

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

February 8, 2016

MINUTES

7:02 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 Rey presiding.

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

Others Present:

Tad Davis, Town Manager
Byron Blumenfeld, Director of Water Resources
Troy McDuffie, Chief of Police
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director
Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Rosa Henegan, Human Resources Officer
T.J. McLamb, Fire Chief
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation

Alderman 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: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman 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 January 25, 2016 Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes of the February 1, 2016 Special Meeting
- c. Resolution (2016) 3, Accepting Report of Unpaid Taxes and Directing Tax Collector to Advertise Tax Liens

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes for January 25, 2016 Regular Meeting, February 1, 2016 Special Meeting and Resolution (2016) 3.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of Resolution (2016) 3 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

7. Public Forum

No one spoke at the Public Forum.

8. Presentation

a. 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 January:

Kita Stovall, 1004 Lisa Circle

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

b. Cumberland Community Development Overview of Services

Ms. Sylvia McLean advised they are in the planning process for their Program Year 2016 and they are developing their annual Action Plan. The Plan is created to outline information needed for funding. Cumberland County is designated as an entitlement community with HUD. As such, they require the County to report on programs and initiatives they plan to undertake. She stated they anticipated receiving approximately \$1M to fund CDBG projects, and home and public facilities improvements. Currently, they have an RFP on their website should we wish to apply for funds. She advised in previous years they have funded many projects in Spring Lake and hopes that Spring Lake will take advantage of the funding.

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

c. Community Appearance Commission Annual Report

Ms. Hash provided the Board of Aldermen with an annual report summarizing the activities hosted by the Spring Lake Community Appearance Commission during 2015. She reported that approximately 1.9 tons of material was collected during the Spring Litter Sweep and more than 2 tons during the Fall Litter Sweep. She advised that the Yard of the Month program was expanded this year to include holiday decorations in October, November and December. Challenges include lack of community involvement and awareness of events. Initiatives for 2016 were highlighted. Mayor Rey thanked Ms. Hash for all her hard work and leadership and stated this is what happens when citizens step up and make a difference. He stated he would like to see the holiday decorations be promoted to the extent that they would attract people to come see our decorations. Alderman O'Garra said she took something that could be boring and make it very exciting and Ms. Hash advised it comes from her love of Spring Lake. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that she is proud to be a part of the "Street Sweeperz Team" and she thanked Ms. Hash and the Commission Members for their hard work. Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins requested that the PowerPoint presentation be placed on the Town's website. Ms. Hash announced the Appearance Commission will host a Community Forum on February 18, 2016 at 7 p.m. to brainstorm ideas for a grant that is available through the Cumberland Community Foundation.

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

d. Fire Department Annual Update

Chief McLamb provided the Board with an update on the Fire Department's activities during 2015. He stated their core services include risk reduction, first responder emergency medical care, fire suppression and rescue. Their incident count increased 11.5% from 2014. They are seeing a 600% increase in citizen's assistance, a 10% increase in vehicle

accidents and a 16% increase in out of county assistance. His update included a financial impact analysis for 2015 and apparatus maintenance costs. Mayor Rey commended the Fire Department for the work that they do.

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

e. Police Department Annual Update

Chief McDuffie provided the Board with an update on the Police Department's activities during 2015. Chief McDuffie stated he is pleased with where the Police Department is and commended his officers for carrying out the Department's mission. He provided statistical data on crimes in Spring Lake reporting that both violent crimes and property crimes were down from 2014 while simple assault, vandalism, fraud, embezzlement, sex offenses and DWIs increased during that time frame. However, they were not significant increases. Overall crimes decreased by 26%. He also advised that of the 4 homicides that the Department has investigated under his administration there is a 100% solve rate and he commended his team for their excellent work. He also advised that his detectives have been praised by the District Attorney's office for their thorough case files. He will focus on overall crime reduction, community policing, neighborhood community policing and engagement, officer training, recruitment and retention. Alderman Christian inquired about National Night Out and if we will do more this year than in years past and Chief McDuffie advised they will. Alderman Christian also inquired about cold case files and whether they are working on them. Chief McDuffie advised the Jennifer Patterson file is one that remains of concern. Alderwoman Sutherland thanked the Department for the job they do for the great Town of Spring Lake. She likes the Neighborhood Improvement Team and the work they are doing. She commended them for working together with other agencies and with community residents. She expressed concern about attacks occurring on the seniors and handicapped. Alderwoman Sutherland also expressed concern about homeless people and wants the Police Department to move forward on addressing this issue. Alderman O'Garra commended the officers and told them to keep doing a wonderful job. Mayor Rey commended Chief McDuffie for his leadership and the work that his team is doing. Mayor Rey requested that Chief McDuffie share with the Board what training the officers receive and Chief McDuffie advised training includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence, teen dating violence, juvenile and minority sensitivity training, active shooter, fire arms training, law enforcement intelligence updates, officer safety, use of force, career survival ethics, crime scene staging, dynamics in homicide cases, child death investigations, child abuse and neglect, crisis intervention training that includes mental illness training, radar certification, intox training, and FTO training. He stated it all starts with the leadership and I am responsible for the officers conducting themselves in a professional manner. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that the Police Department's vehicles are the sharpest anywhere and mental illness training is very important. Alderman O'Garra commended Chief McDuffie.

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

f. Manager's Update

Mr. Davis reported the following:

- He would like to have a 10-year plan for vehicles. He expects to begin with the Police and Fire vehicles and create a plan and then work that plan with all other Town owned vehicles.
- He encouraged everyone to attend the Giving Together Community Challenge Community Forum being hosted by the Appearance Commission scheduled for February 18, 2016. It is to brainstorm ideas for a community project which will be submitted to the Cumberland Community Foundation for a matching grant of \$10,000.
- We are getting the word out on the "Our History, Our Story" Black History Month event hosted by Sandhills Family Heritage Association on February 13, 2016 from 10 a.m. until noon.
- He has had conversations with NCDOT on Poe Avenue bridge which is two to three months from completion and we are having discussions on the landscaping.
- Economic Development: Cookout, Compare Foods and renovations at Southwinds Plaza.
- He introduced Tim Garner, our Stormwater guy, and stated he has been tasked with sustainability
- Valentine's Day luncheon at Senior Center this week.

Alderman Christian stated that he would like to see the bridge named after former Board Member Richard Higgins. He also stated that there are several Town Seals on vehicles and the podium at the Recreation Center that need to be replaced.

Alderwoman Sutherland expressed concern so many businesses closing, especially KFC and requested to get an update. Mayor Rey advised that he believes once the project comes to a completion and people see how the traffic will flow we will get more businesses back. Mr. Davis advised he spoke with the owner of KFC and intends to work closely with him to find another place in Spring Lake where he can open again. Alderwoman Sutherland stated we need to have some incentives and have DOT provide some incentives as well.

9. New Business

a. Case 16-012. Consideration of the Cookout Restaurant; Request for a C(P) Site Plan Review; Spring Lake Zoning Ordinance; Zoned: C(P); Total Acreage: 0.67+/-; Located at 406 & 408 NC Hwy 210 N; Submitted by Cookout Restaurants (Developer) and Commercial Site Design (Design Firm)

Ms. Melton presented Case 16-012 and advised all requirements are met and requested approval subject to draft conditions in the packet.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case 16-012 with conditions stated by the County Planning Board.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

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 nine.)

b. Resolution (2016) 5, Interlocal Agreement, Sales Tax

Mr. Davis requested the Board approve the sales tax distribution agreement extending the current agreement for three years. Mayor Rey advised there will be a working group formed to immediately begin discussions on the course of action to be taken when this agreement expires.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2016) 5.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Letter from Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, Interlocal Agreement for Sales Tax Distribution and Resolution (2016) 5 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment ten.)

c. Contract for Economic Development with Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Davis advised \$35,000 was approved by the Board in August 2015 for the economic development subject to a contract to be approved. The contract is now ready for approval and if approved will be a 12 month contract beginning 1 March 2016 with \$11,667 coming from the current year's budget and the remaining \$23,333 coming from 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Buzzard advised the accountability clause that the Board wanted is included in the contract. Alderwoman Sutherland expressed concern about not having a qualified individual with the expertise to bring the Town of Spring Lake where it needs to be with economic development and stated this is just putting a band aid on the situation. She stated she realizes it will cost more than \$35,000 to get this type individual and this money is just to support the Chamber and will not do anything for economic development and she understands that is what we are doing. But, to move forward she believes we must invest in an individual who can bring what we need to the table and stated Dr. Aziz

has someone in mind but it will require the Chamber to put 20% with what we are giving to get that individual. Mr. Davis advised we have spent some time with the newly reorganized economic development corporation within Cumberland County and Fayetteville and their Charter requires them to support economic development for Cumberland County as a whole and that is a resource we can tap into. We will have them give a presentation to the Board at a future meeting to explain what they can do for Spring Lake.

