

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

February 12, 2024

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: Mayor Pro Tem Soñia L. Cooper
Alderwoman Robyn Chadwick
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Banard Lemon, Audio Visual Coordinator
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 Supervisor

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Minister Bettye Sanford gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Mayor Pro Tem Cooper requested to remove agenda item 5b. Special Events Advisory Committee Application – Dymon Bryant under Approval of Consent Items, item 7a. Town Employee Recognition, Harry McKoy under Presentations, and item 9d. (2024)5 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen in Opposition of the NC Rate Bureau's Request for Homeowners' Insurance Rate Increase under New Business.

Mayor Anthony explained why these items were taken off the agenda. First, Mayor Anthony stated the Special Event Advisory Committee application is in the process of discussing some changes with the committee and finishing up the restructuring before it is opened back up to bring in new positions, as the

Special Events Advisory Committee is comprised solely of departments within the Town. Second, Mayor Anthony stated Mr. Harry McKoy is under the weather, however, he will be honored at the next regular meeting. Last, Mayor Anthony stated the Resolution for the homeowners' insurance rate increase was already addressed by the North Carolina insurance commissioner, so it does not need to be addressed at the local level.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of February 12, 2024, Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Agenda with deletions.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of January 22, Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Chadwick

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Presentations

- a. Presidents' Day Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony did not read the Proclamation as it was included in the agenda packet.

- b. Spring Lake Caribbean American Unity Festival – Tamiko Singleton, Organizer, Link Up Entertainment – Ms. Singleton presented a PowerPoint detailing the history, purpose, planning, sponsors and funding, and marketing and advertising. Mayor Anthony and Mayor Pro Tem Cooper thanked Ms. Singleton for bringing this back to Spring Lake and wished her the best on the event. Mr. Williams stated when this event was discussed during the Special Events Advisory Committee meeting, Ms. Singleton was not requiring the Fire and Police Departments to be there the whole time or asking for sponsorship, but only requesting for them to do occasional ride-throughs. Alderwoman Thompson asked Ms. Singleton how would someone sign up to be a vendor and Ms. Singleton stated she had a flyer that she was about to start posting with her email and phone number included. Mayor Anthony asked Ms. Singleton for clarity if the event was posted yet and Ms. Singleton stated no, it is not. Mayor Anthony stated for the record, that events that come to the Town must get approval through the Special Events Advisory Committee if there will be over 150 people and then must come before the Board for approval, which then marketing and advertising may begin. First, Alderman Lackman asked how many vendors is she looking to have for this event and Ms. Singleton stated last year she had 35-40 vendors, so hoping for the same. Second, Alderman Lackman asked if alcohol was going to be served

and Ms. Singleton stated no. Last, Alderman Lackman asked about porta johns and trash pickup. Ms. Singleton stated she will have two (2) porta johns and thinks there is a bathroom already at Mendoza Park, but will check to see if they could open those up and will have to find out about trash pickup.

- c. Community Development 2024 Action Plan – Delores Taylor, Director, Community Development Department, Cumberland County – Ms. Taylor presented a PowerPoint detailing what they do, grants, urban county designation, projects in Spring Lake, housing programs, and public facilities/infrastructure. First, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if any of the funded ten (10) nonprofits were in Spring Lake. Ms. Taylor stated majority are located within the city limits of Fayetteville because they serve the entire Cumberland County area including the city limits, but not aware of any in Spring Lake as far as nonprofits. Second, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if transitional housing and rapid housing were also in Fayetteville. Ms. Taylor stated yes, that is located off Old Wilmington Street. Third, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated the Spring Lake homeless population seems to have grown exponentially and asked if there are funds available to help people here in the community. Ms. Taylor stated yes and every year, they issue Requests for Proposals (RFP), usually between December and March time frame, which their RFP just closed on January 31st, so they are currently reviewing those applications, but any eligible entity is welcome to apply for that funding and would be happy to add the Town on the email list, but it is also posted on the County's website through the vendor self-service portal. Last, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if all cities in Cumberland County were CDBG entitlement or not. Ms. Taylor stated the City of Fayetteville is its entitlement community as well as the county, so there are two (2) entitlement communities in Cumberland County and of course like the Town of Spring Lake and the other municipalities the other Towns are included in the geographic service area in the county's Geographic service area. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if that would have to be a signed agreement and Ms. Taylor stated yes. Alderman Lackman stated he appreciated the update on the Elizabeth Street project regarding the five (5) houses in Phase 1 and asked how many houses were being built for the next phase of the project. Ms. Taylor stated six (6) units in Phase 2 will be built. First, Alderwoman Chadwick asked what is the timeframe for rapid housing once a person applies. Ms. Taylor stated it can be a long process as there is a long waiting list, but they must go through a referral process and then an available unit must be found in the market or through the Housing Authority or United Management. Last, Alderwoman Chadwick asked if they work alongside Social Services. Ms. Taylor stated they try to and they provide Case Management Services. Alderman Palacios stated he wanted to point out that before the meeting, there was a discussion with the Interim Town Manager about the minimum housing and how some of these resources can be put in the shuffle for a possible solution to help both tenants and landlords. Mayor Anthony asked if the Town was interested in bringing in another project, like Spring Lake Greens, how would the Town initiate this. Ms. Taylor stated a meeting could be set up to discuss, and the Town would submit an RFP next year during the next submission dates. Mayor Anthony stated the Town Clerk would reach out to start that process.

