

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

November 13, 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 Soña Cooper  
Alderman Marvin Lackman  
Alderman Raul Palacios  
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

**Others Present:**

Carly Autry, Town Clerk  
Patricia Hickmon, Inspections Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Officer  
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

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Anthony declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Janet Perry gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Additions or Deletions**

Mayor Anthony requested to add Resolution (2023)9 To Approve Donation to the Spring Lake Police Department for the “Shop with a Cop” Program under New Business, Agenda Item C. and Alderwoman Cooper requested to add Personnel Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(6) under Closed Session, Agenda Item B.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**Action:** Approval of October 23, 2023 Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Agenda with the additions of Resolution (2023)9 To Approve Donation to the Spring Lake Police Department for the “Shop with a Cop”

Program under New Business, Agenda Item C. and Personnel Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (a)(6) under Closed Session, Agenda Item B.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Vote:** Unanimous

## 5. Approval of Consent Items

**Action:** Approval of Draft Minutes of October 23, 2023, Work Session Meeting.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderman Palacios

**Vote:** Unanimous

## 6. Public Comment

Armand Caron, American Legion Post 230 on Legion Drive, Fayetteville, first congratulated Mayor Anthony and the Board for their reelection. Next, Mr. Caron briefly spoke about the two (2) events that were held in the last month, the Veterans Service Day, which was held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at the Spring Lake Parks and Recreation Center, and the Veterans Day event and the Unveiling of the Art Mural, which was held on Friday, November 10, 2023, at the Beatitude House located at 102 N. Main Street on the corner of N. Main Street and Spring Avenue.

## 7. Presentations

- a. When People Work – Sherrod Know, CEO and Government Relations Liaison – Mr. Knox provided a presentation to the Board regarding their focus, services, VetsBridge, and Public-Private Sector Methodology. Mr. Knox also provided a packet to the Board with more in-depth information regarding his organization and provided different real-life situations in how his organization works. First, Mayor Anthony thanked Mr. Knox for his presentation and stated she met with them previously to discuss this program in depth and stated basically this program is a funding source to provide services that can be created specifically tailored towards Veterans or the newly incarcerated population here in Spring Lake and Mr. Knox stated that was correct. Mayor Anthony stated these services span multiple categories and if the project created is geared toward servicing Veterans and those who were previously incarcerated and can creatively structure the program, then the organization would basically fund that, and Mr. Knox stated yes. Mayor Anthony stated in return, the organization wants the data provided from whatever services, like a housing development, that is geared towards military or disabled Veterans and their families and the monetary contribution would only be a small portion of what was gained. Mr. Knox stated correct and must be able to prove that has happened. First, Alderwoman Cooper asked Mr. Knox if he worked with an individual regarding pre-entry and he stated no, his organization is new to Cumberland County, and has only been operating in North Carolina for about one (1) year and provided what counties they service, and provided what areas in New York and they provided services in, as well as Minneapolis. Alderwoman Cooper stated she is asking because she will have discussions with people in those areas and will find out more information. Second, Alderwoman Cooper asked if this was only for Veterans and Mr. Knox stated it was for Veterans and

justice-impacted people, which means anyone who has had a run-in with law enforcement or the legal system that finds, in some way, holding their lives back. Last, Alderwoman Cooper asked does any of the work involved trying to get Cities, Towns, and States to “ban the box” so people do not have to say they are convicted felons and Mr. Knox stated yes, absolutely, but as an organization, they have not gotten there yet, as they are still trying to building of their foundation here in North Carolina, but is a goal. Alderman Lackman reiterated what Mr. Knox presented regarding the program and stated this is huge for the Veterans and justice-impacted citizens in Spring Lake. Mayor Anthony stated this is something she would love to explore in any way funding can be found to support programs that are going to provide opportunities for the community and wants to bring this back on the agenda for the next work session and will reach back out to Mr. Knox if there are any further questions. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Knox if he would need an agreement stating the Town is entering into a partnership with his organization and can discuss the financial impacts later down the line. Mr. Knox stated yes and his team would have an agreement presented to the Board formally ahead of time, which would consist of everyone working together to draft it. First, Alderman Palacios stated he thinks it is a great idea to bring this back to the next work session for discussion but asked Mr. Knox how is the organization funded. Mr. Knox directed the Board to a letter in the provided packet from Maycomb Capital, which is a public-private partnership, that explains their support to his organization as their financial backing for their projects. Second, Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Knox if his organization is not a nonprofit and he stated they are a public benefit company, which is not a traditional 501c3 nonprofit, it is a nonprofit hybrid is the best way to describe it. Last, Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Knox for a sample agreement within another municipality because he is specifically interested in the financial agreement portion. Mr. Knox stated yes, that he can do that, but wanted to inform the Board that each one tends to be a bit custom.

- b. Habitat for Humanity – Brandon Price, Chief Executive Officer – First, Mr. Price acknowledged Mayor Anthony and the Board for their reelection. Mr. Price presented a presentation to the Board regarding the purpose of Habitat for Humanity, construction timelines, a proposed land site, examples of past Habitat for Humanity homes, community potential, and affordable homeownership. During the presentation, Mr. Price stated his organization is already preparing with Cape Fear Valley to bring healthcare to Spring Lake if the housing project is approved. Mayor Anthony asked him if she heard him correctly and Mr. Price stated yes, he is currently working with two (2) individuals who sit on their Board and are part of the Cape Fear Valley Healthcare System and already have their support. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Price if the Board were to potentially designate a portion of those homes created for Veterans, could Mr. Knox (When People Work) partner with Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Knox stated absolutely and they are already a partner with Habitat for Humanity in another area as well. Mayor Anthony stated she could link them two (2) together to provide the funding that will bring those homes and potential medical community to Spring Lake. Both Mr. Price and Mr. Knox stated absolutely, yes. Alderman Lackman stated he loves the idea but is concerned about the location as it cuts off the possibility of the road connecting Warfield into the Laketree Subdivision and lights and noise from the Fire Department and was not sure if he looked at other locations for the project. Mr. Price stated multiple locations have been looked at but what was liked about this location is that it is located near all the resources and so many of those individuals that we would probably be putting in that community would need access to a lot of the resources that are right here, especially the Recreation and Senior Centers, and because it is near another community, the Townhomes. Mr. Price stated he

has already looked at the GIS map and some of the engineering that is already in place and feels confident that his organization can mitigate a lot of the cost in infrastructure by being in that location. Mr. Price stated the Tiny Home community will not be restricted by age, so some of the folks might be Veterans, but his organization does not object to looking at other locations if it fits the need. First, Alderman Palacios asked if the Tiny Homes and the duplexes would be the same number of units and Mr. Price stated no, not at all. Mr. Price stated he feels the Tiny Homes could probably be a lot more than the 55 and up community, especially since the Tiny Homes are typically less than 800 square feet, which they border close to 500 square feet. Second, Alderman Palacios asked if these 500 to 800-square-foot homes would be one to two individuals instead of families and Mr. Price stated yes. Alderman Palacios asked if that would be weeded out during the application process and Mr. Price stated yes, and about 40% of applications received are over 55 years old, so his organization is not concerned about filling those units with the 55 and up community, and Mr. Price explained the cost to build these units and what each resident would be responsible for. Third, Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Price if his organization has done Tiny Homes before and he stated no, this would be the first out-of-the-box kind of neighborhood but other Habitats have done them and there are plenty of plans that they have access to. Fourth, Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Price how long the Oakridge Estates project took to complete which he explained during his presentation and he stated the total project took just under three (3) years. Last, Alderman Palacios asked Mr. Price how long has he been the CEO of Habitat for Humanity and he stated about a year and a half but has been there for five (5) years total and gave insight into his educational and work background. First, Alderwoman Cooper asked Mr. Price what the mortgage terms were for the Tiny Homes and he stated they try not to do 30 years, so they try to stay between 20-25 years, but legally, they cannot put a family in a home where the mortgage is greater than 30% of their monthly income, and right now, the average mortgage is around \$500-\$550 for the homes. Second, Alderwoman Cooper stated it was mentioned about the Tiny Homes not being for families but a single mother with a child would certainly work for someone like that. Mr. Price stated yes, and what he was trying to illustrate is that Habitat for Humanity takes other individuals even if it is just one (1) individual in the home. Last, Alderwoman Cooper stated something was mentioned about the noise and asked if there were noise barriers that could be put up. Mr. Price stated there are noise reduction walls and his organization would work hard to raise enough money so they can create that and as a barrier to make sure that families feel safe. Attorney Porter asked Mr. Price if there would be Restrictive Covenants for these homes and he stated yes, there is an HOA at the Oakridge Estates community and there are some challenges in trying to ensure all residents follow them. Attorney Porter stated he was more thinking of just a community that was originally intended to be for Veterans but then 20 years from now they are all gone and it is not what it originally was intended for. Mr. Price stated the Restrictive Covenants would help take care of those things. Mayor Anthony stated this is something that the Board will possibly discuss more at the next Work Session to see how to move forward with this.

## **8. New Business**

- a. Resolution (2023)7 Adoption of 2024 Holiday Schedule – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated the 2024 Holiday Schedule is based on the State of North Carolina’s standardized holiday schedule.

**Action:** Motion to approve Resolution (2023)7 Adoption of 2024 Holiday Schedule.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderman Palacios

**Vote:** Unanimous

- b. Resolution (2023)8 To Accept the Donation of the Communications Shelter from T-Mobile South, LLC. – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated T-Mobile, for the longest time, had a radio antenna tower on the water tower, which they took down, but when they finally took it down, they left a little shed underneath the tower and asked if the Town wanted it to be able to keep supplies in it. Mr. Williams stated it is not expensive and it can be picked up and moved, but if the Board is in favor of this Resolution, he will get a price to get back to the LGC with.

**Action:** Motion to approve Resolution (2023)8 To Accept the Donation of the Communications Shelter from T-Mobile South, LLC.

**Motion by:** Alderman Lackman

**Second by:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Vote:** Unanimous

- c. Resolution (2023)9 To Approve Donation to the Spring Lake Police Department for the “Shop with a Cop” Program – Police Chief Dysoaneik Spellman – Chief Spellman stated every, Spring Lake Police Department does “Shop with a Cop,” and from the donations and grants that are given throughout the year, the Police Department is able to bless families in the community, which every Police Officer gets involved and engaged to have the opportunity to shop with kids. Chief Spellman stated a couple of weeks ago, he was contacted by a local motorcycle chapter that wants to donate and is looking forward to the opportunity for them to team up and bring them aboard. Vice President Taylor and President Tim Baker approached the podium. Mr. Taylor stated they are with the Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club, which is a law enforcement and Veterans Club, so they take care of all Veterans and law enforcement in the community, and have over 80 Chapters and would like to present Chief Spellman with a \$500.00 check donation to the program. Mr. Williams briefly spoke about Mr. Taylor being the Fire Captain when he first started with the Town in 2006. Chief Spellman took a picture with the Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club.

**Action:** Motion to approve Resolution (2023)9 To Approve Donation to the Spring Lake Police Department for the “Shop with a Cop” Program.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Second by:** Alderman Palacios

**Vote:** Unanimous

- d. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony acknowledged the Board for their reelections. Second, Mayor Anthony recognized Patricia Hickmon for being elected President of the NC Permitting and Personnel Association and Mrs. Hickmon approached the podium and briefly explained her role as President. Third, Mayor Anthony took a Point of Privilege and presented Alderman Palacios and Alderman Lackman with Proclamations, which she read, for their dedication to their committees. Alderman Lackman spearheaded the Veteran Service Day event that was held on

Saturday, November 4, 2023, and Alderman Palacios, along with the Appearance Committee and Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, spearheaded the Veterans Day and Unveiling of the Wall Art Mural event that was held on Friday, November 10, 2023. Alderman Palacios and Alderman Lackman acknowledged their committees for their hard work regarding both events. Fourth, Mayor Anthony stated that "Lunch with the Mayor" is on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 12 noon at Lavista Italian Restaurant. Last, Mayor Anthony stated Mayor Pro Tem Chadwick was excused from the meeting due to being under the weather.

- e. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – Alderman Palacios thanked the voters for his reelection and stated he is going propose ways Spring Lake can boost its voter participation. First, Alderwoman Thompson acknowledged Mayor Anthony and the Board for their reelection. Last, Alderwoman Thompson stated there is no Community Watch Meeting this month due to Thanksgiving, and the next meeting date is To Be Determined. Alderman Lackman read from a typed list for his announcements, which is included (**Attachment A**). Alderman Lackman added a few reports that were not on his list and will be noted in these minutes. Alderman Lackman asked Jami McLaughlin when was the last time she saw more than 20 people in the audience during a Board meeting. Ms. McLaughlin stated more than a decade and Alderman Lackman stated no, it was at the last meeting. Alderman Lackman added the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club in the acknowledgments to the Veteran Service Officer event participants. Alderman Lackman stated the Town Cleanup that was held on November 4, 2023, hosted by Alderwoman Thompson, due to him being at the Veteran Service Officer event, had five (5) volunteers and picked up approximately 500 pounds of trash, and the last Town Cleanup for the year will be Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 8:00 am. Alderman Lackman reminded Chief Williams that Nam Knights just filled up the buggy with soda cans to be donated to the Burn Center, and recognized Nam Knights for their contribution to the community. Alderman Lackman stated Mr. George felt like a celebrity at the Veterans Day event as he was recognized as Spring Lake Veteran of the Year. Alderman Lackman also had pictures regarding each of the events that were displayed on the Conference Room TVs for the Board and the audience to view. First, Alderwoman Cooper stated it is winter and it is flu season, so please get the recommended vaccinations. Second, Alderwoman Cooper stated she will be traveling to the National League of Cities City Summit conference in Atlanta, GA, which will be at the expense of the Town, as she will be using her travel budget, and there will be a lot of resources and opportunities at this conference. Third, Alderwoman Cooper asked for everybody in the room who ran for office on November 7<sup>th</sup> and was successful and reelected to please stand up because she wanted people to get a visual. Alderwoman Cooper stated for those who voted but did not vote for the current reelected Mayor and Board, she would love to hear the why and what they would have to do to earn their vote, of course, within Statute, Ordinance, and Charter. Last, Alderwoman Cooper stated a local church in the area, Simon Temple, had a bomb threat, which caused them not to be able to hold either of their services and to please pray for the churches. Mayor Anthony added Hands for Hope, which is a white-black shelter here in Spring Lake at the Cornerstone Christian Empowerment Center at 111 Spring Avenue, and they do daily meals but it is now a shelter for inclement weather or bad circumstances. Mayor Anthony stated they do accept donations but will still feed even if a donation is not given, but please spread the word to those who may be in need. Alderwoman Thompson asked everyone to keep the family of Yolanda Burse in their prayers as she transitioned about four (4) days ago. Yolanda Burse did a lot for the community and was a teacher at W.T. Brown Elementary School.

- f. Manager’s Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – First, Mr. Williams acknowledged Mayor Anthony and the Board for their reelection and the hopes for finding a new Town Manager. Second, Mr. Williams acknowledged the Town staff for their hard work. Third, Mr. Williams asked Christopher Portman, Cumberland County Senior Planner, to come to the podium to give his announcement. Mr. Portman announced that he will no longer be working with Spring Lake as he is moving back to Kentucky in the next two (2) weeks to be closer to family and has also accepted a job there, but it was a pleasure working with Spring Lake. Mr. Williams acknowledged Mr. Portman for all the hard work he has done for the Town. Last, Mr. Williams stated in 18 days, there will be special guests coming to the Town, which will be Santa Claus, for the Christmas Tree Lighting that is being held on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 6:00 pm.
- g. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter stated everything is quiet on his front but congratulated Mayor Anthony and the Board for their reelection.

**9. Closed Session**

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.1 1(a)(1) – Confidential Information and Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.1 1(a)(6) – Personnel.

**Motion:** Alderman Palacios

**Second by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to come back into open session. No action was taken.

**Motion:** Alderman Palacios

**Second by:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Vote:** Unanimous

**10. Adjournment**

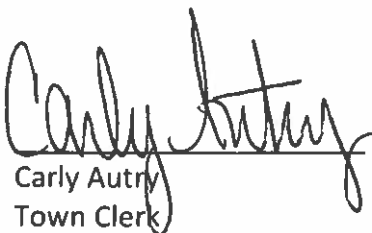
**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Thompson

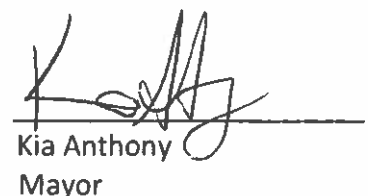
**Second by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

ATTEST:

  
Carly Autry  
Town Clerk



  
Kia Anthony  
Mayor

**Thanksgiving** – I had the pleasure of helping serve the community Thanksgiving Day Lunch. Thanks to all those who helped make this happen. A special Thanks to Spring Lake Middle School for allowing us to use their location.

**Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting** – November 28, 2023, at 630 PM right here at Town Hall. The public is welcome and invited to attend.

After our meeting, we will be holding an open meeting for the public to come in and look at the three options for Spring Lake's Veterans Park and weigh in on which one they like the best. Spring Lake's Veterans Park will have a completely different look for 2024!

**Wreaths Across America** – Will be Saturday, December 16, 2023. We are still looking for volunteers to help transport wreaths from Spring Lake's Town Hall to Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery. Come out and be part of this wonderful event. If you would like to help lay some of the wreaths, where it is for your family member or for others, come on out and be a part of Wreaths Across America here in Spring Lake. The ceremony at Sandhills will begin at noon. Parking will be limited.

Lastly, our final **Spring Lake Clean Up** for 2023 is December 2, 2023, from 8 AM – 11 AM. To date we have had 64 volunteers come out and help pick up 4,470 pounds of debris from our roadways and more than six illegal dump sites. "Thank You" to everyone who came out and helped this year. The people who have continually come out and helped this year, are Charles, Patrick, and Luz. Thank You to Trinity at Sustainable Sandhills AND Tim Middleton, Supervisor from Cumberland County Solid Waste for helping get the word out and removing the debris we collected.

Mayor Anthony, did I miss anyone??? and a "VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU" to Alderman Palacios and Alderwoman Thompson. We are making a difference!