

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

March 24, 2025

MINUTES

6:00 pm

The Spring Lake Board of Commissioners 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
Commissioner Robyn Chadwick
Commissioner Marvin Lackman
Commissioner Raul Palacios

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Lakeshia Hardy, Revenue Collection Specialist
Police Chief Errol Jarman, Spring Lake Police Department
James Overton, Finance Director
Renee Robinson, Revenue Supervisor
Jon Rorie, Town Manager
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Spring Lake Police Department

1. Call to order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Evangelist Sanford gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions or Deletions

Commissioner Palacios requested to delete agenda item 8b. Board Discussion about Town Mural Proposal at Mendoza Park due to not having the needed information to provide to the Board regarding this subject.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Motion to approve the March 24, 2025, Work Session agenda with the deletion agenda item 8b. Board Discussion about Town Mural Proposal at Mendoza Park.

Motion by: Commissioner Chadwick

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Motion to approve the draft minutes of March 5, 2025, Special Meeting, draft minutes of March 7, 2025, Special Meeting, draft minutes of March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting, and Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Appoint Roy Villafior.

Motion by: Commissioner Palacios

Second by: Commissioner Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

6. Public Comment

Bettye Sanford, Wapiti Drive, expressed gratitude for the removal of a fallen tree on Chapel Hill Road. She also emphasized the need to remove limbs from wires and address split poles to prevent accidents and potential injuries.

7. Presentations

a. Women's History Month Proclamation – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony presented a Proclamation for Women's History Month, highlighting the diverse roles and contributions of women in society. She emphasized the importance of "girl power" and acknowledged women's roles as mothers, leaders, professionals, and their contributions to various fields.

b. First Responder Wellness Week – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony presented a Proclamation for First Responder Wellness Week, expressing gratitude for the work of first responders and acknowledging the challenges of their profession.

c. Spring Lake Fly Girlz and Spring Lake Lady Fire Basketball Teams – Mayor Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony recognized two (2) girls' basketball teams from Spring Lake: the Spring Lake Fly Girlz and the Spring Lake Lady Fire. She acknowledged their back-to-back championship wins and presented certificates to individual team members.

8. New Business

a. Budget Amendment (BA-16) – Finance Director James Overton – Mr. Overton presented two main items in the budget amendment:

- **Water Budget:** Mr. Overton proposed moving \$100,000 from the Harnett County Water budget to the Fayetteville Public Works budget due to increased spending on leaks
- **Vehicle Leases:** Mr. Overton discussed the expiration of leases for 15 police vehicles (Dodge Chargers and one Durango) within the next three (3) months. He presented three (3) options: a. Renew the lease for \$57,737 for the first year. b. Purchase the vehicles outright for \$60,397 plus tax and tag fees, totaling approximately \$63,000. c. Continue leasing for two years at \$50,000 per year, totaling \$100,000.

Mr. Overton recommended purchasing the vehicles outright, as it would allow the Town to own all 15 vehicles and implement a rotation plan for future replacements. He requested a budget amendment of \$63,000 to cover the purchase and associated fees.

Action: Motion to approve Budget Amendment (BA-16).

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Second by: Commissioner Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

b. Debit/Credit Card Convenience Fees – Town Manager Jon Rorie – Mr. Rorie discussed the current convenience fee structure for debit and credit card transactions:

- Noted that the Town had only collected \$67,000 in convenience fees, resulting in an \$8,000 deficit.
- Explained that convenience fees are not charged for in-person transactions or building permit payments.
- Estimated that 37% of customers are not paying convenience fees, while 63% are using online transactions.

Mr. Rorie proposed the following changes:

- Modify the Fee Schedule to charge convenience fees for in-person transactions and inspection fees.
- Implement kiosks to encourage alternative payment methods.
- Present a new Fee Schedule change at the Monday, April 14, 2025, Board meeting.

Mr. Rorie emphasized the goal of incentivizing online transactions and making payments easier for customers.

e. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony announced that a large portion of the staff, including herself, would be attending a Municipal Finance class tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). She emphasized the importance of this training for proper stewardship of tax dollars. Second, Mayor Anthony mentioned an upcoming FAMPO meeting and promised to report back on any changes affecting the Town. Third, Mayor Anthony stated she and Mayor Pro Tem Cooper participated in discussions regarding the selection of a new superintendent for Cumberland County Schools. She encouraged community members to provide input on the selection process. Fourth, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor is this Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at MiCasita at noon. Fifth, stated the Community Watching meeting, which is being held by the Spring Lake Police Department, is on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Spring Lake Senior Center. Last, Mayor Anthony stated First Baptist Church is holding their annual car show on Saturday, April 5, 2025.

f. Board of Commissioners Report – Spring Lake Board of Commissioners – First, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper stated Manchester Elementary has a Career Fair on Friday, March 28, 2025. Second, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper mentioned the pageant at Manchester Elementary on Friday, April 4, 2025. Last, Mayor Pro Tem Cooper also stated on Friday, April 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm, Spring Lake Middle School is dedicating and renaming the gymnasium to Coach Leonard Bellamy. Commissioner Thompson was not present at the meeting.

Commissioner Lackman's are included in the minutes as **Attachment One**. First, Commissioner Palacios stated the Town wide Cleanup is on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 9:00 am. Second, Commissioner Palacios gave kudos to those that are attending the Municipal Finance class tomorrow at FTCC. Last, Commissioner Palacios acknowledged Coach Leonard Bellamy. First, Commissioner Chadwick stated North Carolina Representatives such as Governor Josh Stein and Senator Val Applewhite visited her school. Second, Commissioner Chadwick stated State Superintendent Maurice "Mo" Green will be at Westover Schools on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Last, Commissioner Chadwick stated to take the survey and to submit input regarding the next Superintendent, please visit the Cumberland County Schools (CCS) website.

d. Manager's Report – Town Manager Jon Rorie – Mr. Rorie provided updates on the following:

- Budget Preparation: Discussed the ongoing process of preparing the FY 2025-2026 budget, with first draft reviews scheduled for the upcoming Wednesday.
- Capital Improvement Plan: Explained the importance of creating a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to address cyclical replacement of equipment and vehicles. This plan aims to avoid large, simultaneous purchases and implement financial smoothing over the years.
- Fleet Management: Discussed the creation of a schedule for replacing various Town vehicles and equipment, including police cars, fire engines, and lawn mowers.

Mr. Rorie emphasized that the staff is actively engaged in this process and that it will lead to better financial planning for the Town.

e. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter reported on the following:

- New Superior Court Judge: Announced that the Honorable Steven Stokes would be promoted from District Court to Superior Court, replacing the retiring Honorable Claire Hill.
- New District Court Judge: Mentioned that a new District Court Judge would need to be appointed to replace Judge Stokes.
- Plush Lounge is still set for trial next month (April).

9. ADJOURNMENT

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Anthony adjourned the meeting at 6:49 pm.

ATTEST:



Carly Autry
Town Clerk



Kia Anthony
Mayor

Bragg N About Spring Lake

ATTACHMENT ONE

MVAAC –

I would like to welcome Roy to our committee.

We still have one vacancy on the committee. Our next meeting will be Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25, 2025 right here at Town Hall. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings to find out what is going on in our committee

Our annual Memorial Day event will be held at Veterans Park, Friday, May 23rd, 2025 at 11 am. Come out and honor what Memorial Day is truly about with us.

Our Spring Lake Military Tribute Banner Program is up and running for 2025.

New banners – due by Thursday, April 17th, 2025, price is the same as last year \$188. Applications are online, fill it out, provide a digital pic of person in uniform and have your banner flown here in Spring Lake.

Returning banners from 2024 – Clean your banner, return it and fill out the returning form for your banner to be flown for 2025 by Friday, May 02, 2025. There is no cost for your banner to be flown again, as long as it is free of rips and tears and in good shape.

This year, we have added military affiliated organizational banners, same price, \$188, organizational information, digital pic of organization and same deadline as new banners, Thursday, April 17th.

Veterans Park – is coming along, Crepe Myrtles have been added and for everyone one asking, that is a water featured being added to Veterans Park. Soon the grass will start turning green and the park will really come to life.