be able to do this. Mayor Anthony stated the Town has wanted to do this before but through the wisdom and guidance of the LGC, they said not yet, however, the Town is now in the position and this is no expense to the Town. Mayor Anthony commended the Chamber for taking this on and putting it together for the citizens. Alderman Lackman read a letter he received regarding this event (**Attachment #2**) and stated this letter was one (1) of two (2) business owners who contacted him stating they did not know anything that was going on regarding this event, so he thinks as a Chamber and Board, Owners and businesses on Main Street need to be advised so they can plan accordingly. Alderwoman Cooper stated her concern is the same as Alderman Lackman's and asks for future reference, to have something submitted where the Board knows how and when people were notified so the Board can say they were notified. Alderman Palacios asked if any of the Special Events Committee members had any concerns or if it was unanimous and Chief Spellman stated it was a consensus and there were no issues or concerns.

Action: Approval of the Special Event Permit – First Friday on Main.

Motion by: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: 4-1

AYES

Robyn Chadwick, Mayor Pro Tem
Soñia L. Cooper, Alderwoman
Raul Palacios, Alderman
Adrian Thompson, Alderwoman

NOES

Marvin Lackman, Alderman

- c. Ordinance 2023 (3) Declaring A Road Closure for 1st Friday on Main – Mayor Kia Anthony – Alderwoman
Cooper stated this Ordinance is for Friday, September 1st, Friday, October 6th, and Friday, November 3, 2023, and going forward, please make sure something is sent out notifying businesses about the event. Alderman Lackman stated he had the same concern. Mayor Anthony stated she completely agreed but there is a plus side to this, as this event is going to pack hundreds of citizens in front of these businesses and will now have visibility of these businesses for people who may have not known these businesses were there. Alderwoman Thompson stated this is not the first time the street has been closed for a special event and it will not be the last.

Action: Approval of Ordinance 2023 (3) Declaring A Road Closure for 1st Friday on Main.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

- d. Military Banner Program – Alderman Marvin Lackman – Alderman Lackman presented a PowerPoint explaining the details, styles, costs, and examples of what the military banners would look like, and purchased an example banner and presented it to the Board. Alderman Lackman stated this program is looking to be initiated next year, starting Memorial Day through Veterans Day, with a hang date of May 15th, and it can be Active Duty, Retired, or Veterans, and looking to be flown on Main Street and Spring Street, which would be two (2) banners to a pole. Alderman Lackman stated the same flags can be flown yearly if they stay in good shape. Alderwoman Cooper asked if the total cost for one (1) banner is \$170.00 and Alderman Lackman stated yes, that is the total cost for everything, which includes shipping, fiberglass brackets, and the banner itself. Mayor Anthony asked if the fiberglass bracket breaks, will that cost be incurred by the Town to be put back up or will it go back to the Owner of the banner? Alderman Lackman stated he spoke with the Military Banner Manager and she stated they have not had any breaks, however, there are no warranties on the brackets, so that is why there is an extra cost in there, but no cost to the Town, and is a voluntary program. Alderman Palacios stated this sounds like a great idea and is 100% behind this, but thinks it would not hurt to see if there are some other options that can get a better deal and asked if he was expecting to get this done in the next year, 2024. Alderman Lackman stated yes, Mrs. Hickmon called around different places and just the banner itself, not including the brackets, was over \$250.00, so this was the better cost, and from January 1st through March 1st is their slow period, so that is when we would look to get these in. Alderman Palacios asked if the Town would need to update the Fee Schedule and Mayor Anthony stated yes. Alderman Lackman stated as a Board, it can be determined if we want a double-sided picture or a saying on the back, because this way, all banners will be consistent. Both Mayor Anthony and Alderwoman Cooper expressed their thoughts regarding the styles of the banners. Alderwoman Cooper stated maybe some people could sponsor, maybe get approval to purchase some, if Mr. Erwin allows it, and the ability to do this online. Alderman Lackman stated sponsorship is an option and that will be available online but thinks everything needs to stay consistent. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated since the community is purchasing the banners, she thinks it should be their choice on the style of the banner. Alderman Lackman stated for consistency purposes, keeping it the same allows for fewer errors and it flows better. Mayor Anthony requested for Ruth Street to be included in the policy as well. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated she highly supports and thinks it would be a great asset to Veterans Park.