8. Old Business

- a. (2024)1 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen in Support of Resources for Community Navigators to Assist Local Entrepreneurs in Accessing Credit – Mayor Pro Tem Soña L. Cooper – Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated the Town needed more Economic Development to make the community a better place, such as more housing, more businesses, and the need to help

entrepreneurs. Mayor Anthony stated this was a topic of discussion at the last Work Session which was on Monday, January 22, 2024.

Action: Motion to approve (2024)1 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen in Support of Resources for Community Navigators to Assist Local Entrepreneurs in Accessing Credit.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

- b. (2024)2 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen in Support of a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity – Mayor Pro Tem Soña L. Cooper – Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated this Resolution is also aimed toward Economic Development and its initiatives or strategies aimed at improving the economic well-being and social infrastructure of the community, such as housing. Alderman Lackman stated a goal for him would be to have more affordable housing, not just low-income housing. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper reiterated that this is for all types of housing. Mayor Anthony stated one thing that the Board has been entertaining is all the different types of housing projects in the Town and wants to meet the needs of all residents.

Action: Motion to approve (2024)2 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen in Support of a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- c. (2024)3 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen in Support for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program and the Outdoor for All Act – Mayor Pro Tem Soña L. Cooper – Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated she strongly believes the Town needs more recreational facilities and outlets. Mayor Anthony stated this Resolution is aimed at promoting conservation, renewable energy, pollution control, and sustainable resource use, among other related objectives.

Action: Motion to approve (2024)2 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen in Support for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program and the Outdoor for All Act.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

9. New Business

- a. Special Event Permit – Spring Lake Caribbean American Unity Festival – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Pro Tem Cooper wanted to make sure this was not approving Town sponsorship. Mayor Anthony stated it would be noted in the minutes that there is no Town sponsorship included, as Ms. Singleton will provide her sponsors.

Action: Motion to approve the Special Event Permit – Spring Lake Caribbean American Unity Festival.

Motion by: Alderwoman Chadwick

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

- b. PLAT-0001-24: Applicant Requests Approval of Final Plat of Approximately 0.65 +/- Acres Located Within the Skyland Shopping Plaza C(P) Planned Commercial District.); Submitted by George Rose (Agent) on Behalf of PES Development, LLC (Owner) – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated this is the final plat and has approval through Cumberland County, so construction can now start and confirmed with Mr. Rose. Mr. Rose stated he is waiting on a turn lane approval. Attorney Porter stated the only reason it must come back before the Board is because that is the way the Ordinance is written, which is confusing and probably needs to change so it does not have to keep coming back. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if that was the Town's Ordinance. Attorney Porter stated yes, it was amended a few years back and the verbiage contradicts itself, so it needs to be rewritten. Mayor Anthony stated that will be put on the next upcoming Work Session, which will be on Monday, February 26, 2024, to address this.

Action: Motion to approve PLAT-0001-24: Applicant Requests Approval of Final Plat of Approximately 0.65 +/- Acres Located Within the Skyland Shopping Plaza C(P) Planned Commercial District.); Submitted by George Rose (Agent) on Behalf of PES Development, LLC (Owner).

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Landfill Rules – Steve Wing, Interim Public Works Supervisor – Mr. Wing first addressed to the Board that the Town has not been fined in over a year and a half, which means the Town has been following the rules. Mr. Wing showed Mayor Anthony and the Board the door hanger that is hung on residents' doors when they cannot pick up piles that are not eligible for pickup. Mr. Wing stated any contract work that is done on a home is supposed to be at the contractors' and/or property owners' cost, not the Town's, as it would eat up the Town's resources. Mr. Wing stated there was a time when three (3) truckloads of furniture had to be picked up recently because it was on the side of the road, they could not get hold of the residents as the house was empty, so it was picked up, but it is getting out of hand, so the door hanger policy is being enforced. Mr. Wing stated everything is taken to the Cumberland County Landfill and since they service the Town, the rules must be followed. Mr. Wing stated once a door hanger is placed, and the debris piles are not taken care of, it is turned over to Code Enforcement. Mr. Wing stated the main problem his department is having is with the vegetation, such as pine straw, leaves, grass clippings, and limbs, and if there is any trash in there when it is taken to Wilkes Road Landfill, that is when the Town can get fined without warning, and the fines increase every occurrence, up to \$500.00. Mr. Wing stated the Town carries about eight (8) tons of organic debris per load, and sometimes the Town takes three (3) loads to the landfill a week. Mr. Wing stated he is trying to stop the Town from having to raise the sanitation tax because if it does not get under control, it would eventually get passed on to the residents anyway. Mr. Wing stated sanitation is an enterprise fund, which should be run like a business. Mr. Wing mentioned that Mr. Williams would like to put cameras on the trucks like other municipalities due to residents calling stating their pile was missed on their

scheduled pick-up day. Mr. Wing stated the wear and tear off the trucks because those trucks are \$200,000 apiece, and there has been a lot of illegal dumping picked up, over 20 illegal dump sites, but it just ends up more being dumped there again because it was picked up. Mr. Wing stated a dump site was picked up that came from Laurinburg. Mayor Anthony commended Mr. Wing for stepping into this position and doing an amazing job in the Streets Department and Mayor Anthony read the door hanger out loud regarding items that are NOT authorized for pickup. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper suggested something to be added to the Budget Ordinance about a charge for an extremely large amount of waste and stated she likes the idea of adding cameras on trucks and at illegal dumpsites. Mr. Wing stated that he and Mr. Williams are working on some great ideas to add in the future to the Streets Department to make it more cost-effective. Alderman Lackman agreed with the others that these three (3) truckloads should not be incurred by the residents of the Town but should be incurred by the homeowner of that home which is something that has gone on far too long in Spring Lake and it does need to be addressed by the Board, the Town, and the Attorney. Alderman Lackman asked Mr. Wing regarding the routes of the Town if it is done daily or in sections. Mr. Wing stated the Town is broken down into four (4) sections of the residents' scheduled trash day and explained which areas were which days. Mr. Wing stated trash cans are supposed to be out by 7:00 am because GFL cannot come into a resident neighborhood until 7:00 am due to the sound Ordinances. Alderman Lackman suggested posting the door hanger on the Town's website and social media frequently to educate residents as the Town has a transient population and to help keep costs down for residents and the Town. Mr. Wing stated there have been times when piles of leaves had to be left at a resident's home because of all the trash that was mixed in and if gets in the machine at the Cumberland County landfill and messes it up, that is a million-and-a-half-dollar machine, which is used to grind up the leaves and sold for boiler fuel for electrical plants. Mr. Wing stated that Mayor Pro Tem Cooper brought up a very good point that the Town might have to start charging as it is in the Bylaws, but it can also bring more money into the Town as he and Mr. Williams investigated that a couple of months ago. Mayor Anthony reiterated Mr. Wing's statement that the Streets Department is an Enterprise Fund, which is a business, self-sustaining business, and this fund should be able to sustain itself. Mayor Anthony stated when the Town must take on fees because trash is being picked up from residents, the Town must pay for that out of the General Fund, which means money comes from somewhere else or is taking away the ability of that fund to sustain. Mayor Anthony stated the Town runs off residents' tax dollars, so everyone must be responsible for the way the community is treated so that we can be responsible for the way it is taken care of financially. Mr. Wing stated just this fiscal year, in organics such as tree limbs, mulch, and grass clippings, almost 850,000 pounds were picked up, and have six (6) more months to go. Alderman Lackman stated at the Town cleanup on Saturday, February 3, 2024, over 600 pounds of trash from the Town were collected, and Alderman Lackman read a positive review that was posted on the Spring Lake Matters Facebook page. Mr. Wing commended the staff of the Streets Department for all their hard work and thanked the Board for the new equipment.

- d. (2024)5 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen Amending the Adopted 2024 Holiday Schedule – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated when the original 2024 Holiday Schedule was adopted, Presidents' Day was left out. Mayor Anthony stated this already coincides with pay and it was just an oversight. Alderman Lackman asked if this was taking a day off Christmas. Mr. Williams stated no, it was not adding another day, it was just skipped. Mr. Williams stated when the Town approved the FY23-24 budget, Presidents' Day was included in the adopted holiday pay.

