

Town of Spring Lake
Organizational Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Spring Lake Recreation Center
245 Ruth Street
Spring Lake, NC 28390

December 8, 2025

MINUTES

6:09 pm

The Spring Lake Board of Commissioners held an Organizational Meeting in the Spring Lake Recreation Center with Mayor Kia Anthony presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Soña L. Cooper
Commissioner Robyn Chadwick
Commissioner Marvin Lackman
Commissioner Raul Palacios
Commissioner Adrian Thompson

Commissioner-Elects Present: Commissioner-Elect Tony Burgess
Commissioner-Elect Jackie Jackson
Commissioner-Elect Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Carly Autry, Town Clerk
Elizabeth Gray, HR Manager
Stephanie Hutchins, Building Inspector
Police Chief Errol Jarman, Town of Spring Lake Police Department
Marvin Lee, Water/Sewer Tech
James Overton, Finance Director
Captain Timothy Patterson, Town of Spring Lake Assistant Fire Marshal
Jon Rorie, Town Manager
Carol Shafer, Town of Spring Lake Fire Department Executive Assistant
Lieutenant Danny Sutton, Town of Spring Lake Police Department
Detective Keshore Taylor, Town of Spring Lake Police Department
Lieutenant Gregory Wilkerson, Town of Spring Lake Police Department
Fire Chief Jason Williams, Town of 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

Pastor Albert Crawford gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. THE NATION ANTHEM

Wanda McCall sang The National Anthem.

4. ADDITONS AND DELETIONS

Commissioner Chadwick requested to add Draft Minutes of December 4, 2025, Special Meeting under Consent Items and Mayor Anthony requested to delete item 11a. Spring Lake Board of Commissioners, as the Board will have the opportunity to make a remark after their individual Oath of Office is administered, under Remarks.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion by: Commissioner Palacios

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Cooper

Vote: Unanimous

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Action: Motion to approve the draft minutes of August 11, 2025, Closed Session, draft minutes of October 13, 2025, Closed Session, draft minutes of November 10, 2025, Closed Session, draft minutes of November 24, 2025, Work Session, and draft minutes of December 4, 2025, Special Meeting.

Motion by: Commissioner Thompson

Second by: Commissioner Lackman

Vote: Unanimous

7. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS – Mayor Kia Anthony

Mayor Anthony reflected on the past four (4) years with the outgoing Board members, describing the experience as bittersweet. She acknowledged their dedication, teamwork, selflessness, and the long hours committed during challenging periods for the Town of Spring Lake. She noted that the Board remained united throughout and achieved more than anyone had anticipated.

a. Robyn Chadwick – Mayor Anthony presented Commissioner Chadwick with a plaque recognizing her service from December 2021 to December 2025. She commended Commissioner Chadwick's dedication to the Town of Spring Lake.

Commissioner Chadwick expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve and highlighted key accomplishments during her term, including restoring the General Fund in under three (3) years and implementing a challenging budget with a continued focus on residents' needs. She affirmed her commitment to supporting the Town of Spring Lake beyond her official tenure.

b. Marvin Lackman – Mayor Anthony recognized Commissioner Lackman for his commitment and dedication, noting his consistent leadership in organizing community clean-ups on weekends in all weather conditions without seeking acknowledgment. She also commended his ongoing support for Veterans. Mayor Anthony presented him with a plaque honoring his service from December 2021 to December 2025.

Commissioner Lackman stated that serving on the Board had been a meaningful experience in his life. He reflected on the challenges the Board encountered four (4) years earlier and credited their collective efforts for the progress the Town of Spring Lake has made. He thanked his fellow Board members, Town staff, and former Interim Town Manager Jason Williams for their contributions. He also expressed appreciation to his wife for her support throughout his four (4) years of service.

c. Raul Palacios – Mayor Anthony presented a plaque to Commissioner Palacios and recognized him as a steady and integral member of the Board, noting his commitment, reliability, and strong-minded approach. She commended his inquisitive nature and the respectful debates that contributed to stronger decision-making. She thanked him for his service and dedication, particularly his thorough work on budget matters.

Commissioner Palacios thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and emphasized the importance of the transfer of power in government. He reflected on how the past four (4) years had shaped him both personally and as a citizen, acknowledging the unforeseen challenges faced upon taking office, including the state's intervention in Town finances. He expressed pride in the Board's accomplishments, including improving the Town's appearance, restoring public trust, developing parks, and overcoming various challenges. He thanked his family for their support and explained his decision not to seek reelection to spend more time with them. Commissioner Palacios also shared plans to launch a faith-based recovery program in January. He expressed appreciation to his fellow Commissioners, Town staff, and the citizens of the Town of Spring Lake for their trust, encouraged community involvement, and pledged his support to the incoming Board.

Commissioners Chadwick, Lackman, and Palacios were each awarded the County Crest by Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kirk deViere for their service while in office.

8. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO THE MAYOR

a. Chairman Kirk deViere, Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, administered the Oath of Mayor to Kia Anthony – Mayor Anthony thanked attendees and reflected on the significance of taking her Oath of Office to serve the community she calls home. She shared her background as a Flint, Michigan native, military veteran, business owner, and committed resident. She acknowledged key supporters and reflected on the Town's challenges four (4) years ago, highlighting accomplishments during her tenure, including balanced budgets, staff recruitment, infrastructure funding, strategic planning, blight reduction, and stabilizing Town Hall operations. She outlined four (4) strategic priorities: infrastructure improvements, connecting neighborhoods, public safety, and economic development, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and community engagement. Mayor Anthony concluded by committing to daily service, advocating for the Town's growth and well-being, and demonstrating measurable progress over the next four (4) years.

9. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

a. Town Clerk Carly Autry administered the Oath of Commissioner to Tony Burgess – After taking his Oath, Commissioner Burgess thanked those present for the opportunity to serve.

b. The Honorable Marvin W. Lucas, Former NC House of Representatives District 42 and 10th Mayor of the Town of Spring Lake, administered the Oath of Commissioner to Soña L. Cooper – Before administering the Oath, Honorable Lucas reflected on his own Oath of Office as Mayor in April 1977 and his 24 years of service. He expressed pride in the growth of the Town of Spring Lake, noting the transition from holding meetings in the old library to the current modern facility.

After taking her Oath, Commissioner Cooper expressed gratitude to those who supported her, including her daughter who traveled to attend, her grandchildren, her uncle, aunt, and brother. She stated that it was an honor to serve and looked forward to working with her fellow Commissioners to continue advancing the Town.

c. The Honorable Frances Jackson, District 45, NC House of Representatives, administered the Oath of Commissioner to Jackie Jackson – After being sworn in, Commissioner Jackson offered thanks to God and expressed appreciation to her family, friends, mother, children, campaign team, and spiritual advisors for their support. She affirmed her readiness to serve and contribute to the work needed for the Town.

d. Rita Perry Harris, Notary Public, administered the Oath of Commissioner to Fredricka Sutherland – After taking her Oath, Commissioner Sutherland expressed pride in being a Town of Spring Lake resident for 46 years and a committed taxpayer. She acknowledged the legacy of past leaders and reflected on her 16 years of prior service, highlighting accomplishments such as the construction of the Recreation Center, installation of sidewalks and safety signals, and development of recreational amenities including a splash pad, tennis courts, and basketball courts. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication in serving all citizens. Commissioner Sutherland thanked her family for their support and affirmed her continued commitment to working for the community.

e. The Honorable Mike Colvin, District 42, NC House of Representatives, administered the Oath of Commissioner to Adrian Thompson – After taking her Oath, Commissioner Thompson expressed gratitude to the residents for their trust over the past four (4) years and for the upcoming term. She thanked the Town Manager, Town Clerk, and all departments for their support. She affirmed her commitment to serving alongside her fellow Commissioners to maintain public safety and create opportunities for all residents, pledging to lead with integrity and make decisions reflecting the community's needs. She also acknowledged her late father, stating she continues to feel his guidance and presence.

10. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Action: Motion to elect Commissioner Cooper as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Motion by: Commissioner Thompson

Second by: Commissioner Cooper

Vote: 2-3; **Noes:** Commissioner Burgess, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Sutherland

Action: Motion to elect Commissioner Sutherland as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Motion by: Commissioner Jackson

Second by: Commissioner Burgess

Vote: 3-2; **Noes:** Commissioner Cooper, Commissioner Thompson

11. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO THE MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Mayor Anthony administered the Oath of Mayor Pro Tempore to Fredricka Sutherland.

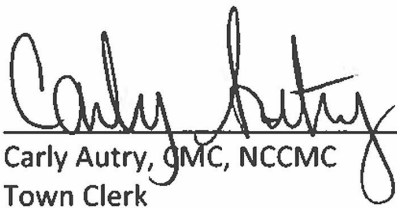
12. REMARKS

a. Cumberland County Delegation – Mayor Anthony opened the floor to elected officials for remarks. No one came forward to speak.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mayor Anthony adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.

ATTEST:


Carly Autry, GMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk




Kia Anthony
Mayor