Action: Approval of the Military Banner Program as written with the amended addition of Ruth Street implemented into the Policy.

Motion by: Alderman Lackman

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- e. Discussion Regarding Access to Town Hall – Alderwoman Soñia Cooper – Alderwoman Cooper stated it needs to be known who is always in the building, so she is proposing a sign-in/sign-out sheet, would like to see if there are any monies to put some type of security in place as the status of the cameras is not

known, and feels like all this needs to be looked into, as she wants all Town staff to be safe. Alderwoman Cooper stated she would like to bring back the Safety Committee and would like that Committee, at some point, to give an update on where we are as far as the safety of Town facilities because this has previously been put to the side, so she would like to have a consensus to bring back the Safety. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick asked what would the Safety Committee consist of and Alderwoman Cooper stated looking at all Town facilities regarding security, anything that needs to be brought to the Manager's attention, and how to handle an emergency such as an active shooter or a tornado. Alderman Palacios stated he agrees a risk assessment should be done to determine protocols. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick rhetorically asked what actions or roles would the Police Department have but thinks awareness needs to be in place. Mr. Williams stated he was once on the Safety Committee, which consisted of Police, Fire, and other employees, which met quarterly and once a month for training. Mr. Williams stated it would be possible to bring back the Committee, cameras are up and running, however, the Town should probably invest in new cameras in some different areas of Town Hall, and Banard started a sign-in/sign-out sheet already, as well as the Fire and Police Departments. Mayor Anthony asked if Visitor badges were a possibility and Mr. Williams stated we could try but it might be hard to do as people will be coming in and out to pay their water bill.

Consensus for staff to start working on safety regarding access to Town Hall.

- f. Discussion Regarding Revisiting Strategic Plan – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony provided the draft Mission Statement, Vision, and Strategic Plan document (**Attachment #3**) and stated Mr. Paul Meyer led the second strategic planning session and he was blown away at the progress made from the first strategic planning session, as just about everything set forth from the first planning session was met. Mayor Anthony stated she wanted the Board to look at it again to see what needs to be done or addressed and possibly adjust some of these dates to stay on target. The hiring of the Finance staff date was adjusted as it is still six (6) to eight (8) months out. Mayor Anthony stated the LGC is working on an updated Fiscal Accountability Agreement, the Mission and Vision Statement needs to be formally adopted, which will be put on the September 11, 2023, Regular Session meeting Agenda to be approved, Town Clerk and Town Attorney is in place, and there is an Interim Town Manager currently, however, the position is open and actively looking to fill. Mayor Anthony stated HR updates are in the process as there is a new Interim Human Resources Director, Paula Stewart, who is contracted through the Mid-Carolina Council of Government, the Special Events Committee has been established, met with the Federal Delegation, and the Audit Committee did the zero-based budgeting, so right on track with those. Mayor Anthony stated regarding the finance system purchase, we are relying heavily on the LGC's guidance for that time frame, which was July 1st, however, we are still in the process of moving forward, and the 2023-2024 pay study is not due until the end of September. Mayor Anthony stated the Board was optimistic about asking the LGC to return control to the Town by the end of the year, however, this was before the position the Town is in now, but it was seven (7) years projected to come out of this, however, it was done in two (2) years and now on track to changing Spring Lake forever. Mayor Anthony stated the Policy Committee, which is Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick, Alderman Lackman, and Alderwoman Thompson is going through the Financial Policies required by the LGC, which have not been updated in a while and are in the auditing process. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated they have been working consistently and diligently on those policies and are more than halfway through, so in another week or two, they will be completed. Alderwoman Thompson stated there are 41 policies and most have not

been updated since 2007-2008. Mayor Anthony stated the Town Clerk will have this document published on the Town's website.

- g. Economic Development (Hayes Group)/Strategic Planning Session Update – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated the Town no longer has an Economic Development position and she had the chance to attend the economic development training with Cumberland County, where she met Mr. Hayes of the Hayes Group Consulting, and asked him what he did for municipalities. Mayor Anthony stated she gave them copies of the Strategic Plan and Land Use Plan, and with that, they built a very specific program based on Spring Lake's current information to train the Board and Staff on economic development and will provide in-depth training to figure out what industries fit Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated the total cost would be \$6,658, which is a set price. Alderman Lackman asked Mayor Anthony if she solicited other companies on this or if it was just them. Mayor Anthony stated they meet the economic development training criteria; however, other consulting companies can be looked at. Alderman Lackman stated he would like to see some competition. Alderwoman Cooper stated one of the things she wondered is if there is anything offered by the League or if there is anything comparable offered by the National League of Cities (NLC) and if so, what pricing would it be because we need to get the best price. Alderman Palacios stated he has a list of nine (9) different economic development projects and cannot wait to share it with everybody to show just how little the Town got out of this. Mayor Anthony stated she would solicit some other consulting firms to bring back to the Board at the next Work Session to vet because this is not projected to go into effect until the next Budget cycle and wanted to get Board input before pursuing it. Alderwoman Cooper stated she would also check with the League and NLC.
- h. Lillian Black Update – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated in 2021, Lillian Black was closed because the cost of the renovations superseded what the county was able to put in, due to it being one (1) of the oldest buildings in Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated the Town wants to try to preserve the building, so she met with the School Board, which has since surplus the building and wants to get feedback from the community and Board about how to pursue this if the Board wants to pursue this to try to maintain control, if possible. Mayor Anthony stated she would like to have it listed on the historical registry because that way, State funding for renovations and upkeep can be applied for. Alderwoman Cooper asked if the Town would have to purchase the building and Mayor Anthony stated that would be up to the County, as it being surplus, it belongs to the County. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated citizens have approached her regarding Lillian Black, and they would like for it to stay in the community and have ideas to contribute if it becomes in possession of the Town. Mayor Anthony stated before any decision or move is made, it will be vetted by the LGC first.
- i. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony stated the RLUAC meeting was a few weeks ago at the Resource Center. Second, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor was successful and the next Lunch with the Mayor will be Thursday, September 28, 2023, which will be publicized. Last, Mayor Anthony stated she received a full scholarship to go to St. Louis for Progressive Governance Academy by the Local Progress, which included the flight and hotel and will be gone from September 7th through the 9th.
- j. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – First, Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated the Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. 5K Cancer Walk/Run Community Festival is a month away, and there are still

opportunities for Vendors, there will be food, games, giveaways, free mammograms, and the money goes back into the community to help support people who have a cancer diagnosis. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated there are also opportunities for people to register as a team, so if a team with 10 or more people registers, there is a discounted price. Second, Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated she is excited about First Friday on Main. First, Alderman Palacios stated Wednesday, September 13, 2023, is the next Appearance Committee meeting at 4:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Second, Alderman Palacios thanked Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick for her services as a teacher and all other teachers. Third, Alderman Palacios gave Sheila Smith, who is a member of the community, a special shout-out as she won Educator of the Year last year, and won Teacher of the Year from Manchester this year. Fourth, Alderman Palacios stated Fall cleanup is on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 9:00 am at the Recreation Center. First, Alderwoman Thompson stated today was the first day of school, and thanked the Board, Police, and Fire for coming out. Second, Alderwoman Thompson stated during these meetings, it is all about respect, so please keep sidebar conversations to a minimum. First, Alderman Lackman stated the Military Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee has two (2) openings and the next meeting is Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 6:30 pm. Second, Alderman Lackman stated there are two (2) Proclamations the County made, which were Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention and for September 15, 2023, POW-MIA Day in Cumberland County, and maybe the Town should look at something like that or at least make citizens aware. Last, Alderman Lackman stated the Spring Lake cleanup will be on Saturday, September 9, 2023. First, Alderwoman Cooper stated there was a food distribution on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at her church, Bethel AME Zion, with Feeding Carolina Community. Second, Alderwoman Cooper stated on Thursday, September 14, 2023, she will be attending a Board meeting for the National League of Cities Small Cities Council. Third, Alderwoman Cooper stated she is excited about T-Mobile's HomeTown Grant, which can be up to \$50,000. Fourth, Alderwoman Cooper stated she and two (2) other members are going to the NC Military Defense Summit in September. Last, Alderwoman Cooper stated Haunted Lakes is Saturday, October 28, 2023, and if you would like to donate candy, there will be a box put out here at Town Hall.

- k. Manager's Report –Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated he had no report at this time.
- l. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter was present via Zoom. Mayor Anthony stated Attorney Porter has not had a chance to review the Closed Session minutes under Consent Items, so they will be Tabled until the next meeting.

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: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

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

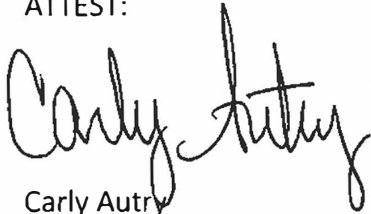
Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick
Vote: Unanimous


10. ADJOURNMENT

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.
Motion: Alderwoman Thompson
Second by: Alderwoman Cooper
Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:


Carly Autry
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor

Attachment #1

Over the last 2-5 years Spring Lake had been headed off a cliff financially, our town staff's morale dwindled and our citizens grew frustrated. We were headed towards possible insolvency in more ways than one.

Today, however, I am grateful for the state takeover that has propelled us on a quite healthy trajectory.

I am grateful for the LGC staff who have stepped in to enforce compliance and offer guidance. Who have endorsed strong habits and given blessings on several active Spring Lake projects.

I appreciate our Town Staff who have elevated their knowledge and abilities. Who have toed the line.

Caught the vision. Who have learned new ways to do their job and account for town money and assets in a way that is a betterment to our town and citizens. Employees our town can be proud of.

To our contracted staff who have created strong habits, dealt with our frustrations but whose guidance has been respected and credible.

I feel blessed for my fellow board members who have taken this challenge head on. This board who is still motivated to ensure things are done the right way. seek education, mentors. learn from other elected officials and still meet several times a week for town business to ensure the ship is steady.

And finally, I'm indebted to the service of our Interim Town Manager Jason Williams who has been the most creative, action-oriented, and efficient person I've had the pleasure of working with. Your ability to be adaptable at such a crucial moment of our town's history, has not been ignored.

Alderman Raul Palacios
August 28, 2023

Monday, August 28, 2023

To the elected officials and staff of The Town of Spring Lake,

My name is Sandra Napier. I am the temporary manager of The Beatitude House located at 102 North Main Street. The Beatitude House is a nonprofit thrift store owned and operated by The New South River Baptist Association. Our business hours are Thursday 10:30 am – 5:00 pm, Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. After closing we balance the daily sales and prepare for opening of the next day. This procedure takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. We vacate the premises around 5:30 on Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday I had a discussion with an adjacent Main Street property owner. He told me about the street fair scheduled for Friday, September 1. He also told me that this is a re-occurring event that would be held the first Friday of each month. He went on to explain that the street in front of the store and side streets would be closed to all traffic.

I had major concerns about the street closures and on Friday I tried to get more information. I first called the police department and was told to call town hall. I made several attempts to speak to someone at town hall. I found that the town manager's voice mail box was full, the town clerk was out of the office until September 4, the assistant town manager's and the mayor's mailbox have never been established. I had no way to leave a message for a call back. Unfortunately, I still do not have the information that I need in order to plan the daily operations for Friday.

My concern is the businesses located on Main Street should have been notified about the street closure as this will affect customers and employees. Will customers be able to access our store without any problem with parking? A lot of our customers are elderly and are not able to walk a great distance. Will our employees be able to remove their car easily from our parking lot when their work shift has ended?

In the future, please keep businesses informed about activities such as the street fair as this will possibly interfere with our livelihood.

With regards,

Sandra Napier

TOWN OF SPRING LAKE
DRAFT MISION STATEMENT, VISION, AND STRATEGIC PLAN
“WAIT AND SEE IS OVER!”: COUNCIL RETREAT 2/18/23

Mission Statement (Who We Are)

The Town of Spring Lake is a collaborative community, historically connected to its military roots. Joined by a commitment to prosperity, our diverse citizenry positively support one another by living lives anchored in transparency, acceptance, and personal responsibility.

Vision Statement (What We Want to Become)

A modern community full of hometown feel, Spring Lake is a vibrant place where robust economic opportunity and quality of life flow freely in a safe and aesthetically pleasing natural environment.

Strategic Planning Paths

1. Manager/staff: Build a competent, qualified, and ethical workforce who are committed to achieving goals and objectives.
2. Governance: Continue to understand and respect roles and responsibilities in the Council Manager form of government.
3. Finance: Create a financial management system and workplace that meets all the mandated requirements as well as creates a culture of transparency and accountability.
4. Operating Policies: Update and create policies, practices and procedures that are consistent with the law and best practices.
5. Relationships: Create a network of partners and stakeholders committed to working together in a collaborative and cooperative manner
6. Economic Development: Create the necessary infrastructure and develop opportunities to expand the tax base and generate new jobs.

5 Year Strategic Plan: “Building Continuity into the Town of Spring Lake”

2022-2023

- Develop one page response to LGC on Fiscal Accountability Agreement – meet with Treasurer Folwell to jumpstart forward progress on returning town control: 4/1/23
- Develop required LGC Fiscal Accountability Agreement Policies: 5/1/23
- Post and hire 3 accounting roles: onboard by 5/1/23
- Finalize and Adopt Mission/Vision/Strategic Plan and Integrate in 23-24 Budget: 6/1/23
- Hire Town Manager: onboard by 6/1/23
- Hire Town Finance Officer: onboard by 6/1/23

- Complete HR Policy Update: 6/30/23
- Adopt the “Town of Spring Lake Way” for Employees (Mission/Vision): 6/30/23
 - Meaningful Performance Management System (merit based)
 - Management focus on people/better management overall
 - Culture of accountability
- Establish Special Events Committee: 6/30/23
- Two members of council meet with federal delegation members: 6/30/23
- Audit Committee zero based budget analysis
 - Adopt 2023-2024 TSL budget in conjunction with LGC Staff: 6/30/23

2023-2024

- Finance System Purchase: 7/1/23
 - Transition to new system: 6/30/24
- Conduct Pay and Class Study to Address Perceived Comp Deficiencies and Inequities: 9/30/23
 - Fund Comp/Benefit Enhancements in 24-25 budget
- Develop Staff Training and Professional Development Goals for All TSL Employees: 12/31/23
- LGC Returns Control of Finances to TSL: 12/31/23
- Assign Council Member Relationship Building Duties: 1/1/24
- Post-Election Elected Official Training: 2/1/24
- Complete TSL Infrastructure Evaluation: 3/1/24
- Complete Revision of all Town Policies (Green Book)/convert electronic: 6/30/24
- Establish Economic Development Advisory Committee: 6/30/24
- Focus Council Relationship Building efforts on Natural Gas extension into TSL: 6/30/24
- Adopt 2024-2025 TSL Budget: 6/30/23

2024-2025

- Determine top economic development goals: 12/30/24
 - Employ strategy to drive goals
- Develop Capital Improvement Plan as part of 2025-26 budget
 - Wastewater Deferred maintenance and capacity issues
 - Transportation
 - Stormwater
- Develop strategies/systems to engage TSL citizens: 6/30/24
- Adopt 2025-25 TSL Budget: 6/30/24

2025-2026

- Maintain council focus on relationship building efforts
- Evaluate staff training, management, and effectiveness of cultural change (“TSL Way”)
- Formalize economic development responsibilities and strategies – staff/partners/etc.