

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

February 26, 2024

**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 Soña 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  
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Spring Lake Police Department  
Lieutenant Gregory Wilkerson, 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**

Dr. David Dickerhoff gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Additions or Deletions**

**Action:** Mayor Pro Tem Cooper requested to delete under New Business, agenda item b. Board Discussion Regarding Updating Sec. 36-31. Final plat; subdivision; approval; recording. Subsections (a) and Sec. 36-109. Specific improvements. Subsection (f) of the Town of Spring Lake Subdivision Ordinance and requested to add Closed Session, Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege and Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel.

**Motion by:** Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

**Second by:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### 4. Approval of Agenda

**Action:** Approval of the Agenda with the amended deletion and additions.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Chadwick

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### 5. Approval of Consent Items

**Action:** Approval of Draft Minutes of February 12, 2024, Regular Meeting.

**Motion by:** Alderman Palacios

**Second by:** Alderwoman Chadwick

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### 6. Public Comment

None.

#### 7. Presentations

- a. Women's History Month Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony did not read the Proclamation as it was provided in the agenda packet.

#### 8. New Business

- a. Board Discussion Regarding Budget Priorities – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony stated it is budget season and wants the Board of Aldermen to discuss items that they want to see happen with the Governing Body budget, as well as any priorities or initiatives they want to set or move forward with the Town. Mayor Anthony's Governing Body budget priorities are as follows: professional development, travel expenses, new office supplies and furniture such as the Boardroom, membership and association dues, technology upgrades, strategic planning sessions including economic development, and budget for pay studies. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper's Governing Body budget priorities are as follows: shirts or jackets, professional development, including UNC-Government, a new dais with new microphones, and travel and training events. Alderman Lackman's Governing Body budget priorities are as follows: the Town extending its reach into other municipalities, the Board Committees such as the Military Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, and the Appearance Committee. Alderman Palacios' Governing Body budget priorities are as follows: travel and training. Mr. Williams stated he needs the Board to have a breakdown of items for the budget.

Mayor Anthony's overall budget priorities are as follows: the pay study, an HR position, organizations that request sponsorships, Special Project funds such as First Friday on Main, pilot programs, community outreach and engagement initiatives, the capital improvement plan, and a comprehensive transportation plan. Mr. Williams stated the Board positions are included in the pay study. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper's overall budget priorities are as follows: establish capital improvement, re-establish 401K

for employees, discuss a full-time inspector, and bring planning into Spring Lake. Mr. Williams stated there is a full-time inspector already budgeted in this year's budget. Alderman Palacios' overall budget priorities are as follows: pay raises for Town staff such as COLA and the pay study, public art, Adopt-a-Street program, and a water study before raising water rates. Alderwoman Chadwick's overall budget priorities are as follows: water study, reinstating transportation, and economic development such as children's activities or events.

Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated the County should come out more to perform code enforcement on the pockets of Spring Lake.

Alderman Lackman's overall budget priorities are as follows: a new street sweeper, which Mr. Williams confirmed needs replacing, a vacuum truck in the fall, a chipper during Christmas time, and a Spring Lake app.

- b. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor will be on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Ruby Tuesday at noon. Second, Mayor Anthony thanked the Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated Sorority for hosting From the Beat of the Drum at Spring Lake Middle on Saturday, February 24, 2024, which celebrated Black History Month. Third, Mayor Anthony did a reminder about being in an election cycle and there is early voting at the Spring Lake Recreation Center. Mayor Anthony stated she and Mayor Pro Tem Cooper rallied to try to get early voting at Spring Lake, as it was not previously approved for Spring Lake to get an early voting site, however, the Cumberland County Board of Elections fought for Spring Lake and got it. Mayor Anthony stated early voting started on Thursday, February 15, 2024, ends on Saturday, March 2, 2024, and primaries start on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, which leads to the general election, and early voting for the general elections starts on Thursday, October 17, 2024, and ends on Saturday, November 2, 2024. The general election day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024, so please take advantage of it and vote at the Spring Lake Recreation Center. Last, Mayor Anthony stated the Board had a Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, with the Local Government Commission (LGC) and would like to announce a few clarifications. Mayor Anthony stated there was a substantial amount of debt that was talked about but wanted to make sure that it was on record, and the majority of that debt was from the year 2020. Mayor Anthony stated \$750,000 of that \$1.17 million of debt was assumed in 2020 and another \$371,000 of that was assumed in 2021. In 2022 there was only a \$25,000 increase in that old debt. Mayor Anthony stated she wanted everyone to know that this was not new debt or new accounts that the Town had taken on and this is outdated and past due debt that the Town is trying to do best to recoup, but under this Administration and the guidance of the LGC, only \$25,000 worth of new debt was accumulated.
- c. Board of Aldermen Report – Spring Lake Board of Aldermen – First, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper reiterated what Mayor Anthony stated about early voting and stated the early voting site is for equity due to the furthest travel to early voting. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated she has a phone bank link she can provide for people who can vote in Spring Lake, and can also provide a link for the Voter ID to find out what is eligible for the Voter ID, as it is required when voting. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated this information can also be found at [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov). Last, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper thanked everybody who participated in the food distribution at her church on Saturday, February 24, 2004. Alderwoman Thompson stated Cops & Conversation will be this Thursday, February 29, 2024, at the Marriott from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

First, Alderman Lackman requested Mr. Williams to give an update on Veterans Park during the Manager's Report. Second, Alderman Lackman tomorrow night, Tuesday, February 27, 2024, is the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee meeting at 6:30 pm in this room. Third, Alderman Lackman stated this Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 8:00 am at Southwind Plaza is the Town Cleanup. Fourth, Alderman Lackman mentioned the Military Banner Program and stated it is \$188.00 and would be flown from Memorial Day through Veterans Day on Main Street. Last, Alderman Lackman Spring time is approaching, so code enforcement will be around the Town. First, Alderwoman Chadwick stated there is still an opportunity to support and win a 2013 F-150 truck and the drawing is Saturday, May 4, 2024., which is sponsored by FYAL and Fitch Boxing Club to help support the children in the community. Alderwoman Chadwick stated the tickets are \$20.00 apiece. Last, Alderwoman Chadwick stated there is a fundraiser for the Phi Beta Sigma mentoring program on Saturday, March 2, 2024, which is a plate sale, and prices range from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Alderwoman Chadwick stated this is to support the boys in the community. First, Alderman Palacios stated the next Appearance Committee meeting is on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 4:00 pm at the Recreation Center across, which has one (1) vacancy. Alderman Palacios stated the Town has public art murals coming and is trying to get funding for a public art sculpture on Main Street at the roundabout, but will share that information closer to that timeframe. Second, Alderman Palacios mentioned code enforcement and stated at their last presentation, Derek Made with Alliance Code Enforcement, and the Board collaborated about areas of weakness and how the Town could help. Last, Alderman Palacios stated the Town's Earth Day Spring Cleanup is on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 9:00 am, which is Earth Day. Alderman Palacios stated the Recreation Center is the meeting place for the event.

- d. Manager's Report – Interim Town Manager Jason Williams – First, Mr. Williams stated the Veterans Park project has begun and the first stage is putting grass down with fertilizer and getting the lighting fixed, which Patricia Hickmon and Steve Wing are working on. Last, Mr. Williams acknowledged the crews in the Fire Department for their hard work at the voting site at the Recreation Center.
- e. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter stated no report at this time.

## 9. 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 by:** 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 by:** Alderwoman Thompson

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

**Vote:** Unanimous

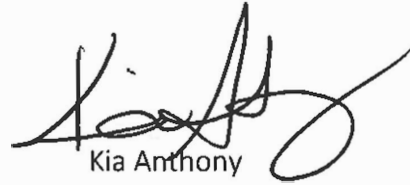
**10. Adjournment**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Anthony adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

ATTEST:



Carly Autry  
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony  
Mayor