

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

September 25, 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 via Zoom
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Tiffany Anderson, Local Government Commission
Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Kendra Boyle, Local Government Commission
David Erwin, Local Government Commission
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
Captain Timothy Patterson, Spring Lake Fire Department
Michael Porter, Town Attorney
Dysoaneik Spellman, Spring Lake Police Chief
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, 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

Pastor Vernon Marsh gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Alderman Palacios requested to move the Consent Items until after Closed Session.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of the Agenda with the amended change to move the Consent Items after Closed Session.

Motion by: Alderman Lackman

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of September 11, 2023, Regular Meeting, with the updated redactions noting the headings for Closed Sessions were inadvertently mislabeled incorrectly for 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, April 12, 2021, Closed Session Minutes, and Community Appearance and Sustainability Committee Removal – Dr. Magi Youseff.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

Consent Items were approved after Closed Session. Alderman Palacios stated the removal of the Committee member from the Appearance Committee was unanimously approved due to absences.

6. Public Comment

Daniel Gerald, 180 Tram, stated he received the Interim Town Manger's file; however, it was missing some items such as write-ups and no information was given on how he was hired back. Mr. Gerald stated he did not see anything related to his qualifications for that position, however, there was a young lady who interviewed and it seemed like she had all the qualifications, which the Board tried to approve but the LGC would not approve it, yet they approved somebody who is not qualified, so he begins to wonder about the competency of the LGC as he has seen other Towns damaged by them. Second, Mr. Gerald stated he received only one (1) public record for a certain Board Member's Travel and Training, but now he is asking for all her Travel and Training. Mr. Gerald stated he does not think it is professional to go to training and then go to a club session in a close setting while holding up a drink, talking about "I'm partying hard and I work hard" and thinks it needs to be dealt with. Mr. Gerald stated at that same meeting, they were also spewing out Economic Development records, stating those records were put in code names, however, they were put in writing, and that person was taking those records out of the Closed Session meetings, where he and another Board Member, at that time, stopped that person from doing something, so he thinks that needs to be addressed and investigated by the LGC, who has been told this as well. Last, Mr. Gerald stated regarding the Board Member who talks about cleanup in the Town, and when he was Town Manager, they would allocate funds to that department, not deplete funds, so he thinks those funds need to be allocated.

Fredricka Sutherland, 1009 Lisa Circle, stated it is election time and if anyone touches someone else's sign, it is a misdemeanor, and regardless of the Board in the community, everyone should follow the rules of the law and asks for everyone to work together to do the best for the Town. Second, Mrs. Sutherland stated she noticed quite a few trees had been cut down, and since then, the community has called her, and she tells them she does not know why those trees were cut down. Mrs. Sutherland stated she thinks anything that is done in the common areas, citizens should know about, and she is also concerned about the safety of the employees, their headgear, as well as their equipment while cutting down and hauling away the trees, which she thinks a professional company should have done the work, and with tax dollars, it should be recorded.

7. Presentations

- a. Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation, October 2023 – Mayor Pro Tem Robyn Chadwick – Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick stated Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual campaign to help raise awareness of Breast Cancer, educate the public about its symptoms and prevention, and fund research into its causes, treatment, and cure. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick read the Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick acknowledged Alderwoman Thompson for being a survivor and warrior of Breast Cancer.
- b. Public Engagement for Wall Mural Painting – Alderman Raul Palacios – Alderman Palacios stated due to weather issues, the artist has been delayed from starting the project, so it has been moved to start October 9th and completed by October 18th. Alderman Palacios stated there is an opportunity for the public to be involved, and while there is a professional artist, there is the capability of allowing members of the Community to volunteer to have some kind of painting engagement to help brighten the Community. Alderman Palacios asked interested citizens to email their information to Deanna Rosario at stormwater@townofspringlake.com to get on the roster to help.

8. New Business

- a. Monthly Financial Update – Local Government Commission – Kendra Boyle is the Interim Director Fiscal Management Section at the State and Local Government Finance Division and will be the new Finance Officer due to the retirement of former Finance Officer David Erwin, and was appointed on September 12, 2023, by the Local Government Commission. Ms. Boyle is a CPA, a Certified Internal Auditor, and has been with the Commission for a total of seven (7) years. Ms. Boyle stated she does not have a detailed financial update tonight but will be able to give one at the next work session, which she is going to take the opportunity between now and then to get to know the Town's finances, accounts, and budgets and will be able to give a detailed presentation on the whole quarter for this year. Ms. Boyle stated she is here to support the continuing movement, strengthen the finances of the Town, and help stay on the right track. Mayor Anthony thanked the LGC staff for all that they have done for Spring Lake and stated when the LGC took over in June 2021, Spring Lake was in a very bad place financially, audit reports were behind, bank reconciliations were not done, and only had \$1.6 million in the General Fund. Mayor Anthony stated Spring Lake was projected to take up to seven (7) years to get back to a position of viability, and due to the expertise and the diligent stewardship, the constant pouring out of information of the onsite staff, Mr. David Erwin, Tiffany Anderson, and Susan McCullen, and would like to say thank you. Mayor Anthony requested Mr. & Mrs. David Erwin to approach the podium. Mr. Erwin stated this was a good experience for him and he enjoyed working with Mr. Williams and the Board and encourages everyone to keep the faith and keep moving forward. Mrs. Erwin stated she is so proud of the Board and has heard nothing but good things. Mayor Anthony, the Board, and Mr. Williams acknowledged Mr. Erwin for all his hard work, guidance, patience, understanding, and dedication to the Town and provided him with a plaque that reads, "David Erwin, In honor of your exemplary service as Finance Director whose unwavering expertise and commitment fortified the financial prosperity of the Town of Spring Lake." Mr. and Mrs. Erwin took a picture with Mayor Anthony and the Board while holding his plaque.