Action: Motion to approve (2024)5 Resolution of the Town of Spring Lake Board of Aldermen Amending the Adopted 2024 Holiday Schedule.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

- e. Discussion Regarding HR Director Pay Range – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated the Town has not had an HR Director in quite a long time, as it was filled in by personnel doing another job and a lot of things were getting missed, and is asking the Board to add this full-time position back, however, it may not go into effect until next year's budget. Mr. Williams stated the Council of Government (COG) has helped the Town by Mrs. Paula Stewart. Mr. Williams stated there is a pay range survey that was included and would like to go with the lower amount of population 5,999, and not 13,000 since it is such a big number. Mr. Williams stated this would need to get approved, then send it to the LGC to approve it, and then the Town would be able to have that person probably next year permanently. Mayor Anthony asked if the Town was not going to do a budget amendment to get this position added immediately. Mr. Williams stated the Town could but thinks a pay study should be done first to have a number, and then send it up for LGC for approval, but wants the Board to approve the position first and would work out the pay later. Mayor Anthony stated as of right now the Town of Spring Lake does not have a budgeted or approved position for HR, as it used to lay with the Town Clerk and then it was moved to payroll and payroll was operating as both, and understands an allocated position that is dedicated exclusively for HR. Mayor Anthony stated the Board will create this position, crunch some numbers with the LGC as the position goes through the pay study to decide the salary range, and then it would get back to the LGC for approval to be added to the FY24-25 budget year. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if the Town would have funds available in the budget if the Town tried to move forward with it this year and Mr. Williams stated that would be something he would have to look at, but it probably could be found. Mr. Williams stated Paula is going to help him figure all of this out but wants to get the position authorized first, but cannot do anything until the Board approves the position. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if Paula would be able to give a good salary range and Mr. Williams stated yes. Alderman Lackman asked Attorney Porter if the process that was presented tonight but the legal way. Attorney Porter stated yes, this is the correct process.

Action: Motion to approve the Town of Spring Lake to create a Human Resources Director position.

Motion by: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

- f. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony wished all staff with February birthdays a Happy Birthday. Second, Mayor Anthony stated the quarterly Mayor's Coalition meeting was held here in the Boardroom on Friday, February 2, 2024. Third, Mayor Anthony stated she attended the North Carolina Mayor's Association Winter Meeting in Greensboro. Fourth, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Army City Steak & Gyros. Last, Mayor Anthony stated primaries are coming up on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, and the general elections on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, so please do your research and vote.

- g. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – First, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated Bethel AME Zion Church at 255 Vass Road, Spring Lake, is having a food distribution at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Second, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated she attended another Advanced Leadership Corp Ambassadors training in Chapel Hill. Last, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated she is attending the North Carolina League of Municipalities Board of Directors meeting next week. First, Alderwoman Thompson stated Cops and Conversations will be Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Spring Lake Senior Center. Last, Alderwoman Thompson stated Cornerstone Empowerment Christian Center at 111 N. Bragg Blvd., Spring Lake, is taking donations for gently used unisex clothing, like sweatpants, coats, and sweaters, and could always use blankets. First, Alderman Lackman stated there were 600 pounds of trash picked up at the monthly Town cleanup, which was Saturday, February 3, 2024. Second, Alderman Lackman stated the Banner Program was approved by the LGC, which memorial flags will be flown from Memorial Day to Veterans Day, and would cost the person buying the memorial flag a one-time charge of approximately \$188.00 if it is still serviceable yearly. Third, Alderman Lackman reminded the males in the audience of Valentine’s Day. Last, Alderman Lackman acknowledged the Kansas City Chiefs being back-to-back champions on winning the Superbowl. Alderwoman Chadwick did a reminder about the F-150 truck drawing that will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and tickets are \$20.00. Alderman Palacios stated the next Appearance Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 4:00 pm at the Spring Lake Recreation Center, which has an open vacancy on the committee.
- h. Manager’s Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated no report at this time.
- i. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter stated no report at this time.

10. Closed Session

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1) – Confidential Information, Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege, Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development, and Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel.

Motion: Alderwoman Chadwick

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to come back into Open Session. No action was taken.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

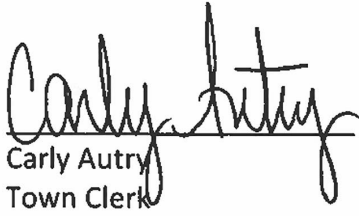
Second by: Alderwoman Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

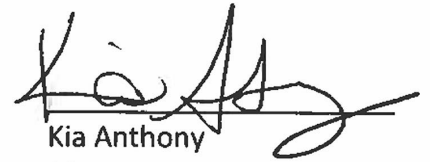
11. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Anthony adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

ATTEST:


Carly Autry
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor

