

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

June 8, 2024

**MINUTES**

10:00 am

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a Special 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  
Alderman Marvin Lackman  
Alderman Raul Palacios  
Alderwoman Adrian Thompson

**Others Present:**

Carly Autry, Town Clerk  
Interim Police Chief Errol Jarman, Spring Lake Police Department  
Jon Rorie, Town Manager  
Fire Chief Jason Williams, Spring Lake Fire Department

**1. Call to order**

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

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Fire Chief Jason Williams gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Open Session – Discuss Town of Spring Lake policy updates with the Policy Committee**

Mr. Rorie conducted the budget workshop and provided a recap of the previous budget activities. Mr. Rorie mentioned that according to General Statutes, the Budget Officer was meant to receive budget requests from department staff by April 30<sup>th</sup>, but had not received these until May 13<sup>th</sup>. Consequently, it was operated on a compressed timeline and managed to comply by presenting the budget to the Board on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

The purpose of the meeting was highlighted as discussing any modifications to the fiscal year 2025 budget. Decisions would then be sent to the Local Government Commission (LGC) at the earliest opportunity. The goal was to run a Public Hearing and aim for budget adoption by June 24<sup>th</sup>.

During the workshop, the discussion covered:

- Various tax and service fee increases were proposed to address budget shortfalls.
- **Ad Valorem Property Tax:** An increase of 9.1 cents was proposed to address shortfalls.
- **Water and Sewer Rates:** As per past rate studies, a 5% increase was suggested.
- **Sanitation and Litter Control:** Highlighted a sanitation increase and imposed a \$12.00 fee for litter control amid general fee increments.

Mr. Rorie detailed frustrations with the performance of existing contracts, particularly sanitation services provided by GFL. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper raised concerns about GFL's service quality, suggesting a revisit and ongoing auditing to gain better service quality.

Mr. Rorie responded comprehensively, discussing current service analysis, options for renegotiation, and cost calculations related to GFL's contract span which has been unchanged due to evolving operation expenses over three (3) years.

There were deliberations on getting competitive bids or assessing the efficacy of possibly privatizing various services or tasking residents with more involvement to cut the costs of garbage collection.

**Mayor Anthony recessed the meeting at 11:37 am.**

**Mayor Anthony reconvened the meeting at 11:45 am.**

The need to update code enforcement practices was highlighted. Discussion led toward examining cut costs versus revenue generation affinity through fines pertinent to code enforcement compliance issues. Mayor Pro Tem Cooper brought up necessities on proposed ordinances review starting from yard debris management to upgrading policies reflecting current needs.

Further discourse covered potential policy adjustments concerning travel, community engagement, public safety, sanitation, and strategic planning, including using available financial resources optimally while preparing contingencies.

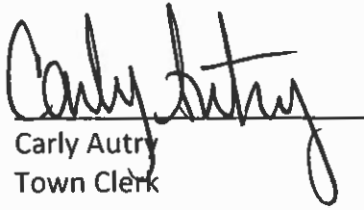
As part of the discussions on the Manchester Fire District funding shortfall, numerous options were deliberated concerning contracts, mutual aid, adequate firefighter staffing levels, and revenue allocation within Spring Lake.

Overall, the dialogue indicated a robust impact of potential county-provided funds and discussions at strategic levels of transparency for prudent budget absorption or service sustenance choices.


#### **4. Adjournment**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Anthony adjourned the meeting at 1:47 pm.

ATTEST:

  
Carly Autry  
Town Clerk



  
Kia Anthony  
Mayor