

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

July 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
Aldерwoman Soñia Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Aldерwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Lieutenant Justin Bonsignore, Spring Lake Fire Department
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Representative Marvin Lucas
Michael Porter, Town Attorney
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Police Department
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

Bishop Alfred Marshall gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Aldерwoman Cooper deleted Item a. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege, under Agenda Item 9. Closed Session.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the Agenda with the amended deletion, under Closed Session, Agenda Item 9a. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege

Motion by: Aldерwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of June 12, 2023, Regular Meeting and Draft Minutes of June 26, 2023, Work Session.

Motion by: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

Crystal Johnson, 654 Goodyear Drive, stated she had a question about the water bill. Ms. Johnson stated she understands that the Town gets water from different sources and they went up in price and wanted to inquire if the Town made sure the prices were good. Ms. Johnson stated she knows the Board goes to different conferences and wanted to know if Spring Lake offers those kinds of set-ups. Ms. Johnson stated her last water bill was extremely high and she followed all protocols, no leaks, running toilets, etc., and would like for the Town to look at other options.

7. Presentations

- a. Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. 5K Cancer Walk/Run & Community Festival – Sheila Wilson, Public Communications – Ms. Wilson presented a PowerPoint explaining Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. History, the Cancer Walk/Community Festival the Town will be sponsoring on Saturday, September 30, 2023, and their Community Service. Mayor Anthony asked Ms. Wilson to specify the help they are requesting from the Town and Ms. Wilson stated in addition to the Town hosting the walk, they would need Police to escort everyone to make sure the runners/walkers are safe, Fire for emergency assistance, and the Streets Department. Mayor Anthony asked Ms. Wilson how many people were anticipated and Ms. Wilson stated hopefully around 400 people but for the most part about one to two hundred participants. Alderwoman Cooper asked Ms. Wilson regarding the charge for the event and Ms. Wilson stated that is to register for the run and the vendors will have a vendor fee. Mr. Williams stated to be clear, there are event charges but those monies are going back to help people in the community. Ms. Wilson stated yes, no one in Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. will benefit from this financially as all services are voluntary.
- b. Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee “Yard of the Month” July 2023 – Alderman Raul Palacios – Alderman Palacios stated “Yard of the Month” is the opportunity to recognize neighbors for maintaining and upkeeping their property that makes Spring Lake a more attractive place. Alderman Palacios announced the four (4) residents who were chosen as “Yard of the Month” for July 2023 and presented a PowerPoint of the yards. Shirlene Edwards was the only one (1) who showed up for their certificate. Mrs. Edwards accepted her certificate for her and her husband, Earnest. The other three (3) who were not present were Debro and Kevetta Wynn, Bryon Blumenfield, and Willie McKnight. Mrs. Edwards took a picture with Alderman Palacios, Mayor Anthony, the Board, and Fredricka Sutherland, a Spring Lake Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee member.

8. New Business

- a. Discussion Regarding the Naming of Woodland West Park – Alderwoman Soña Cooper – Alderwoman Cooper stated back in 2020 there was a discussion and a unanimous vote to name Woodland West Park after a much-loved and lifelong resident Rex Perry who did so much for the community, children, and students, so she would like for the Town to complete the process. Alderwoman Cooper stated in that same meeting, there were several discussions about naming either the bridge or the Police Annex after Mr. Billy Manning, who was a Police Chief and a Mayor of Spring Lake, so she would like for the Town to complete that process as well. Alderman Palacios stated he was certainly in favor of proceeding but recalls some discussion regarding the bridge about following proper protocol. Alderwoman Cooper stated there are several DOT requirements in order to name a bridge after someone, which were presented to the Board at the time, but those requirements were not met, so that is why she suggested naming the Police Annex after Mr. Manning and any future structures to also be named after him. Alderwoman Cooper read a timeline of previous discussions regarding Mr. Perry and Mr. Manning. Rex Perry's two (2) sisters, Janet Perry and Rita Harris were present in tonight's meeting. Rita Harris approached the podium and stated she appreciated the Board recognizing his tribute and felt honored. Alderwoman Cooper requested Mr. Williams to start the process and Mr. Williams stated he would start looking at plaques and would work with Mr. Perry's family to finalize this tribute.

- b. Special Event Permit – Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. 5K Cancer Walk/Run & Community Festival – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mayor Anthony stated Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman was supposed to present this Special Event Permit, but unfortunately, he had a family emergency, so Mr. Williams will present. Mr. Williams stated all the questions the Board had were answered during Ms. Wilson's presentation and Police and Fire are good with helping during the event. Mayor Anthony commended the Special Events Committee as this was their first event process and all staff involved walked Ms. Bryant through the process. Mayor Anthony stated some adjustments were made so the route was etched out properly.

Action: Approval of the Special Event Permit – Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. 5K Cancer Walk/Run & Community Festival.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Lackman asked if the residents along the route would be notified or if there be any street shutdowns and Mr. Williams stated there would not be any shutdowns but Police and Fire would be in the area. Mr. Williams stated back roads will be utilized, and it is a Saturday morning so traffic should not be busy, but will advise people about what is going on. Mayor Anthony reiterated the Town is not just approving the event, the Town is approving the event with sponsorship, which means the Town is paying for Police, Fire, and Streets presence and again, there is no profit going to this organization. Mayor Anthony stated the money made is paying for the mammograms and is going back into the scholarship. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

stated this money goes to help the community and helps pay for mammograms for those who cannot afford to pay for them.

- c. Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee Bylaws – Alderman Raul Palacios – Alderman Palacios stated in May 2022, the Appearance Committee had their elections for Chair and Vice-chair and the current Bylaws state elections are to be done annually by the overall members of the Board. Alderman Palacios stated the proposal is in January of each year for the committee to hold elections. Mayor Anthony stated she challenges everyone to look at their Bylaws to ensure there is no ambiguous language, like annually so that a more concrete timeline and uniformity can be set.

Action: Approval of the amended Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee Bylaws.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony wished Alderwoman Thompson a Happy Birthday and welcomed everyone back from the break between Board meetings. Mayor Anthony stated it is campaign season and there have been a lot of voter laws changed and Voter IDs are now required. Mayor Anthony stated to obtain a Voter ID, please go to the DMV, the Board of Elections, or over the age of 65, an expired ID can be used, but if wanting to vote, please have a Voter ID. Mayor Anthony stated if there is no Voter ID, the provisional ballot can still be passed, but an ID will be required for that ballot to be cast. Mayor Anthony stated during the break, several meetings took place. Mayor Anthony stated a discussion with FAMPO about grant funding the Town could possibly apply for, for infrastructure and she met with Parks and Recreation about updates and knows the community is interested in what is happening. Mayor Anthony stated there were underlying issues with the Recreation Center, but Cumberland County has replaced nine (9) of the eleven (11) HVAC systems, replaced the roof, and staff are floating to other Recreation Centers to get training. Mayor Anthony stated they are in an observation mode right now to monitor the activity at Parks and Recreation so they can know how to better adjust for the community so by next summer, there will be updates happening. Mayor Anthony stated park equipment is expensive and since the Town did not have, at the time, much to contribute financially to the repairs of the park, it is going to take a bit longer for the County to get the funding to repair the parks but are on top of it. Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor is this Wednesday, July 26th but on that same day, since she is on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Mayor's Association, she has been extended the opportunity to meet with the Moldovan Parliament in Raleigh, so she will get a chance to understand how international government works, exchange ideas, and best practices, and bring those back to the community. Mayor Anthony commended the Board and staff for all the hard work they have been putting in throughout this time. Mayor Anthony stated a few projects are in the works such as Lillian Black, and reached out to the Cumberland County Board of Education and the Superintendents expressing interest in the possibility of gifting or granting this piece of property back to the Town, and how that building can best serve the community.

Mayor Anthony stated that is the oldest standing building in the community and does not want to see it go to waste, so a few stakeholder meetings will take place in the future for the community to come together and tell their ideas and visions for that building. Mayor Anthony stated the Town has been working with Sandhills Family Heritage Association about Hillside Cemetery and they have been providing resources on how the Town can get that cemetery listed on the Historical Cemetery Registry that way it can be preserved and prevented from being closed because if not saved, it will be shut down and no one will have access to their relatives there and the historical connection to that land. Mayor Anthony stated Mutzberg Park is 34 acres of land gifted to the Town for walking trails along the Little River with beautiful scenic overlooks that the Town wants to repair, but due to Covid, has overgrown, so the Town has asked the State for a grant so those walking trails can be cleared out to give Spring Lake another beautiful addition. Mayor Anthony stated she has had several meetings with Piedmont Gas and Fort Liberty and looking to meet with State and Federal Delegations to move forward with the process of bringing natural gas to Spring Lake which will allow bigger restaurants, schools, or a medical complex. Mayor Anthony stated community support and buy-in are needed because this is not just for business owners, it is also for residential owners as these cuts propane bills in half and is a huge benefit for the community. Mayor Anthony stated there will be stakeholders' meetings to get community engagement and to figure out how to move forward.

- e. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated since it has been approved, Save the Date for Saturday, September 30th for Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. 5K Cancer Run/Walk and Community Festival. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick invited the community out to Anderson Creek Christian Center on Wednesday, July 26th, and Thursday, July 27th for Vacation Bible School from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, and then on Saturday, August 5th, there will be a Sneaker Ball. Alderman Palacios stated Fall Town cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 16th with more details to come but is usually organized at the Recreation Center. Alderman Palacios stated the Town has a new code enforcement company and if something needs to be addressed in the community, please reach out to the Inspections Department. Mayor Anthony stated to piggyback off that if you see something, email a picture to the Town Manager at townmanager@townofspringlake.com. Alderman Thompson stated Cops and Conversations community meeting will be on Thursday, July 27th at 6:00 pm. Alderman Lackman stated two (2) illegal dump sites were cleaned up at the last cleanup, in which over 30 bags of trash were collected totaling 260 pounds but a lot of yard debris was included from one of the illegal dump sites and thanked Alderwoman Thompson and Charles for helping. Alderman Lackman stated next cleanup is Saturday, August 5th at 8:00 am and will meet at Southwinds Plaza, and tomorrow, Tuesday, July 25th at 6:30 pm is the Military Veterans Affairs Committee meeting here in this building and it is open to the general public. Mayor Anthony stated the community is noticing as the Town receives emails and letters expressing gratitude for the changes in the community. Alderwoman Cooper stated she just got back from Tacoma, Washington attending the National League of Cities Summer Leadership meeting that was by invitation only and attended an all-day presentation about municipal bond markets and racial equity. Alderwoman Cooper stated bonds are like loans to do big projects, like the Recreation Center and schools, and attended State of the Cities where Mayors from across the nation were interviewed, which infrastructure and broadband were major concerns. Alderwoman Cooper

stated she also had an opportunity to do a special session on trauma as an elected official and this leadership conference was at no cost to the Town. Alderwoman Cooper stated she and Mayor Anthony are attending the North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials (NCBEMO) Conference this coming weekend in Rocky Mount and there will be sessions on water, infrastructure, infrastructure funding, and public safety which will allow them to bring resources back to the community. Alderwoman Cooper stated lastly, she is going to WIMG (Women in Municipal Government) in Charlotte and there be a panel about HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities), which former Spring Lake Mayor Chris Rey has been invited to speak at. Alderwoman Cooper stated she hopes the Town will sign up for the infrastructure program provided by NLC, as NLC is working hard to get small cities under 20,000 funding for infrastructure and they will also host a boot camp to walk staff, the Mayor, and Town Manager through the process of getting grant funds for infrastructure for the Town. Mayor Anthony stated she cannot stress enough the importance of these conferences for learning and resources, as the Town's newly hired code enforcement contractors came from CityVision.

- f. Manager's Report –Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams acknowledged the staff for their hard work cleaning up the Town and to the Police Department for pulling over speeders.
- g. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael 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. § 143-318.1 l(a)(6) – Personnel

Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

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

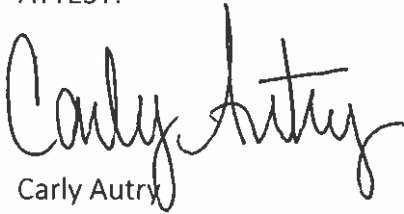
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:



Carly Autry
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony
Mayor

