

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

February 23, 2015

MINUTES

7 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a regular scheduled meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Chris V. Rey presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra
Alderman James Christian
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderwoman Densie Lucas
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Ken Metcalf, Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager	Rosa Henegan, Human Resources Director
Paul Hoover, Public Works Director	John Kleinert, Maintenance Director
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief	T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief
Tina West, Interim Finance Director	Gail Elder-White, Recreation Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk	

2. Invocation

Alderwoman Lucas gave a non-sectarian invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rey led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Alderwoman Lucas

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment one.)

6. Approval of Consent Items

The Board approved the consent items:

- a. Minutes of the February 4, 2015 Special Meeting
- b. Minutes of the February 9, 2015 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Sergeant McCormick reminded everyone that he has shirts for sale for the Special Olympics.

8. Public Hearing

a. Case P15-04: Revisions and Amendments to the Town of Spring Lake Zoning Ordinance, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against Case P15-04.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

b. Proposed Ordinance to Amend the Charter of the Town of Spring Lake, Mayor Term of Office

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against the Mayor's Term of Office.

Alderman Christian inquired about a provision for recall elections and Mr. Buzzard advised there are provisions in place in common law that allows the removal of Board members for maleficence.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

c. Proposed Ordinance to Amend the Charter of the Town of Spring Lake, Board of Aldermen Terms of Office

Mayor Rey opened the Public Hearing. Rita Perry, 1013 Karen Circle, spoke in opposition to the staggered terms because it does not reduce cost of elections to the taxpayers and she feels all inclusive four year terms for all elected candidates would save tax dollars. Additionally, she stated that if the entire Board is newly elected people, then so be it, the citizens have spoken.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

9. Presentation

a. Presentation, Weatherization Assistant Program

Ms. Lowe-Jacobs was not able to attend the meeting. No presentation was given.

(A copy of the agenda memo and program flyer is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

b. Presentation, Woodland West Park Renovations

Ms. Elder-White provided the Board with information regarding the Woodland West Park. Since we did not receive the

KaBOOM grant, she is proposing to make the following renovations: fill cracks in the asphalt, paint the surface and install 4 picnic tables, 2 trash cans and 2 grills. The estimated costs for this project is \$2,700 which is available in the capital budget that was funded to match the KaBOOM grant if we received it.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the Woodland West Park Renovations Costs.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and PowerPoint Presentation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

c. Presentation, Community Appearance Commission Annual Report

Mr. Starnes provided the Board with the 2014 Annual Appearance Commission Report. The Commission held two Town wide litter sweeps (one in the spring and one in the fall) collecting more than one-half tons of trash and debris. They also held a mini litter sweep the morning of the half marathon and sponsored a MLK Day of Service litter sweep. They sponsored the Yard and Business of the Month program held May through October.

Challenges they faced in the 2014 year was lack of community involvement in the litter sweeps, poor marketing of litter sweeps and poor attendance by Commission members.

Initiatives for 2015 include: beginning the Neighborhood/Town Gateway Beautification Program, continue the Yard of the Month Program with modifications, continue the spring and fall litter sweeps with improvements that were identified in the 2014 year, conduct an annual Christmas Decorations Award for residences and “Adopt A Park” program.

Mr. Starnes thanked the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Alderwoman Sutherland and Alderman Christian for the help and support during the year.

Alderman Christian asked when the next litter sweep is and Mr. Starnes advised April 5, 2015.

Alderwoman Sutherland thanked Mr. Starnes for a job well done and stated she likes the idea of the Christmas Decoration Program.

(A copy of the agenda memo and PowerPoint Presentation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

d. Presentation, NCDOT Update on Odell Road Widening

Ms. Lenart-Redmond, a consultant for the Odell Road Widening Project, provided the Board with an update on the study area for the widening of Odell Road. This project is a Federal funded project and is being considered to provide sufficient traffic carrying capacity along Odell Road to accommodate an additional Access Control Point for Fort Bragg. The project will include widening of Odell Road to multi-lanes, installation of a 23’ raised grassy median with breaks for turning traffic, and replacement of existing sidewalks. The estimated cost is \$7.9M. They conducted a mandated traffic forecasting study in January 2014, agency scoping meeting in April 2014, a capacity analysis in May 2014 and held a public input meeting in November 2014 where they received both support and concern about the project. She advised they are currently in the planning process and advised the next steps will be to complete environmental studies by August 2016, hold a public hearing in late 2016, receive the final environmental document by December 2017, obtain right of way acquisitions in FFY 2017 and construction should begin in FFY 2019.

Mayor Rey stated there are quite a number of citizens expressing great concern about the impact this will have on that community and on the Town. One of the big issues is people being able to get out of the neighborhoods. He stated this project is hurting Spring Lake and he wants to know how the Town will be compensated for the loss in tax impact alone.

He requested a more serious discussion about the options to address these concerns. Mayor Rey requested that she express to the NCDOT that currently there is not a warm and fuzzy from Spring Lake on this project and stated as the project is currently being presented, he and the Board do not support it. He further stated "this town is really getting "screwed" because of multiple projects that we did not ask for and do not have the revenue for".

Alderman Christian asked about closing Manchester gate and Mr. Burns stated Fort Bragg has no plans to close Manchester gate. NCDOT's intentions are to reduce traffic flow on Bragg Boulevard. Alderman Christian expressed concern about his neighbors being able to get out of the neighborhood.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that in the previous public input meeting there were approximately 70 people who expressed opposition to this project. He expressed concern about the homes that will be taken out to accommodate the plan and the tax base that will be lost, the cost of infrastructure that they Town is unable to pay for and the increased vehicle exhaust in that area. He requested they consider doing something along Manchester Road and the railroad tracks. Ms. Lenart-Redmond stated they will consider these options and they are just now in the preliminary process. He requested minutes from the input meeting. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra re-stated that they do not have support for this project and he wants them to please tell NCDOT that they do not have support for this project.

Alderwoman Sutherland inquired about traffic signals and Ms. Lenart-Redmond stated they are too early in the process to know exactly what will be put in place but they will be considered. She also inquired about the number of vehicles that will travel that roadway and it was determined approximately 20,000 – 29,000 by the year 2040. She also stated there will be a signal analysis done that will determine if and where signals will be placed.

Mr. Metcalf asked if we can have another public input meeting in this year and Mr. Burns stated they must go through their process before they can hold another public input meeting.

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

e. Presentation, Annual Audit Review

Mr. Thompson advised that in the previous presentation Mr. Hill failed to explain fully why the General Fund expenditures appear to be greater than the revenues. He explained that total in the audit report is before inter-fund transfers are done. He further explained that other funds "reimburse" the General Fund for work done for them by the General Fund. He assured the Board that the General Fund is not expending more than it is taking in.

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

10. New Business

a. Case P15-04: Revisions and Amendments to the Town of Spring Lake Zoning Ordinance, Code of Ordinance, Chapter 42 Zoning

Mr. Scott advised this amendment was requested by the Town. The amendment, if approved, would allow for adult day cares with criteria that is consistent with the County. County Joint Planning Board and Town Staff recommend approval.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case P15-04.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department Action Memorandum and Site Profile is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment ten.)

b. Case No. 15-015: Consideration of the Chapel Hill Road Duplexes; Request for a Group Development Review

Mr. Scott advised the request is to allow two duplexes for a total of four dwellings. The site plan along with the Ordinance related conditions meets or exceeds the Town's zoning and subdivision criteria. County Planning and Town Staff recommend approval.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case No. 15-015.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Cumberland County Planning & Inspections Department Action Memorandum and Site Profile is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eleven.)

c. GHSP Grant Application, Police Department

Chief McDuffie requested permission to apply for the Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant. The grant total is for \$131,841. This is a three-year grant and includes \$60,870 in personnel cost and \$71,034 in equipment. The State covers 85% of the cost the first year, 70% the second year and 50% the third year. He advised officers responded to 502 vehicle crashes within the Spring Lake Town limits in 2014. During this time there were 38 DWI arrests and 145 speeding tickets issued. Currently, the Town has only one officer dedicated to enforcing traffic.

Alderman Christian asked when we will know about the award of the grant and Chief McDuffie stated awards should go out in August or September of this year.

Alderwoman Sutherland thanked Chief McDuffie for keeping an eye out for the available grants. She believes we do need more traffic officers.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant Application for \$131,841.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eleven.)

d. Promotion Ceremony, Police Department

Chief McDuffie acknowledged the promotion of Billy Tharpe to Captain and introduced two new officers: Brandon Lyles and Yancey McDowell. He also advised Debora Hudson was permanently assigned to the Administrative Assistant position to the Chief of Police.

Alderwoman Sutherland thanked the Chief and his officers for the great job that they do. She stated her prayers are always with the officers as they do their job for this Great Town of Spring Lake. She also advised we have called for February 28th to be an appreciation day for the Public Safety Personnel. She thanked the families of the officers. If we don't have integrity we cannot do a good job for the citizens and this great Town of Spring Lake. We must learn how to respect one another and do the right thing for the Town. This is for all employees. She again thanked the officers for putting their lives in jeopardy to make sure we are safe in this great Town of Spring Lake. We must always remember, Board Members, employees and everyone, if we don't have integrity we don't have anything. Let's continue to go forward with integrity.

(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment twelve.)

e. Application for Appointment, Community Appearance Commission

Ms. Webb reported that Ms. Sara Leir submitted an application to serve on the Community Appearance Commission. If appointed she will serve a 3-year term expiring February 28, 2018.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Ms. Leir to the Community Appearance Commission for a 3-year term expiring February 28, 2018.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Application from Sara Leir is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment thirteen.)

11. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development.

Motion by: Alderwoman Lucas

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Mayor Rey invited Mr. Hunt into the Closed Session.

Action: The Board approved a motion to go back into open session at 8:58 p.m.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to move forward with four year non-staggered terms.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

12. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Chris V. Rey
Mayor