- b. Resolution (2023)6 Declaring Surplus of Various Vehicles and Pieces of Equipment – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated these vehicles and equipment are being stored at the shop, are either broken, beyond fixing, or not being used anymore, and is requesting the Board for approval to add these vehicles and equipment to www.govdeals.com. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Williams if there was an estimate available to determine how much the Town would be getting back if these items were sold and Mr. Williams stated no, but there are about eight (8) police cars which usually range in price from \$1,500 to \$3,000, the international needs approximately \$40,000 worth of repairs as it has a broken arm on it the base, however, he does not know at this time. Mr. Williams stated two (2) limb trucks have already been ordered to replace the one (1) on this list. Mr. Williams presented a PowerPoint to Mayor Anthony and the Board regarding the vehicles and equipment to be sold. The presentation included pictures and details regarding the issues present for each piece of equipment or vehicle. Mr. Williams stated the Police Department has already received six (6) out of the eight (8) new police vehicles, which Chief Spellman confirmed.

Action: Approval of Resolution (2023)6 Declaring Surplus of Various Vehicles and Pieces of Equipment with Attachment A.

Motion by: Alderman Lackman

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony stated the State Budget passed and Spring Lake received some entitlements, \$300,000 for the stormwater infrastructure repair, \$400,000 towards the Mutzburg Park project that is 33 acres of dedicated land off Little River that will have walking and biking trails with scenic overlooks, \$200,000 for software upgrades internally, hopefully, new computers and possibly a Town app. Mayor Anthony stated she is appreciative to Representative Lucas and Senator McInnis for making sure Spring Lake was included in the funds dispersed to the State. Second, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor is at K-Food Seoul on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 12 noon. Last, Mayor Anthony stated she just returned from the North Carolina Mayor's Association where she sits on the Board of Directors and spoke with other Mayors across the state regarding Civilian Crash Investigators. Mayor Anthony stated she sat down with the Town's Police Chief to talk about alternative methods to relieve some of the burdens on the Police Officers with Civilian Crash Investigators where citizens help assist the Police Officers with acts that are not criminal or activity-based, which is also budget-saving for the Town.
- d. 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 Run/Walk and Community Festival is this Saturday, September 30, 2023, registration is \$20.00, and there will be a mammogram van, beautiful music from Spring Lake Middle School Band, vendors, and crafts. Second, Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick gave a shout-out to Coach Zefrim Lewis from the Spring Lake Recreation Center for assisting with locating a Soccer Coach for the team. First, Alderman Palacios stated the Board is attending necessary training on Friday, October 6, 2023, in Chapel Hill. Second, Alderman Palacios thanked the citizens and Town employees who helped with the Town Fall Clean-up on Saturday, September 16, 2023, in which 15 tires, two (2) computer monitors, and bulk trash from all over the Town were collected. Alderman Palacios also acknowledged Deanna Rosario in Stormwater for leading the event, the Appearance Committee who volunteered their

time and provided supplies, and Morning Jump for providing coffee and cups. Alderwoman Thompson stated she attended the Pep Rally on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the Spring Lake Recreation Center for the upcoming football season for the kids here in Spring Lake. First, Alderman Lackman piggybacked off Alderwoman Thompson regarding the Pep Rally and stated it was a well-attended event. Second, Alderman Lackman stated tomorrow night, Tuesday, September 26, 2023, is the Military Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee at 6:30 pm. Third, Alderman Lackman stated the monthly cleanup has no cost to the Town. Fourth, Alderman Lackman stated the Police Department exceeded the goal of \$1,000 for Cops on Top and asked Chief Spellman if he knew the exact numbers, which Chief Spellman stated about \$1,400, and Dunkin Donuts also gave a donation of \$2,500, making a total of about \$4,000 raised for Special Olympics. Last, Alderman Lackman stated the next Town Cleanup is in the Spring, and it will be on Saturday, April 20, 2024, and this event will be hosted by the Town. First, Alderwoman Cooper stated she attended the NCLM Board of Directors meeting regarding cybersecurity funding. Second, Alderwoman Cooper stated she was supposed to go to the North Carolina Military Summit; however, she is no longer attending. Last, Alderwoman Cooper stated she is an active member of the National League of Cities Small Cities Council and the Town of Spring Lake has been selected by TGI Digital to make the Town one of their focuses on tourism, which is no cost to participate and it will be part of the National League of Cities video showcase for the 2023-2024 program this year.

- e. Manager's Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – First, Mr. Williams stated the phone issues are still in the process of being corrected and hopefully will be resolved by the end of this week. Second, Mr. Williams acknowledged the Town staff for all their hard work.
- f. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter stated he had no updates to report at this time.

Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Williams if there was an alternative or if all phones were down regarding the phone issues. Mr. Williams stated the problem was moving the phone lines over and now it is pulling them in to make sure they all work and where they are supposed to go, but more import of lines was needed, and now they are imported, so by the end of this week, it should be fixed. Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Williams if citizens try to call Town Hall, are they expected to attempt to continue to reach the department, or should they call the front desk until this is resolved? Mr. Williams stated if a citizen tries to call and it does not go through, try another line, or call the front desk and they will be put through.

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. **Attorney Porter stated there was no need for Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel and it could be removed from Closed Session.**

Motion: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

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

Motion: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

10. ADJOURNMENT

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick

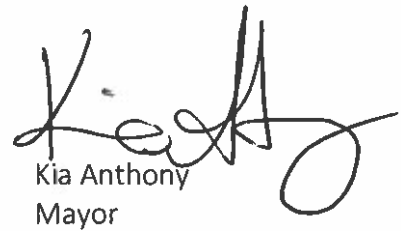
Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:


Carly Autry
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor