

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

January 8, 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 Soña Cooper
Aldерwoman Robyn Chadwick
Alderman Marvin Lackman
Alderman Raul Palacios
Aldерwoman Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Tiffany Anderson, Local Government Commission
Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Kendra Boyle, Local Government Commission
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

Bishop Gwendolyn Biggers gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Approval of January 8, 2024, Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Agenda.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes of December 11, 2023, Organizational Meeting.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

Bettye Sanford had several issues regarding houses in the Deerfield community with a lot of trash, high water bills, and the white lines on Town roads need to be restriped. Mrs. Sanford requested if there are ever any issues with the water in the community, please notify the community regarding those issues. Mrs. Sanford stated when traveling down the road, you cannot see the little white lines, especially when it is raining, and has almost been hit multiple times over the last couple of months, and requested for these and the other issues to be taken care of.

7. Presentations

- a. January Human Trafficking Awareness Month – Faith Boehmer, Prevention & Volunteer Coordinator, Child Advocacy Center – Ms. Boehmer presented a presentation regarding Human Trafficking and her slides consisted of Myths of Human Trafficking, What is Human Trafficking?, and Key Indicators. Ms. Boehmer mentioned that January 11th is #WearBlueDay to raise awareness of human trafficking and mentioned some community events in the area that are taking place regarding human trafficking. Mayor Anthony thanked Ms. Boehmer and the Child Advocacy staff for the hard work and dedication they do throughout the community. Mayor Anthony asked Ms. Boehmer if she had the phone number that is seen a lot in bathrooms and Ms. Boehmer stated there is a phone number and a text number on the magnets that she brought to distribute if anyone was interested in taking one. Ms. Boehmer mentioned Cumberland County has a high success rate because one of the reasons is there are active units here in law enforcement that are assigned to that type of work, so our numbers are higher than they would be in other places but it does not mean it is not happening in other counties. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper thanked Ms. Boehmer and stated she encourages everyone to go see the presentation with Judge King, as she and the Mayor had the opportunity to see her presentation at the Spring Lake FTCC Campus. Attorney Porter asked Ms. Boehmer to briefly explain how local Attorneys are involved in the human trafficking process due to conducting interviews with children. Mr. Boehmer stated that the Child Advocacy Center is placed with children who have been either severely physically or sexually abused, so staff that are trained and certified to do forensic interviews and have Certified Victim Advocates who work with the families to provide resources and support. Ms. Boehmer stated afterward, that they have a therapist on staff that sees some of the clients that come through to help them heal from the experiences they faced. Attorney Porter stated that just to understand, this is done so kids do not have to be interviewed again and again. Alderwoman Thompson asked if there were any cases where there was more of an age group over another age group and Ms. Boehmer stated

depending on what you read, it is going to have a different number but she refers to Dr. Sharon Cooper, a retired Military Forensic Pediatrician, which states it usually starts between the ages of 8 to 10.

- b. Human Trafficking Awareness Month Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated in awareness of Human Trafficking, the Town issued a Proclamation. Mayor Anthony did not read the Proclamation as it was included in the agenda packet.
- c. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony did not read the Proclamation as it was included in the agenda packet, however, she stated there is a Martin Luther King Day of Remembrance breakfast at the Spring Lake Recreation Center on Friday, January 12, 2024, at 9:00 am, which is free and open to the community.
- d. Yard of the Month, December 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 and December's Yard of the Month was the Christmas Holiday Edition. The four (4) winners were William and Princess Boykins, Paul and Anita Miller, Dwayne and Gorette Terry, and Xue Liang Zheng. None of the winners were present to accept their certificate. Mayor Pro Tem asked if there was any way a process could be made so citizens could submit Yard of the Month nominations. Alderman Palacios stated the Appearance Committee is the one that decides who wins Yard of the Month and there are members on the Committee, which are citizens in the Town, that pick their neighborhood and will pick somebody from their neighborhood, so if you ever have one feel, free to let him or anybody on the Board know so the Committee members can be aware to make those decisions. Alderman Palacios stated the next Appearance Committee meeting is Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 4:00 pm at the Recreation Center if anyone from the public wants to attend.

8. Old Business

- a. Board to Adopt Rules of Procedure – Town Clerk Carly Autry – Ms. Autry stated all necessary changes were made from the November 27, 2023, Work Session meeting. Those changes included the addition of Remote Meetings to Rule 2. Special, Emergency, Remote, and Recessed or Adjourned Meetings., the deletion of Rule 14. Voting by Written Ballot, and the addition of Closed Session Agenda to Rule 24. Closed Sessions.

Action: Motion to approve the adoption of the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen Rules of Procedure.

Motion by: Alderman Palacios

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

9. New Business

- a. DEV-0121-23: Applicant Requests Approval of Development Plan Approximately 0.62 +/- Acres Located at 104 Rainbow Ct, Zoned C3 for a Commercial Group Development for the Addition of Green Tax Services Plaza II Located Within the Main Street Overlay District – Alyssa Garcia, Planner III, Current Planning Division, Cumberland County – Ms. Garcia stated it is located at 104 Rainbow Court which is

within the Main Street overlay and they are applying to demolish the current structures on site and place a mixed-use development with solely commercial operations with retail and office. Ms. Garcia stated it was permitted use with all the proposed uses on the plan and is Zone C3 it will have access off Rainbow Court and will connect to Spring Lake water and sewer. Ms. Garcia stated County staff has reviewed and worked in coordination with Spring Lake staff and found it consistent with the Town's zoning and subdivision ordinances. First, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if it was just one story and Ms. Garcia stated yes, approximately just over 5900 ft. Last, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if it conforms with the overlay district and Ms. Garcia stated yes. Alderwoman Thompson asked if there were residences in the area and Ms. Garcia stated yes, and there are buffers or landscaping buffers in place to prevent any inconvenience to those neighboring residences, and as you can see, on the southern side of the property, there is a significant landscape buffer and they do detail that further on the site plan which she would be happy to review on the large copy. Alderman Palacios asked for future reference, when these come before the Board, is there a way to get bigger site plans because sometimes these are hard to read? Ms. Garcia stated yes, that she would start providing hard copies.

Action: Motion to approve DEV-0121-23: Applicant Requests Approval of Development Plan Approximately 0.62 +/- Acres Located at 104 Rainbow Ct, Zoned C3 for a Commercial Group Development for the Addition of Green Tax Services Plaza II Located Within the Main Street Overlay District.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderman Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

- b. DEV-0136-23: Applicant Requests Approval of Preliminary 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) - Alyssa Garcia, Planner III, Current Planning Division, Cumberland County – Ms. Garcia stated it is related to a previous site plan that was approved by the Board in August 2023 for Starbucks and they have opted to subdivide that portion of the shopping plaza which conforms to the zoning regulations pertaining to parking and access. Ms. Garcia stated the site plan for that project would need to be revised and updated per this subdivision should the preliminary plat be approved; the access will be via easement off NC Highway 210 it will be a shared access with the remaining portion of the shopping center. Ms. Garcia stated the proposed parcel will be approximately .65-.66 acres, zoned C(P), and the utilities, once the site is developed, will be provided by Spring Lake water and sewer, County staff has reviewed the request coordination with Spring Lake staff and finds it consistent with the provisions within the zoning and subdivision ordinance. Ms. Garcia stated this is presented as a preliminary plot and then a final site plan revision would come in later that would be handled administratively at that point for the site plan of Starbucks. First, Alderman Palacios asked how long would the site plan take once approved as he knows that it is handled administratively but is that up to the developer? Ms. Garcia asked to be clear, did he mean the site plan approval or the actual submittal of the site plan? Second, Alderman Palacios stated the layout that shows the parking spaces and how they look in that spot. Ms. Garcia stated that has ultimately been provided in that previous site plan case, DEV-0057 which was approved in August 2023, however, it will be revised with this new parcel outline once the final plat is recorded, which is typically a quick turnaround depending on the owner and their coordination with the developer. Last,

Alderman Palacios asked if the prior submitted plan would not change and Ms. Garcia stated most likely as it would not have any significant changes and it would still be required to comply with the conditions of approval that you all approved previously so it would have to show that it is developing in good faith through those conditions. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper asked if they decided to separate it as in the sale of the land, is that why is it coming before us again and Ms. Garcia stated yes, they are cutting out the section, essentially that Starbucks will be operating on, so they have opted to create their lot for this development within the shopping center so they would be sharing access and sharing parking with the existing shopping center but PES Developers would own their portion of that lot.

Action: Motion to approve DEV-0136-23: Applicant Requests Approval of Preliminary 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: Alderwoman Thompson

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony wished all staff with January birthdays a Happy Birthday. Second, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor will be on Wednesday, 1/24/24, at Nak Wan on Main Street.

- d. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – First, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated on Monday, 1/15/24, at 9:00 am, there will be a cleanup at the Old Slave Cemetery behind the Deerfield subdivision as a Day of Service hosted by Sandhills Family Heritage and they are asking for volunteers. Last, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper wanted to take a minute to acknowledge the passing of former Alderman James Christian and mentioned his viewing and funeral arrangements at Adcock Funeral Home, and his service memorial at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery, weather permitting. Mayor Pro Tem stated she believes the Town flag at the intersection of 87 and 210 was lowered in honor of former Alderman James Christian. First, Alderwoman Thompson wished a Happy New Year to everyone. Second, Alderwoman Thompson stated Cops & Conversations will be on Thursday, 1/25/24, at 6:00 pm, will be Cops & Conversations/Neighborhood Watch Meeting at the Spring Lake Recreation Center and the topic of discussions will be about learning how to prime your neighborhood, how to protect homes and vehicles, and help prevent burglaries. Last, Alderwoman Thompson stated the White Flag destination Hands for Hope, which is Cornerstone Christian Empowerment Center, at 111 N. Bragg Blvd. is looking for volunteers. Alderwoman Thompson stated they are also asking for blankets and toiletries. First, Alderman Lackman stated there was no Town Cleanup this past weekend due to bad weather. Last, Alderman Lackman read a passage that he wrote in honor of former Alderman James Christian acknowledging him and his achievements with the Town. First, Alderwoman Chadwick wished everyone a Happy New Year. Second, Alderwoman Chadwick stated Mr. Finch, an advocate for Spring Lake, is hosting his annual raffle and he will be raffling off a 2013 F-150 Ford truck, which will be used for taking children on a trip and to rent two (2) buses, so if anyone is interested in purchasing a ticket, the tickets are \$20.00, and the raffle is going to be on Saturday, 5/4/24. Last, Alderwoman Chadwick stated the Department of Social Services is accepting applications through County Social Services for the low-income energy assistance program for anyone who needs help with the light bill. First, Alderman Palacios stated the Appearance Committee meeting is this Wednesday, 1/10/24, at

the Recreation Center at 4:00 pm. Second, Alderman Palacios mentioned former Alderman James Christian about his service to the Town, the community, and to the Board. Alderman Palacios stated he appreciated the Town lowering the flag and recognition of the service and asked to take ten (10) seconds for a moment of silence, a second for each year former Alderman James Christian served on the dais.

- e. Manager's Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – Mr. Williams stated no report at this time.
- f. 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)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege and Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Thompson

Vote: Unanimous

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

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

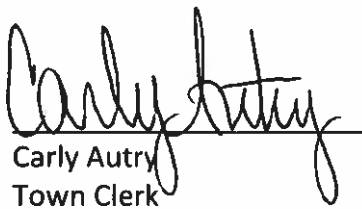
Second by: Alderman Palacios

Vote: Unanimous

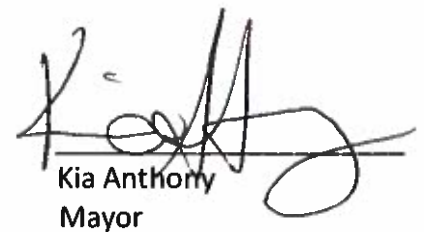
11. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Anthony adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

ATTEST:


Carly Autry
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor