

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

March 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
Alderwoman Densie Lucas
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Alderman Richard Higgins

Others Present:

Ken Metcalf, Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager	Jonathan Faircloth, Fire Captain
Rosa Henegan, Human Resources Director	Paul Hoover, Public Works 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

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rey led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

The Board added to the agenda a discussion regarding the proposals for the audit and discussion of a community committee to help choose the audit firm as item 8d.

Action: The Board approved a motion to amend the agenda with the proposed item 8d.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

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 March 9, 2015 Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes of the March 13, 2015 Special Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items for March 9, 2015 Regular Meeting and March 13, 2015 Special Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

Mayor Rey stated he needed to make a brief statement before we get to the public forum. He announced that approximately 20 minutes earlier he accepted the resignation of the Town Manager, Mr. Ken Metcalf and stated that they Board will need to discuss finding possible replacements for this position. Ms. Webb advised that the agenda needed to be amended to personnel to add the Closed Session.

Action: The Board approved a motion to amend the agenda to include G.S. 143-318-11(a)(6) – Personnel in the Closed Session.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Nathaniel Fitch, 735 Goodyear Drive, spoke regarding the intersection of Odell and Highway 87 and the unsafe roadway conditions. Mayor Rey stated that he will contact DOT to get an update. He also stated that he previously discussed a Police Athletic League for the community with the Police Chief and Mr. Metcalf and has not heard anything about that and wanted to know what is going on with it. Mayor Rey will also find out about this and report back to Mr. Fitch. Mr. Fitch announced the 4th Annual Mayor's Cup Boxing event scheduled for May 9, 2015 at 4 p.m. at the Spring Lake Recreation Center. He invited everyone to come out and support this event. He hopes to raise enough money to take a group of kids on a trip to Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC.

Rita Perry, 1013 Karen Circle, spoke regarding corrections to the newspaper article stating she found out there are 94 purchasing cards issued to Town employees. She stated the misuse of the purchasing cards is a direct result of no accountability for use of the cards. She asked the Board, on behalf of the Town's people, to make Town personnel accountable for these actions. She further suggested the Board contact the State Auditor's Office to request them to come in to perform the audit instead of hiring an independent firm and spending more tax dollars. She finally stated that on a recent public records request for personnel records, Human Resources provided what seemed to her to be unsubstantiated documents because the date on the document was three years prior to the position being created and approved by the Board.

Stephen Blakeney, 334 Vass Road, spoke concerning the leaders of the Town of Spring Lake. He inquired "where is the leadership" and stated the employees should not be held responsible for what the leadership does. He asked about internal controls and where they are. He asked if we are manipulating water bills to fund "our spending habits" and asked about citizens being notified about the property tax increase. Mayor Rey advised that the water bills do not supplement the pcards and public notice for the tax increase was published.

Leon Lucas, 732 Goodyear Drive, expressed concern about the stop light from Odell Road turning left onto Highway 87 and the almost impossibility for more than three cars to get through the light. He also expressed concern and requested an update on the widening of Odell Road and stated he really hopes this will not happen because they only have one way in and one way out and requested to be kept informed. He finally stated that the Board members are honorable people and whatever has happened, he hopes they don't sweep any of this under the rug. He implored the board to get to the

bottom of this and find out what is going on. He again stated, please do not sweep this under the rug. Mayor Rey stated we will do all we can to find out what has happened and it will not be swept under the rug. He advised we plan to hire an independent auditor to come in and check our files. Mayor Rey assured Mr. Lucas that the Board has expressed to DOT the Town's non-support of the Odell Road widening.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated she works for the citizens and she does not use the pcard. She believes we are not going in the right direction but she believes in due process. She stated she does not work for town employees or the manager but works for the citizens. Public records are for the citizens and they can request a copy at any time. She further stated that she will continue to stand for what is right even if she has to stand alone. She stated that at no time has she been out to get anybody and she is only standing for what is right. She feels the Town Manager did not give accurate information to the Board and stated the tax increase was not thoroughly explained to the Board. She also stated that she expressed concerns about the pcards months ago and the Town Manager told her he would take care of it but he never got back with her on her concerns. She stated she does not have anybody's back and if you have done wrong then you're wrong. She thanked the citizens for being involved. Mayor Rey reiterated that all Board Members work for the citizens.

8. New Business

a. Discussion, Charter Amendment, Mayor and Board's Terms of Office

Alderman Christian stated that he would like to keep the Board's terms the way they are now and discontinue the discussion regarding changing the Mayor and Board terms.

Action: The Board approved a motion to keep the Mayor and Board's terms the way they are at two years.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

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

b. Appointment, Recreation Advisory Committee

Ms. Webb advised Kalin Muhammed submitted an application to serve as a Spring Lake Representative on the Recreation Advisory Committee. If appointed he will serve a three-year term expiring March 31, 2018. She asked the Board to determine the appointment for Mr. Muhammed.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Mr. Muhammed to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

c. Re-Appointment, Recreation Advisory Committee

Ms. Webb advised there are four members of the Recreation Advisory Committee whose terms have expired. All four, Mr. Al Curry, Mr. Charles Derrickson, Mr. Grady Page and Mr. Richard Weaver, expressed interest in continuing to serve. If re-appointed they will serve a three-year term expiring March 31, 2018. She requested the Board determine re-appointment status for the four individuals.

Action: The Board approved a motion to re-appoint all these members to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Applications for Re-Appointment from Al Currie, Charles Derrickson, Grady Page and Richard Weaver is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

d. Discussion Regarding Independent Audit

Mayor Rey reported we had three proposals for the independent audit they include: Haigh, Byrd & Lambert, LLP; TRP CPAs, PLLC; and Willie Cooper, Jr., CPA. He first inquired if the Board wishes to have community involvement. Alderwoman Sutherland suggested the Board appoint Debora Hudson, Rita Perry and Stephen Blakeney as the community representatives. Alderman Christian stated he supports this initiative but wants to set a timeline. Mayor Pro Tem O’Garra suggested Mr. Lucas and Mr. Fitch be added for consideration. Alderwoman Sutherland requested that we also reach out to the State. Following a short discussion it was determined that Ms. Hudson should not be considered since she is a Town employee and has a pcard.

Action: The Board approved a motion to include the public and receive names for consideration.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O’Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Mayor Pro Tem O’Garra and Mayor Rey both expressed concern with Ms. Perry serving on the committee as we want to make sure there are no conflicts of interest. Mr. Buzzard stated we must move forward without preconceived ideas and make sure the people appointed do not have a conflict of interest with the audit firm.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Rita Perry, Stephen Blakeney and Leon Lucas to serve on the committee.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

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

The Clerk was tasked to send a letter to each person.

9. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

Mayor Rey invited Mr. Hunt into the Closed Session.

Action: The Board approved a motion to go back into open session at 9:17 p.m.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous

Mayor Rey requested the Board move to appoint an Interim Town Manager.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Rhonda Webb as the Interim Town Manger.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Lucas

Vote: Unanimous



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

ATTEST:

Chris V. Rey
Mayor