Alderman Christian expressed concern about the Chamber funding festivals, after hours galas and/or annual dinners with this money and he cannot approve the contract without that caveat in the contract. Alderman O'Garra stated he does not believe they plan to use the funds in that way and believes they will hire an individual to work economic development. He stated he has been told that the Chamber will put 20% with the Town's \$35,000 to hire this individual. He stated we will not be helping the Chamber we will be helping the Town. Alderman Christian requested that this language be added to the contract to ensure that the money will be spent to benefit the Town.

Mayor Rey clarified that he understands that the money will be used to hire an individual and the contract is written in such a way that if the Board is not satisfied with what they are doing, we are in the position to terminate the contract and he urged the Board to consider the length of time it has been since they approved the funding. He also reminded the Board that we need to give the Chamber the option to prove itself. We do not want to look back a year from now and discover that we haven't done anything. He asked Mr. Buzzard if we need to add Alderman Christian's requested provision or if the language is sufficient and Mr. Buzzard stated we can add that provision but there is a 30 day provision to terminate the contract should the Board decide to do so.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the contract for economic development and recruitment services with the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce with additional language added that all funds be utilized for salary for an individual to perform economic development.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Contract for Economic Development and Recruitment Services with Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eleven.)

d. Stormwater Committee Transition into Sustainability Committee

Mr. Davis requested the Board approve changing the Stormwater Committee into a Sustainability Committee by approving Resolution (2016) 6 which includes the Bylaws. We will use this as a vehicle to address air quality issues, solid hazardous waste issues, water and wastewater issues.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2016) 6.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Spring Lake Sustainability Committee Bylaws and Resolution (2016) 6 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment twelve.)

e. Appointment, Sustainability Committee

Mr. Davis requested the Board approve appointing Regina Thompson-Xadu to the Spring Lake Sustainability Committee for a two year term to end February 28, 2018.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Regina Thompson-Xadu to the Spring Lake Sustainability Committee.

Motion by: Alderman O'Garra

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Dobbins

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and application from Regina Thompson-Xadu is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment thirteen.)

f. Appointment, Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

Mr. Davis requested the Board approve appointing Debra Clyde to the Spring Lake Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee for a three year term to end February 28, 2019.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Debra Clyde to a three-year term on the Spring Lake Military and Veterans Advisory Committee.

Motion by: Alderman O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and application from Debra Clyde is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment fourteen.)

g. Resolution (2016) 4, Authorizing Grant Application for Enhanced Mobility

Mr. Davis requested the Board consider approving submission of the grant application for the design and construction of sidewalks. The project is estimated to cost \$412,527.90. FAMPO will provide \$330,022.50 which is 80% and the Town's 20% will cost \$82,505.40. Alderwoman Sutherland inquired about the sidewalks on Spring Avenue and Mr. Davis stated this grant would not cover that area but there are other possible grants that would cover her request. This is only to submit the application.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2016) 4.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Project Cost Estimates Breakdown and Resolution (2016) 4 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment fifteen.)

h. U4444B Poe Avenue Bridge Fence Approval

Mr. Davis requested the Board approve \$33,551.36 to go toward the Poe Avenue Bridge project. He provided the Board with a comparison of the included chain link fence and the vinyl coated fence. He stated the vinyl coated fence will not rust over time and will have a much more appealing look and will be more durable over time. The intent is to make this bridge a gateway into the Town and this will be a tremendous improvement in the look of the entrance. He stated the funds are in the current budget.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the instillation of the black vinyl chain link fence recommended by Mr. Davis.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

i. Discussion, Board of Aldermen Rules of Procedure, Mayor Pro Tem Position

Alderman Christian requested the Board consider appointing the Mayor Pro Tem position annually, much in the same way that Cumberland County Board of Commissioners rotates its Chair. The purpose in doing this is to create professional development among Board members. He also stated he would take himself out of the running so that people will not think he is doing this for himself. The Board's consensus was to continue appointing the Mayor Pro Tem position every two years after the election.

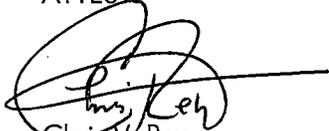
(A copy of the agenda memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seventeen.)

Mr. Buzzard presented Mayor Rey with a framed copy of the Southern City magazine with Mayor Rey's picture on the cover.

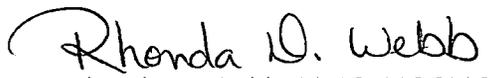
10. Adjournment.

- Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.
- Motion:** Alderman Christian
- Second by:** Alderman O'Garra
- Vote:** Unanimous

ATTEST:


Chris V. Rey
Mayor




Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk