

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

November 25, 2013

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 Napoleon Hogans
Alderman James Christian
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderman James O'Garra
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Ken Metcalf, Town Manager	Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager	Allen Coats, Finance Director
Paul Hoover, Public Works Director	Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Jason Williams, Assistant Fire Chief	Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk
Alderwoman-Elect Densie Lucas	

2. Invocation

Alderman Higgins 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

The Mayor requested that items 9c and 9d be deleted from the agenda. He stated he will bring these items back before the Board at a later date.

Action: The Board approved a motion to delete 9c and 9d from the agenda.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

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

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

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 October 28, 2013 Regular Meeting

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent item for October 28, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

No one spoke at the Public Forum.

8. Presentation

a. Certification of Appreciation to Tammy Stephens for Military Service

Alderman Christian presented Ms. Stephens with a certificate of appreciation for her military service. She was recognized at the Veterans Ceremony but was unable to attend.

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

b. MDA Fill the Boot Check

Chief McLamb presented a check in the amount of \$4,207.39 to the MDA for the funds they received while doing the "Fill the Boot" fundraiser.

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

c. Annual Audit Report

Ms. Turbeville, CPA from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Associates, CPA firm presented the audit report. She advised Fund balance increased from last year. This was due to the sale of the land in the Industrial Park. The summary presentation was found to be acceptable.

d. On Time Communications, LLC & Copper River IT, LLC

Mr. Joseph Tobia, On Time Communications, presented information about black fiber (fiber in the ground that is not being used) to the Board. He advised they want to bring broadband technology to Spring Lake. Mayor Rey clarified that the key to any city who wants to become a smart city must have access to broadband. He also clarified that they are asking the Board to approve a non-binding resolution that states Spring Lake Board of Aldermen welcome One Time Communications, LLC as part of the Spring Lake community. They are funded by private investors. Mr. Tobia stated turning this city into an information hub is just the next step. He also stated that Roadrunner broadband is not fast enough for some military support technology companies. He stated they are bringing the technology to the Town but other companies may be the one to "light the fiber." The Board's consensus was to move forward for more information purposes.

Ms. Joan Rivers from Copper River IT gave the Board an overview of their company. She stated what they are proposing is not just broadband but technology that will have the service providers coming to Spring Lake to connect. They are specialists who have solutions for every aspect of the project. Mayor Rey inquired if they have worked with communities similar to Spring Lake and if so, are there models for potential revenue sharing with the company and with the government agency and if not is that a part of your consideration? Ms. Rivers stated they have partnered with many communities where they have

brought broadband. They have worked in communities in Alabama, and the northern part of Florida.

Alderwoman Sutherland thanked Ms. Rivers for the information and stated that she is not educated on this matter. She inquired about black fiber and Ms. Rivers stated it is fiber that was placed in the ground at some time in the past and was abandoned. Alderwoman Sutherland asked if it is legal to just find it and use it and Ms. Rivers stated it is and most of the time the companies who put the fiber in the ground do not even know it is there because it was not going to generate enough revenue to proceed. Alderman O'Garra asked if local people would be used to find the fiber and Ms. Rivers stated they hire local.

Mayor Rey stated that he is excited. We will have more conversations about this.

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

e. Human Relations Commission

Ms. Elaine Cole stated she is seeking to find a more effective and creative method of building unity among a diverse population to promote acceptance, tolerance and social justice. She proposed that the Board create a Race and Human Relations Commission. Alderman Christian asked what Spring Lake is not doing and Ms. Cole stated there is not an organization that promotes diversity in Spring Lake. She stated that we want to be able to address how people are treated fairly in the workplace. We do not want profiling and things like that. Alderman Christian expressed concern that the Commission would have say so on who we hire and developing quotas on who we hire. We have a Human Resource Department for this function. Ms. Cole stated this is just a proactive way to try to bring Spring Lake together. It is not a control group but a way to work in a collaborative way with the Board. He stated the cost to the budget is a concern as well. Ms. Cole stated that rather than looking right now at the cost to the Board because that has not been discussed, what would be the savings to Spring Lake if we promote a community that accepted everyone as an equal. What would be the savings to the Board in lawsuits and things like that. Alderman Christian stated this seems to be something that should be addressed by the Board of Education and not just put it solely on Spring Lake because we do a great job at promoting diversity and he is concerned about stepping on free speech. She stated she understand what he is saying and she stated we know the difference between free speech and hate speech and hate speech is what they will deter. Alderman Christian advised that as much as we may not like it, hate speech is protected by the constitution. Ms. Cole stated threats are not protected. Alderman Christian stated he will give it serious consideration. Ms. Cole stated that there are these types of commissions all over the State.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated if Cumberland County has a Human Relation Commission it may be best to have someone from Spring Lake to serve on their Commission. She stated she is not interested in creating a Spring Lake Commission at this time.

Alderman Higgins asked if she is just a concerned citizen or if she represents a different group. Ms. Cole stated that she represents herself as a citizen but is a member of a group. She stated that she used to live in Alderman Higgins housing development and she had to pass a flag every day in the yard across the street from his house. She stated there is another one flying high over Spring Lake today that concerns me and maybe we are not as together as we think we are.

The Board stated they appreciate her concern and the presentation she made.

Alderman O'Garra stated he appreciates Ms. Cole coming forward. He stated there is always a way for people to voice their opinions and at times people need someone they can come to. Education

whether it comes from you or from me there is nothing wrong with it, it is a needed thing. Do I feel like there is a lot of racism going on in Spring Lake at this time – I will keep that to myself. But I'm not going to knock you for what you are trying to do. I feel your committee would come before us and we would take that for what it's worth. You would just be another committee in the Town like our beautification committee.

Mayor Rey stated that any time a community has the ability to be forward thinking we should do so. Just because it is not right before us does not mean it does not exist. To be a leader in a community and sit back and think that there is not an underbelly of individuals who harbor certain ills toward different people in the community, I think that anytime we have an opportunity to educate folks whether through a campaign about tolerance and equality it changes a community long after all of us are gone. He believes any time we have the opportunity like this we need to give it serious consideration. He stated we need to educate our young folks so they do not grow up to be adults with those types of feelings towards certain things. You see it on TV every day. He stated he is in support of it.

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

f. Updated Memorandum of Understanding for Transportation Planning in the Fayetteville Metropolitan Area

Mr. Michael Rutan provided the Board with an overview of the FAMPO.

9. New Business

a. Resolution (2013) 28, Memorandum of Understanding for Transportation Planning in the Fayetteville Metropolitan Area

Mr. Rutan requested the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Transportation Planning in the Fayetteville Metropolitan Area. This Resolution continues the partnership in planning.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2013) 28.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Ordinance (2013) 28 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

b. Appointment, Recreation Advisory Committee

Ms. Webb advised Mr. Rex Perry's term on the Recreation Advisory Committee expires at the end of the month. She requested the Board approve Mr. Perry's application to continue to serve with an expiration date of November 30, 2016.

Action: The Board approved a motion to reappoint Mr. Rex Perry to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and application for reappointment from Rex Perry is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

c. Ordinance (2013) 15, Demolition Case 2010-016, 406 A&B S. Sixth Street

This item was deleted from the agenda.

d. Ordinance (2013) 16, Demolition Case 2010-015, 408 S. Sixth Street

This item was deleted from the agenda.

e. Board to Consider Approval to Submit for AFG Grant for Fire Department

Chief McLamb advised this item is a request to apply for the AFG Grant. The total amount for the grant is \$33,572. There is a \$1,678.60 match which is in their current budget. The funds will be used to purchase a washer and dryer and turnout gear.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the application for the grant.

Motion by: Alderman O'Garra

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 eight.)

f. Budget Amendment 2014.4 and 2014.5, Water Operations

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment 2014.4 and 2014.5 to support Change Order #1 on the Lower Little River Interceptor Project. The Change Order was approved March 11, 2013. We decided to wait to present a Budget Amendment until the project was complete to see if the project would cost less than expected. The project did cost less than expected and Budget Amendment 2014.4 is to cover actual cost.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2014.4 and Budget Amendment 2014.5.

Motion by: Alderman O'Garra

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Hogans

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment 2014.4 and 2014.5 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

g. Budget Amendment 2014.6, Employee Bonus, All Funds

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment 2014.6 to budget a one-time bonus for employees. The bonus was approved at the October 28, 2013 Regular Board Meeting and the Budget Amendment places funds in the various departments to pay for the bonus.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2014.6.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment 2014.6 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment ten.)

h. Budget Amendment 2014.7, Shop A Cop, Police Department

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment 2014.7 to amend the budget to recognize \$2,855 in donations and local grant funds for use in the Shop-A-Cop program.

Alderman Christian requested to donate \$50 to this cause and was told to make his check out to Wal-Mart.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2014.7.

Motion by: Alderman O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment 2014.7 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eleven.)

i. Resolution (2013) 29, Interlocal Agreement Sales Tax Distribution

Mayor Rey advised the area Mayors petitioned the County to extend the Sales Tax Distribution Agreement for an additional seven years which, if approved, will expire June 30, 2023. Each municipality will have to approve the agreement but the County has already agreed to the requested terms.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2013) 29.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2013) 29 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment twelve.)

j. Board to Consider 2014 Holiday Schedule

Ms. Henegan presented the proposed 2014 Holiday Schedule and requested the Board approve it. It was clarified that the original schedule in the packet had a typo and a corrected version was emailed later in a separate email.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt the 2014 Holiday Schedule.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and the 2014 Holiday Schedule is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment thirteen.)

Mayor Rey asked the Board to consider giving Town employees Monday, December 23 off and having the Town Hall open all day on Friday, December 27, 2013. He stated it would be nice to switch the days since there is one day in between the weekend and the Board approved Christmas holiday. This exchange will not give employees an extra day off it will only exchange the days and give them an extra 4 hours off.

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

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Hogans

Vote: Unanimous

10. Closing Comments

Alderman O'Garra

- Thank you for your support.

Mayor Pro Tem Hogans

- As you all know things did not quite go my way during Election Day; but low and behold I got up on November 6th and the sun came up, my grandkids came to the house and the weekend following I was cooking on the grill and no one talked about the election at all which was shocking, they just loved me unconditionally which is good. I did have a chance to reflect and let me just say thank you Mayor Rey for your kind words on election night, I appreciate that. Thank you again for your neutrality during this election. I know it was hard to do but it showed real courage. A lot of people in the community appreciate that. Thank you Ms. Sutherland for your kind words on election night. Thank you Mr. Christian for your kind words on election night. When I was elected here the first time, none of the people sitting on this side of the podium are sitting here now. That includes administrative people and legal people, so things are fleeting. But now, four mayors later, seven managers later and numerous colleagues that I have served with, what is so sobering about being lucky enough to be chosen by your community to serve is that so many of these colleagues I have served with are now deceased. There are nothing but pleasant memories coming from me to their spirit and our relationship and those kinds of things. It has all been good and being that this is my last night as Alderman here – thank you staff. I think we have some of the best staff that a community can have. They are professional and have conducted yourselves throughout my tenure here with professionalism and like the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end. But, I will still be involved in the community. I consider it a tremendous pleasure and a very distinct honor to have been selected by my community to serve for this amount of time. With that, I hope everybody has a good night and a very happy Thanksgiving to everybody. I would have called Ms. Lucas on election night to congratulate her but I did not have the phone number so let me take this opportunity to congratulate you. It is my obligation and everybody's obligation in this community to get behind this elected board and make them effective. This is our community and we need to make sure this community moves forward the best it can.

Alderman Christian

- I would like to thank Mr. Hogans for his service, I appreciate working with him.
- Happy Thanksgiving everybody.
- Ms. Lucas, I look forward to working with you.
- Steve, thank you for keeping everything straight forward and honest.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Mr. Hogans it has been a great honor and privilege to serve with such a distinguished gentleman. I thank you for your expertise. I thank you for your wisdom and for what you have done for this great Town of Spring Lake.
- I look forward to serving on this Board again and I would like to thank those who supported me. I always like to be upfront and honest. You know what you get when it comes to me. I try to do my due diligence at all times and I try to treat people equally and fairly. I think, as a Board Member, we need to work together for the betterment of our citizens and this great Town. I said once this job starts to become personal it is no longer about the citizens it's more about the individual who serves on the Board. It should not be personal it should be about the citizens who put us in this position.
- I thank Mr. Higgins for his expertise.
- As we continue to go on these next two years my prayer is that we continue to conduct ourselves as grownups and continue to respect one another to do the job that the people has put us in here to do.

- I would like to wish you all a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving and may God continue to bless you all.
- I witnessed three kids and one mother trying to cross the street at Murphy's Gas Station the other night and the traffic was so heavy. I want Mr. Metcalf to look into the possibility of pedestrian cross walks at that location.

Mr. Metcalf

- I just want to thank Mr. Hogans. We have known each other for a long time now and he has always been a true gentleman to me and my family and we thank him. I really want to thank the Board and Mr. Hogans for hiring me. If you look around Town you will see Mr. Hogans' name on quite a bit of stuff. It has been a privilege to be here with you.
- I want to congratulate Ms. Lucas and I look forward to working with you.
- I want to thank the Department Heads for their work.
- I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Webb

- I want to wish Mayor Pro Tem Hogans well.
- I also want to welcome Alderwoman Elect Lucas.

Mayor Rey

- I thank all of you for what you do.

11. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege

Action: The Board approve a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Motion: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to go back into Open Session.

Motion by: Alderman O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

12. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Motion: Alderman O'Garra


Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Chris V. Rey
Mayor

