

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

August 10, 2015

MINUTES

7:04 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
Alderwoman Densie Lucas
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Tad Davis, Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager	JC Combs, Asst. Recreation Director
Rosa Henegan, Human Resources Director	Paul Hoover, Director of Public Works
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief	Butch Watson, Interim Finance Director
Jason Williams, Asst. Fire Chief	Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra 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: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Christian

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 July 27, 2015 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items minutes for July 27, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

SGT McCormick, Spring Lake Police Department, spoke about community events. He asked for support for the Special Olympics and advised he is selling t-shirts and there will be a fund raiser car show at Southwinds Plaza on August 22nd. He announced that the Deerfield Subdivision will host a block party on Wapiti Drive this coming Friday. He also announced the first Tuesday on August is National Night Out and Pop-With-A-Cop is scheduled for August 22nd at Wal-Mart. On August 23rd the Police Department will sponsor a back to school event. He invited everyone to these events.

Rita Perry, 1013 Karen Circle, spoke in opposition of agenda item 9d, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Request for Economic Development Funding. She advised on June 22, 2015 the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce reported to the Board of Aldermen that the funding given to them by the Town for economic development was used for Chamber salaries. She further urged the Board to research other avenues to address the Town's economic development needs.

8. Presentation

a. Certificate of Achievement, Yard of the Month

Mayor Rey and Ms. Hash presented certificates to the Yard of the Month recipients who were in attendance. The following people won the award for August:

The Morning Jump Coffee Shop
Ann Marie Carrington, 500 Samuel Drive
Michael Puch, 203 Eppingdale Drive
Patsy Troy, 1215 Edwards Circle

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

b. Manager's Updates

Mr. Davis reported the following:

- The state audit continues. Mr. Davis will meet with them this week for an update.
- Work is progressing with Mr. Wilkison to update the Town policies. Beginning at the next Board meeting he expects to have 3-4 policies ready for review by the Board.
- Staff is conducting a follow up review of the budget for the Senior Center and will bring back to the next Board meeting a budget amendment should adjustments be required.
- The City-County Joint Appearance Commission recognized Spring Lake with 4 awards at their annual awards banquet. Spring Lake's Veterans Memorial Park was selected as the winner of the Best Non-Residential Landscaping Project category. He recognized the Spring Lake Appearance Commission members for their work. Alderman Christian announced the other three winners were Balsawood Subdivision, Waterford entrance and Spring Lake Storage.
- HB 386 was ratified by the NC House and became a law on July 30, 2015. It deals with satellite annexation and removes the restriction that previously capped satellite annexation at 10% of a jurisdiction's total area.

9. New Business

a. Resolution (2015) 7, Petition for Annexation, Harkins Property

Ms. Webb presented Resolution (2015) 7, a petition for annexation from Ms. Martha Harkins for property located at 1543 N. Bragg Boulevard. This property is contiguous to the Town. If the Board approves Resolution (2015) 7 it will direct the Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition, direct staff to conduct a feasibility study and authorize the Clerk to set the Public Hearing date if all is found to be in order.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2015) 7.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, petition for annexation, deed and Resolution (2015) 7 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

b. Budget Amendment 2016.2, Fire Department

Mr. Watson presented Budget Amendment 2016.2 to put proceeds from an insurance claim back into the Fire Department's budget for two iPads that were damaged. He requested the Board approve Budget Amendment 2016.2.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2016.2.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment 2016.2 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

c. Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Request for Sponsorship for Spring Lake 2015 Fall Festival

Mr. Davis introduced a request from the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce for Sponsorship of a proposed Fall Festival Chamber Event. He advised the Chamber is looking for partners to make this event happen and have requested the Town become a Platinum Sponsor by pledging \$5,000. He introduced Dr. Aziz should the Board have any questions.

Alderman Christian advised he is not against the festival but cannot support the request at this level. He stated that traditionally the festivals that the Town hosts are paid for by sponsors and not Town money and he would feel more comfortable giving a smaller amount. He also advised this is not a personal thing, he feels we get into a dangerous area when we take public funds and support festivals that are not a part of the Town's government function. He further stated that we could take \$5,000 and add a Saturday bus route or a number of other things that are needed.

Alderwoman Sutherland expressed concern about there being no back up documentation or budget amendment to consider. She also expressed concern with being called by Dr. Aziz directly and felt pressure to agree to approve this request. She asked for further information about the various sponsorship levels that are available and stated she felt the Town should have been given options instead of only one option. She also inquired about the license for alcohol.

Dr. Aziz advised the Chamber will pay off-duty officers to provide security. She will not require anything else from the Town except the Platinum Sponsorship. She stated the Town will benefit the most from this event. There are no activities for the children of our Town. Alderman Christian disagreed with the statement that there is nothing to do in this Town and cited the Spring Fling, Sankofa Festival, movie nights and the Recreation Center membership which has activities for citizens.

Alderwoman Lucas stated that she is very supportive of this type of activity because it is what will bring people to our Town and agrees with giving support to entities who want to bring this type of activity to us in addition to what we already have.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the Platinum Sponsorship of \$5,000 for the Fall Festival.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: 3-1	Yes	No
	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra	Alderman Christian
	Alderwoman Lucas	
	Alderwoman Sutherland	

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

d. Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Request for Economic Development Funding

Mr. Davis introduced a request from the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce for \$35,000 for economic development and advised Dr. Aziz is available to answer any questions. He stated the Chamber is requesting this funding to increase their capability and further enhance their partnership with the Town. The services they provide include providing information to individuals seeking to start a business in Spring Lake, they promote new businesses through ribbon cutting ceremonies and marketing, they apply for economic development grants, attract outside investors, answer administrative queries and generally promote the interests of the Town's businesses and employees. He advised all this work comes with a cost. The Spring Lake Chamber's membership dues are much less and only cover a small portion of their costs. Additional funds are needed to support hiring a part time administrator/executive director to run their day to day operations, to pay for existing administrative costs, to fund programs aimed at attracting new businesses and to promote the growth of existing ones. He also advised they may, at times, need to hire the services of a certified public accountant to manager certain aspects of their accounts. He asked the Board to consider this proposal as a viable option to further enhance business growth and economic development in the local area.

Alderwoman Sutherland advised she concurs with Ms. Perry's statement. She believes we need to look into other options for economic development and requested that the Manager provide the Board with more information in the future. She stated that Mayor Rey preciously expressed a desire to look at other options. She also expressed concern with people calling Board members directly about agenda items as it may cause Board members to feel pressure. She further stated we are not accustomed to paying salaries for Chamber employees.

Alderman Christian stated he is not against working with the Chamber in some form but this is not a contract with options spelling out how the money will be spent. We must account for where Town finances are being spent. We are going through an audit right now because we did not know where Town funds were spent.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated we are sitting on some money that we are not utilizing and money was set aside for this purpose. He stated tax revenues are down in 2014 from 2013 and this is because we lost a lot of businesses due to the highway project and what we need is someone out there trying to bring businesses here. We do not need to be fidgeting over \$35,000. We do not need to be saying this is not personal and worrying about things that happened 8 years ago. We need to worry about what is going to happen to us in the future. We need to look at what is going on 5 miles up the road just outside of Spring Lake. We need to put our money and make moves now. We do not need to play it safe. This is only \$35,000 and we need to put it somewhere where it will make a difference and move us forward. He believes we need to do something.

Alderwoman Lucas stated she feels the same as Alderman Christian in supporting the Chamber but we do need more definitive information.

Mayor Rey advised what is missing is a proposal. Our Chamber is unique because of the size of our community. The Town working closely with the Chamber is important. In light of many of the challenges we have been presented with, it is important that we show the return we will get when we give taxpayer's money to someone. He believes we need other proposals presented to the Board so the Board can make the best decision regarding expending the taxpayer's dollars and any proposal should be in the form of a contract and believes this would be the proper way to go. He would like to have an open period for proposals to be submitted to the Town with proposals submitted from the various entities. This should be done in short order, perhaps by the first meeting in September, and from that we can determine the best route to go. He believes this will serve the Town, taxpayers and the Chamber better.

Dr. Aziz stated that \$35,000 was set aside for economic development and so far no one else has requested that money. She advised the Cumberland/Fayetteville Alliance has not produced any results for Fayetteville. Fayetteville gives the Alliance \$100,000 and Cumberland County gives them \$350,000 and they have not produced any results. She feels this will be a waste of Spring Lake's money. She advised they charge members \$100 for a yearly membership and that money does not cover their expenses. She also advised she sits on the USDA Rural Development Board. She took the

Manager to Raleigh to meet with them and stated she spends a lot of her personal time working on behalf of Spring Lake Chamber and economic development. She stated she does not believe \$35,000 will be enough to hire the expertise needed.

Action: A motion to deny the Economic Development request from the Chamber for \$35,000 was defeated.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: 2-3	Yes	No
	Alderman Christian	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
	Alderwoman Sutherland	Alderwoman Lucas
		Mayor Rey

Action: A motion to approve \$35,000 to the Chamber subject to a contract being approved by this Board was approved.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: 3-1	Yes	No
	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra	Alderwoman Sutherland
	Alderman Christian	
	Alderwoman Lucas	

Alderman Christian stated he is not opposed to working with the Chamber but a contract spelling out what we will get for our money needs to be in place.

Mayor Rey clarified that the \$35,000 will be given to the Chamber only if a contract is approved. He further clarified that he has spoken with the Alliance and feels they are not where they need to be for us to join them.

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

Mayor Rey announced the Lucas Family has their family reunion this past weekend and Alderwoman Lucas won the first annual baking contest. She received applause and a request for treats at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris V. Rey
Chris V. Rey
Mayor

