

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

October 9, 2023

MINUTES

6:00 pm

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Kia Anthony presiding.

Board Members Present: Alderwoman Soñia Cooper
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Devon Gloria, Spring Lake Firefighter
Patricia Hickmon, Inspections Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Officer
Captain David Hoffmaster, Spring Lake Fire Department
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Timothy Patterson, Spring Lake Assistant Fire Marshal
Michael Porter, Town Attorney
Dysoaneik Spellman, Chief of Spring Lake Police
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Spring Lake Police Department
Jason Williams, Spring Lake Fire Chief/Interim Town Manager
Steve Wing, Interim Public Works Director

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

Alderwoman Cooper requested to add the Christmas Tree Lighting 2023 under New Business, Item D.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of October 9, 2023 Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting agenda with the addition of the Christmas Tree Lighting 2023 under New Business, Item D.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios
Second by: Alderwoman Thompson
Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of September 25, 2023, Work Session Meeting, Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Aubrey Davis, and Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Irene Rosa.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios
Second by: Alderman Lackman
Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Lackman stated there is a correction on the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application for Aubrey Davis. Alderman Lackman stated Mr. Davis listed on his application that he was a resident of the Town of Spring Lake; however, he is not, and Mr. Davis has been contacted to amend his application. Alderman Lackman stated this change will not affect his application status. Mayor Anthony stated Mr. Davis is a Harnett County Spring Lake resident, not a resident of Cumberland County Spring Lake or in the Incorporated Tax District.

6. Public Comment

Philmore Hughes, 5730 Ivanhoe Court, Fayetteville, stated he and his wife attended the First Friday on Main event on Friday, October 6, 2023, and they spoke to a Board Member about his wife doing an event in Spring Lake but were told his wife is not doing enough for her business and she needed to promote it more. Mr. Hughes stated he was told by an Alderwoman that he does not show up for meetings and when she was corrected, she stated he only showed up briefly and he does not like to be lied to because at the same meeting, she was not there and he had to be conferenced in via phone. Mr. Hughes stated he also showed up to the Veterans meeting the next day so this is the 2nd meeting he has attended. Mr. Hughes stated he is here to show bipartisan support and leadership and has provided his service for free on several occasions, however, if he is not needed, he wants to be left alone.

Crystal Johnson, 654 Goodyear Drive, first stated the Board is elected officials and chooses to do what they do, so she does not like to hear in the community regarding their pay. Second, Mr. Johnson stated she wants to know the coalition between the mural and the Town of Spring Lake, as she does not think any citizens expressed their wants or desires for a mural. Ms. Johnson stated she wants to know what the Town's responsibilities and the grant's responsibilities are regarding the mural and wants to know how much the Town is contributing to the mural because she thinks all the money is not there yet. Ms. Johnson stated she believes Town officials should be working on Town time. Last, Ms. Johnson stated the trees are gone in Veterans Park and wanted to know what is going on in that area.

Nathaniel Fitch, 735 Goodyear Drive, stated this upcoming weekend, Saturday, October 14, 2023, there is a boxing event at True Vine Ministries at 5315 Morganton Road in Fayetteville, and the doors open at 2:00 pm with the event starting at 3:00 pm. Mr. Fitch stated he and Mr. Williams have discussed his next show,

which will be in May, possibly here in Spring Lake if they can come to an agreement. Mr. Fitch stated an outlet for the youth is needed.

Bettye Sanford, 104 Wapiti Drive, first stated she has an issue with people driving down N. Bragg Blvd. without a covering on the back of their truck and it is causing trash to be littered onto the street, and feels like the Town should have an Ordinance regarding this. Second, Ms. Sanford stated there is nothing in Spring Lake for the youth and must travel to Fayetteville and Hope Mills to do activities, like going to the movies or the YMCA.

7. Presentations

- a. Fire Prevention Week Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Captain David Hoffmaster approached the podium and explained a few details regarding Fire Prevention Week. Captain Hoffmaster stated a couple of different shifts with the Fire Department have done a couple of one-to-two-minute videos regarding Fire Prevention and put them on social media. Captain Hoffmaster stated they hold events at local schools with Sparky the Dog which is also in correlation with Safe Kids. Chief Williams stated the Town is a big advocate for Fire Prevention, as the Town has done smoke alarm canvases in neighborhoods to push fire safety. Mayor Anthony read the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation.
- b. Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee “Yard of the Month” October 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. The four (4) winners were Kevin Ashby, Lynn and Shawn Ellison, Deborah and Amanda Flowers, and Theresa Moore. Alderman Palacios presented certificates announcing the four (4) residents who were chosen as Yard of the Month for their neighborhood.

8. New Business

- a. Special Events Advisory Committee Bylaws Amendment – Patricia Hickmon, Inspections Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Officer – Mrs. Hickmon stated the Special Events Advisory Committee met on September 28, 2023, and voted unanimously to amend the Bylaws to reflect a staff liaison from Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation, which would be Zefrim Lewis, to serve on the Committee as a non-voting member to be part of this committee. Mayor Anthony reiterated that Mr. Lewis would be a non-voting member because he is part of the staff for the Recreation Center and he reports for approval through his proper channels, so he will be opening the lines of communication there, and that way, the Town will know what is happening at the Recreation Center, the Recreation Center will know what is happening at the Town and whenever the Town needs the Recreation Center, there is a clear avenue of communication between the Town and the Recreation Center. Alderwoman Cooper asked if newly updated calendars would be received and Mayor Anthony stated that was the whole point of making sure Mr. Lewis was put directly amid everything happening in the Town and that way, the Town knew exactly what was happening at the Recreation Center, as there has been a breakdown in communication, and this is being done to bridge that gap. Mayor Anthony stated this will also make sure that anything that is happening in the Town now goes on the County calendar so it will be broadcasted to all the County through their Recreation Center, web pages, and media

channels, and Spring Lake will now have an active presence. Alderman Palacios asked whenever events come before the Special Events Committee, is there a way to designate someone to make sure they are included on the Manager's Report and Mrs. Hickmon stated yes, she already does that, however, the events that are 75 people and below are usually not included, but she will include them now on the Manager's Report.

Action: Motion to approve the Special Events Advisory Committee Bylaws Amendment.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Halloween Trick or Treat Hours – Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman – Chief Spellman stated Halloween is in three (3) weeks and the Police Department is recommending Trick or Treat Hours on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, between 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Chief Spellman stated the Town would like to follow the same schedule as Cumberland County and other municipalities within Cumberland County, and during that time, the Police Department will have adequate coverage to ensure safety.

Action: Motion to approve the Halloween Trick or Treat Hours for the Town of Spring Lake.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Veteran's Park Update – Steve Wing, Interim Public Works Director & Patricia Hickmon, Inspections Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Officer – Mayor Anthony started off by saying she wanted to make sure that everyone knew the money being used to do the renovations at Veterans Park was allocated in 2021, however, the LGC did not allow those funds to be touched until the finances were corrected, and now these funds can be used to better the appearance and the usability of the parks here in Spring Lake. Mr. Wing approached the podium and stated all the trees were taken down by Town employees, no outside companies were hired, and all the grinding of the stumps did not cost the Town a dime, as Fayetteville Parks and Cumberland County Recreation Department came out and did it free of charge, so all of that was taken care of in-house, and the only cost was the regular hourly salary of Town employees. Mr. Wing stated the trees were in bad shape even though they might not have looked like it but if you got up close to them, they had root girdling due to the massive amount of erosion over the years, the roots were exposed and nothing would grow there as it was just hardpan (clay). Mr. Wing stated irrigation would have been astronomical because there would have been a need for many heads to get all the grass that would need watering, it would have been cost-feasible, but he knows it looks rough now, but give it a few weeks, it is going to look good, and it will give room for future growth. Mayor Anthony reiterated that these trees had become a hazard and the Town is being proactive by taking these trees down. Alderman Lackman asked Mr. Wing about the trees, there were 17 of them that were taken down due to being diseased and infested, and Mr. Wing stated yes. Alderman Lackman asked if an arborist came and looked at the trees and Mr. Wing stated an arborist did not come in specifically to look at the trees, but the person from the City of Fayetteville who ground the stumps was an arborist and stated the trees were hazardous, and were not even logging material at that point. Alderman Lackman asked once everything was set, was the Town opening this up for

citizen input and Mayor Anthony stated Mrs. Hickmon was going to speak about that. Alderwoman Cooper thanked Mr. Wing for this information, as she knows very little about trees and plants, but knowing the roots being exposed can be dangerous, and she is sure this is going to be information the citizens can use in future information. Mr. Wings stated the roots were sticking so far out of the ground in some places, that it could not be mowed with a lawnmower or with a tractor, so a weed-eater had to be used. Mr. Wing stated the electrical lights that light up the memorial have not been working in approximately ten (10) years, but a contractor is coming to give a price quote. Mrs. Hickmon stated the draft of Veterans Park is just a preliminary, however, they did reach out to some landscaping companies, and the Town is looking at a ballpark area of about \$45,000 total and is requesting the Board to do a public forum at the upcoming meeting to get feedback from the citizens to see what can be done to allocate funds for this project. Mayor Anthony reiterated the draft is just a mockup, this is what it could be but again, the citizens will be involved in giving ideas, and the Clerk will check the calendar and the agenda to see the best time to do a public forum. Alderman Palacios stated the funds from the State Budget is \$114,000, which will be the primary source of funds, and the Veterans Committee has been working on this project with ideas and thinks it would be a good idea to have them at the forefront. Alderman Palacios thanked Mr. Wing and his crew and stated ever since Mr. Wing took over the Department, there has been a big change in the overall appearance of the Town. Mr. Wing wanted to give thanks to Cumberland County/City of Fayetteville for their help. Mayor Anthony asked the Clerk to send them a 'Thank You' card.

Consensus from the Board to allocate funds for two (2) electricians and a landscaping company

- d. Christmas Tree Lighting – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated the Christmas Tree Lighting has been done in the past couple of years and would like to have it on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 6:00 pm this year, and is requesting a consensus from the Board.

Consensus from the Board to allow the staff to prepare for the Christmas Tree Lighting

- e. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony stated she and Alderman Lackman had an opportunity to attend the Military Defense Summit in Raleigh, learned about purposeful partnerships with the military community, received a Legislative update in direct regard to the Defense Budget and pay rates that are happening on Fort Bragg, had a chance to look at some opportunity for military spouses and family members who is a huge part of the community and will see even more through the Military and Veterans Advisory Committee. Second, Mayor Anthony stated the Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. 5K Cancer Run/Walk happened, which was a successful event and saw the community come out in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month which is the month of October, the Board has a breast cancer survivor, and all Board Members came out in support, and Pink D.Y.M.O.N.S. is already looking to host it again in Spring Lake next year. Third, Mayor Anthony stated she and several other Board Members had the chance to support the Sandhills Family Heritage Association by going to their Rural Heritage Food Celebration and she read a Proclamation in honor of what they have done for the community. Fourth, Mayor Anthony stated First Friday on Main was this past weekend, which again was successful, but Alderwoman Cooper will talk more about that since she is on the Board of the Chamber which partners with the Town to host this event. Fifth, Mayor Anthony stated the Town Clerk will be unavailable due to schooling on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, for her Finance class, and Monday,

October 16 through Friday, October 20, 2023, to complete Clerk Training School and will be graduating. Sixth, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor will be on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, and the location is to be determined. Last, Mayor Anthony stated regarding voter registration, some new laws came out, such as voter ID laws, so voters will be asked to present an ID while voting, voters must show acceptable forms of ID, and if you do not have an ID, there is a No-fee ID card that you can get from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mayor Anthony stated you will be allowed to vote if you do not present an ID, however, you will receive a provisional ballot that will have to be turned in to the Board of Elections. Mayor Anthony stated early voting starts on Thursday, October 19, 2023, and will continue until 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 4, 2023, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023, which will be held right across the street at the Recreation Building.

- f. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – First, Alderman Palacios stated the Appearance Committee meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 4:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Second, Alderman Palacios stated the Mural is being painted this week, starting on Thursday, October 12, 2023, and to answer Ms. Crystal’s question from earlier when she asked about the funding, \$8,000 was granted to the Town from the Arts Council of Fayetteville, and the rest of that, which came out to approximately \$5,540 came from the Town, and this was previously discussed raising funds for this project and future projects, so 100% of funds are covered. Alderman Palacios stated the Mural project could not move forward with a contract until funding was in place so that is why it took so long to get the contract done. Third, Alderman Palacios thanked the Town staff who primed and prepped the wall, and the Town was given an easement from Beatitude House at 102 N. Main Street, which is on the corner of Main Street and Spring Avenue. Fourth, Alderman Palacios stated on Friday, November 10, 2023, at 11:00 am, for Veterans Day, there will be a ceremony for Veterans Day/Unveiling, as the Appearance Committee and the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee are going to be doing a hybrid event, there will be speakers, the Color Guard will be attending, and parking will be at First Baptist Church. Alderman Palacios stated Spring Avenue between Main Street and 1st Street will be closed off during the ceremony. Last, Alderman Palacios stated he was unable to attend September’s First Friday on Main, however, he attended Friday for October’s and it was a great event and thanked all the vendors and the Police Department, Town staff, and everyone else responsible for their hard work. First, Alderwoman Thompson stated on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:00 pm, at the Spring Lake Recreation Center, the Police Department is holding a Neighborhood Community Watch meeting to reduce crime in the community, which this meeting will be in lieu of Cops and Conversations for this month. Second, Alderwoman Thompson stated on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the Recreation Center, there will be another event for Breast Cancer Awareness that is sponsored by Guiding Light No. 18. Last, Alderwoman Thompson stated the Board, except for one (1), went to the School of Government for UAL Training. First, Alderman Lackman presented a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Valor Awards sponsored by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, to recognize Sergeant Taylor, Officer Passmore, and Chief Williams, and read each of their section from the program. Mayor Anthony added that the award Mr. Williams received is a countywide award that came from people across Cumberland County, seeing the value that he has added to the Town, not just in safety, but in management as well. Alderman Palacios also added State Treasurer Dale Folwell made his way down to Spring Lake the other day to recognize Mr. Williams to praise the amount of effort and progress that has been made in the Town and he acknowledged Mr. Williams for his sacrifices and a picture of Mr. Williams and State Treasurer

Dale Folwell was presented. Second, Alderman Lackman stated on cleanup for 2023, there have been 59 volunteers, and over 3,800 pounds of trash have been collected, and presented a picture from the cleanup from this past Saturday, October 7, 2023. Third, Alderman Lackman stated on Saturday, November 4, 2023, the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee is hosting a Veteran Service Event from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Recreation Center, and there will be Veteran Service Officers to assist with claims and Judge Oliveras from the Veteran Treatment Court to assist Veterans who may have gotten into a little bit of trouble. Fourth, Alderman Lackman stated regarding high water bills, there are things that can be done with Duke by going to www.savewaterdukeenergy.com to receive a free kit, which includes a 1.5-gallon kitchen water cap with aerator, two (2) 3 ft hot water insulation wraps, two (2) 1 gallon per minute splash-free bathroom faucet aerators, and a rubber jar opener, or these kits can be upgraded with a charge and these kits are one (1) per customer. Fifth, Alderman Lackman provided an Excel spreadsheet with Parks and Recreation maintenance updates and stated from November 14, 2022, to September 15, 2023, Fayetteville Cumberland County spent \$67,174.75 on the Parks and Recreation building, and not from Town funds, on HVAC systems, repairing the roof, plumbing, fixing the ice machine, electrical work, painting, cleaning of the front with the pressure washer, security cameras, and IT updates. Last, Alderman Lackman wished Mrs. Hickmon a Happy Belated Birthday. Mayor Anthony stated regarding the UAL training the Board attended, they studied budgeting, Internal Controls and management, cash management, Pre-Audits and disbursements, and auditing, and these are all things that are a part of municipal government finance. First, Alderwoman Cooper stated regarding the Unit Assistance List training, in 2017, all municipalities or units of government were supposed to sign a Resolution to be able to authorize any electronic transactions, meaning to use a credit card to make a purchase, and the Town of Spring Lake has never passed that Resolution, so the Board is working on getting that passed, due to non-compliance, so hopefully, that will be at the next meeting. Second, Alderwoman Cooper stated regarding the repairs that had to be done for Parks and Recreation, having these many repairs done in that little bit of time means the Town was not taking care of the property and must be better stewards of the properties that the Town owns, and the list of repairs is available as it is public information. Third, Alderwoman Cooper stated Susan McCullen who retired from the LGC but is now with the NCLM, was at the UAL training and she mentioned the funding given by the State Legislature to get assistance with accounting software and cyber security and believes Mr. Williams has been in contact with the NCLM about that and thinks that can be a value of up to \$350,000, which will be at no cost to the Town. Fourth, Alderwoman Cooper thanked the staff, Lillian Anderson, the Fire and Police Departments, and the Greater Sandhills Chamber for their hard work with First Friday on Main. Fifth, Alderwoman Cooper stated she was not in attendance at the last Board of Aldermen meeting, which was on Monday, September 25, 2023, due to the possible exposure to Covid and did not want to put anyone else at risk, however, at that same meeting, someone mentioned her behavior while attending a conference. Alderwoman Cooper stated any conferences she attends, she does not pay for alcohol with Town money, as a matter of fact, at the conference in Nashville, she paid out of her own pocket, and the Mayor also attended, she paid out of her own pocket, as well, and none of those expenses were on the Town. Alderwoman Cooper stated a few resources were brought back to the Town including a direct contact with the economic development in Washington, DC. Sixth, Alderwoman Cooper stated she attended the Small Cities Council meeting, which is going to put a spotlight on the Town of Spring Lake with approximately four (4) videos, and it will also highlight some businesses and nonprofit organizations. Last, Alderwoman Cooper stated she is going to Durham on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, for the Board of Directors

meeting for the North Carolina Black Municipal Officials (NCBEMO), which is an affiliate of the NCLM, which will be at no cost to the Town. Mayor Anthony went back to the repairs list regarding the Recreation Center and stated it is not just the repairs that were made, it is now kids can participate in all Cumberland County Sports, as the Town could play throughout the year, but could not go to the Championships because the Town was not a part of the Cumberland County Tax District, so this is a benefit and cost saving for the Town. Mayor Anthony stated the Town still owns the building, the property, and everything inside of the building and this is more of a management contract.

- g. Manager's Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – First, Mr. Williams stated Tim Garner and Steve Wing will be in neighborhoods marking for the internet that is being installed, which will be in the DOT's Right-of-Way, to help contractors so they will not hit any water or sewer lines. Second, Mr. Williams stated street lights going down the Boulevard to Rose Street are going to be installed here soon, but they must redesign the plans first, however, they should have been installed when the bridge was constructed, but there was some miscommunication. Third, Mr. Williams acknowledged and stated he appreciates all the hard work of the Town staff regarding the current events, and the Police Officers for their life-saving efforts. Last, Mr. Williams stated he enjoys working with this Board as Interim Town Manager and thanked the Board for believing in him.
- h. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter had nothing Town Attorney related, however, first, Attorney Porter stated the picture with Chief Williams and State Treasurer Dale Folwell is amazing and it is good to see the good working relationships with the State. Second, Attorney Porter stated the Veterans Treatment Court that Alderman Lackman referenced is not as well as it should be and encourages people to become more educated about the program, however, he has known Judge Oliveras, who oversees the program, for years, and he has received national recognition regarding the program. Attorney Porter stated it is a program that tries to keep Veterans out of jail and gives mental health and substance abuse help that is needed. Last, Attorney Porter stated Cumberland County also has a Drug Treatment Court, which was started by Judge Ed Pone, is at the forefront of, Statewide and nationally, and when someone completes either program, a ceremony is held and certificates are given. Attorney Porter gave a shout-out to the Cumberland County Bar, the Judiciary, and the judicial staff that oversees those programs.

9. Adjournment

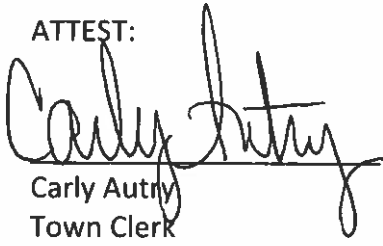
Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Motion: Alderman Lackman


Second by: Alderwoman Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:


Carly Autry
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor