

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

September 8, 2025

MINUTES

6:00 pm

The Spring Lake Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Kia Anthony presiding.

Board Members Present: Commissioner Robyn Chadwick
Commissioner Marvin Lackman
Commissioner Raul Palacios
Commissioner Adrian Thompson

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Police Chief Errol Jarman, Spring Lake Police Department
James Overton, Finance Director
Jon Rorie, Town Manager
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Spring Lake Police Department
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

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

3. Additions or Deletions

Commissioner Thompson requested to delete item 7a. Focus Group 3 Update – Mayor Pro Tem Soña L. Cooper. Commissioner Palacios requested to add September Yard of the Month under Presentations, which replaced the Focus Group 3 Update.

4. Approval of Agenda

Action: Motion to approve the September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting agenda with the addition and deletion.

Motion by: Commissioner Palacios

Second by: Commissioner Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Consent Items

Action: Motion to approve draft minutes of August 25, 2025, Work Session, Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Reappoint Ingrid Turner, and Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Application – Reappoint Irene Rosa.

Motion by: Commissioner Lackman

Second by: Commissioner Chadwick

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioner Lackman acknowledged Ingrid Turner and Irene Rosa for their involvement and reappoint with the Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee.

6. Public Comment

Bettye Sanford, 104 Wapiti Drive, expressed concerns regarding the lack of “Children at Play” signs and requested they be installed as soon as possible to improve safety. She also noted issues with speeding and drivers disregarding stop signs, suggesting increased police presence in the area. Additionally, she raised concerns about the poor condition of streets, which she stated damages tires, and requested repairs. Mrs. Sanford also mentioned the presence of dilapidated houses in the community, particularly on Wilderness Drive and Wapiti Drive, which negatively impact the neighborhood’s appearance. Finally, she suggested the Town consider establishing a YMCA locally, so residents would not need to travel to other areas to have access to one.

Marcheal Crocker, 719 Curtis Circle, expressed concerns regarding the Town policy, questioning who is exempt from following it. She stated that her concerns have not been addressed and requested a time to meet for further discussion, emphasizing that as a taxpayer and resident, she is owed a response.

Mayor Anthony requested the Town Clerk to meet with Mrs. Crocker to get her scheduled on her calendar for this week.

7. Presentations

- a. September Yard of the Month – Commissioner Raul Palacios – Commissioner Palacios explained that the Yard of the Month program is an opportunity for the Town's Appearance Committee to recognize neighbors who upkeep and maintain their properties in a way that beautifies the Town. Commissioner Palacios mentioned that the Appearance Committee currently has a vacancy and encouraged interested individuals to apply. The two (2) winners were Billy Campbell and Betty Hobson. Additionally, Commissioner Palacios reminded attendees about an upcoming Community Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 9:00 am at the Recreation Center.
- b. CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report) – Tye Vault, Interim Community Development Director and County Chief of Staff, Cumberland County Community Development – Mr. Vault presented the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to the Board, noting it serves as a report card on the County’s progress toward its Annual Action Plan (AAP). He reported that the Board of County Commissioners approved the Consolidated Plan on Monday, August

11, 2025, and submitted it to HUD on Friday, August 15, 2025, which was accepted without major issues. Mr. Vault highlighted that Spring Lake is a significant contributor to Community Development program applications, accounting for an estimated 40–45% of applications and awarded projects. He also reviewed available programs, including housing rehabilitation and affordable housing initiatives. Additionally, he stated that a performance dashboard is being developed to track progress across the consolidated plan period, which will be available on the County website.

- c. Cumberland County Health Department Programs and Services – Dr. Jennifer Green, Health Director, Cumberland County Department of Public Health – Dr. Green provided an overview of the Cumberland County Health Department’s programs and services. She highlighted the department’s mission to deliver high-quality services and its vision of fostering a healthy community. Key services include clinical care such as child health, family planning, maternity care, and cancer screening programs; epidemiology and immunizations; school health services; and Medicaid care management. Dr. Green also reviewed health education initiatives, the WIC nutrition program, and environmental health services such as restaurant and pool inspections. Additional programs include Connect to Care in Spring Lake, the Positive Parenting Program, Healthy Conversations with local barbershops, and Uber Health transportation services. Dr. Green also mentioned an upcoming Health, Wellness, and Safety Fair on Saturday, September 12, 2025, at the Health Department, encouraging community participation.

8. New Business

- a. Budget Amendment (BA-6) FY2026 – Finance Director James Overton – Mr. Overton presented a Budget Amendment to carry forward purchase orders for projects that were started in the previous fiscal year but not completed. The amendment included:

- A contract with Highland Paving Company to resurface streets throughout Town and make Stormwater improvements on Hedgemoor Circle.
- The purchase and installation of two (2) payment kiosks for 24/7 bill payment services.

Mr. Overton noted a correction to the original amendment in the agenda, stating that the total cost for the kiosks, including shipping and installation, would be \$78,000 instead of the initially reported \$58,000. He explained that the kiosks would accept cash and credit cards, including American Express, which was not previously accepted. There would be a small convenience fee for using the kiosks, which could be avoided by setting up automatic bill pay.

Commissioner Chadwick commended staff and the Town Manager for providing an additional resource to the community but expressed concern about whether the new system would eliminate jobs in the Water Department and customer service windows, particularly for ADA and disabled residents. Mr. Rorie confirmed there would be no external window but noted a drive-up kiosk would be available, with technology providing information and dollars redirected to water and sewer improvements. Mr. Overton added that residents could still come inside for customer service and payments. Commissioner Chadwick further asked if jobs would be reassigned or eliminated, and Mr. Rorie stated it would depend on attrition, with reassignment always considered. She voiced support

for technology but hesitated to fully support the project due to potential job loss. Commissioner Palacios noted the Board had already approved the purchase of the machines, with current approval only addressing shipping and installation costs. Discussion followed regarding payment options, convenience fees, and clarification that affected positions fall under the Water and Sewer budget, not the General Fund.

Action: Motion to approve Budget Amendment (BA-6) FY2026.

Motion by: Commissioner Palacios

Second by: Commissioner Thompson

Vote: 3-1; **Noe:** Commissioner Chadwick

- b. Mayor's Report – Mayor Kia Anthony – First, Mayor Anthony stated she visited local schools with Dr. Eric Bracy from the Cumberland County Board of Education to assess school conditions. She noted that the County seemed open to suggestions and expressed confidence in seeing more activity from the County within the school system, particularly addressing the need for central air at Manchester Elementary. Second, Mayor Anthony she spent time with graduate students from UNC-Chapel Hill, who are studying the potential repurposing of Lillian Black Elementary. The students toured the area, visited local businesses, and spoke with community members. Mayor Anthony encouraged community input for the project and announced that the students would present their findings in November. Third, Mayor Anthony stated Lunch with the Mayor is scheduled for the Wednesday, September 24, 2025, with the location to be determined. Fourth, Mayor Anthony noted the increased usage of Mendoza Park, praising the Cumberland County Parks and Recreation department for completing the park improvements. Fifth, Mayor Anthony reminded residents to check their voter registration status due to a recent purge of voting rolls in North Carolina. Sixth, Mayor Anthony mentioned the success of the recent First Friday event and announced that the next one would celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which is on Friday, October 3, 2025. Seventh, Mayor Anthony reminded residents to download the Town's App for updates and information. Last, Mayor Anthony noted that there would be instructions available on how to use the new payment kiosk at the Water Department.
- c. Board of Commissioners Report – Spring Lake Board of Commissioners – Mayor Pro Tem Cooper was not present at the meeting. Commissioner Thompson stated on Fridays from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Cornerstone Empowerment Center accepts donations for their Hands of Hope facility. Commissioner Lackman's updates are attached in the minutes as **Attachment One**. Commissioner Lackman also wished Happy Birthday to his wife, which her birthday is tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, 2025. First, Commissioner Palacios announced an upcoming Town cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 9:00 am at the Recreation Center. Last, Commissioner Palacios briefly mentioned the Mural at Mendoza Park, acknowledging the artist Dim Borisov and community support. Commissioner Chadwick stated she had the opportunity to Fellowship with Cumberland County Schools last Thursday, September 4, 2025, which focused on collaboration to help students be more successful with faith leaders.
- d. Manager's Report – Town Manager Jon Rorie – Mr. Rorie announced the hiring of a Code Enforcement Sergeant, assigned to the Police Department, who will oversee daily code enforcement duties and work closely with the recently hired Building Inspector, Stephanie Hutchins. He explained the

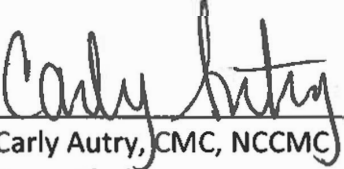
complexity of the enforcement process, which requires procedural and statutory due process before action can be taken on issues such as high grass, junk piles, or unsafe structures. As an example, he referenced a Main Street property where a notice of violation was issued, leading to the owner's agreement to demolish the building. Mr. Rorie emphasized that demolition of private property can cost the Town significant public dollars—approximately \$30,000—requiring special assessments in hopes of reimbursement, with foreclosure as a last resort. He noted the Town currently has over 100 blighted properties and set a goal of addressing about 16 properties annually, or roughly four (4) per zone.

- e. Town Attorney Report – Town Attorney Michael Porter – Attorney Porter was not present at the meeting.

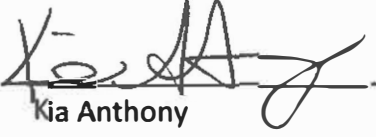
9. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Anthony adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm.

ATTEST:


Carly Autry, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor

ATTACHMENT ONE

Spring Lake Board of Commissioners Meeting, Monday, September 8, 2025

Saturdays Clean Up – we had six (6) volunteers come out and clean up 480 pounds of debris in Spring Lake. It was a beautiful day. We cleaned up a lot of streets throughout town.

This Saturday, September 13, 2025, our MVAAC is hosting a Poker Run. The run begins at VFW 4542, 1241 Pine Knoll Road. Registration begins at 8 am and will end at the American Post 230 on Veterans Drive off of Manchester. All proceeds benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The deadline for submitting a nominee for the Spring Lake's Veteran of the Year is coming up very soon, the deadline is Friday, September 19, 2025. You can email the application to clerk@townofspringlake.com or marvin.lackman@townofspringlake.com