

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

April 11, 2011

MINUTES

7:00 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 Ethel T. Clark presiding.

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

Others Present:

Leonard Barefoot, Interim Town Manager	John Jackson, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager	Allen Coats, Finance Director
Paul Hoover, Public Works Director	Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director	Steve Rosser, Interim Fire Chief
Tina West, HR Director	Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

The Board added a discussion concerning the budget workshop to the agenda as item 8b.

Action: The Board approved a motion to add a discussion on the proposed budget schedule.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Agenda.

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

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

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

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: Minutes of the March 28, 2011 regular Board meeting, National Volunteer Week Proclamation and Spring Litter Sweep 2011 Proclamation.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the March 28, 2011 regular Board meeting, National Volunteer Week Proclamation and Spring Litter Sweep 2011 Proclamation.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Mr. Robert Cooper of 130 Deerfield Drive spoke concerning the Town's water bill policy. He expressed concern about the time frame given to pay water bills, excessive late and reconnect fees, the time allowed before cut-off and the undue burden on citizens who can not make it on Fridays to pay their bill.

Ms. Lisa Etheridge of 132 Maranatha Circle spoke concerning her high water bill and the charges that she does not understand on her bill. She came to the Town Hall and requested that someone break down and explain her water bill for her and stated that she did not get help. She expressed concern about her bill fluctuating especially when she is not home most of the time.

8. New Business

a. Resolution, Surplus Auction

Mr. Coats advised that the listed property is the last of what needs to be cleaned out and sold. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked why we are asking to get rid of the chipper and Mr. Hoover advised that the Town has no use for two chippers and he proposed to surplus the older one.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2011) 5.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, list of property and Resolution (2011) 5 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

a. Discussing, FY 2011-2012 Budget Workshop

Mr. Barefoot advised that he would have liked to have been further in this process by now but revenues were late coming in from the State. He gave the Board a memo outlining the possible direction to take concerning holding budget workshops. He stated that he would like to have the budget approved prior to the new manager beginning work.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt the proposed schedule and hold a workshop at 5:30 p.m. April 25, 2011.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

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

10. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderman Sutherland

- Happy to be here and pleased that you all are here.
- I have mentioned in the past that I believe citizens should receive a second notice before the water is cut off. I would like to look into sending a second notice to our citizens.
- I appreciate Ms. Etheridge coming to the Board and expressing her concern.
- With gasoline prices soaring, I would like to see that only essential personnel are driving Town vehicles and that we limit driving Town vehicles to lunch and things like that. I would also like to look into not allowing take home vehicles to help save on gas.
- I have noticed that the Tart Real Estate area on Highway 210 has become a big yard sale spot. I do know that a permit is required and I would like us to look into this and make sure we are doing things proper and in order.
- This is probably like beating a dead horse but I am going to keep on saying this until something is done about the children walking in the street on their way to school. They need sidewalks and flashing lights in the area of the three schools. All the other schools have flashing lights for people to slow down except those three schools.

Alderman Higgins

- Good to see you all here tonight.
- I look forward to the Spring Fling on Saturday.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- See you at the Spring Fling on Saturday and movie night for the kids on Friday night.
- Good to see the students here tonight.

Alderman Hudson

- Glad to see everyone.

Alderman Christian

- Echoed what Alderman Sutherland said about flashing lights and take home vehicles.
- Would like to see us return to a five day or four and one-half day workweek, we need to serve the needs of the residents of this Town.
- We still need a drop box for water bill payments where the other one was.
- Thanked Mr. Cooper and Ms. Etheridge for speaking out.
- Thanked Mr. Hoover for looking into the water leak on Highway 210.
- Thanked the Fire Department for taking good care of his mother.
- Thanked Teens Do Care for the wrestling event on Sunday. The next event is scheduled for June 4, 2011.
- My sister is a new grandmother again.
- Would like to see us develop a program where we walk through some neighborhoods and look for code violations. We may need to target neighborhoods that need a little extra help and a little extra care. Would like to have my fellow Board members walk around these neighborhoods and let the citizens know that we care and are looking for ways to help them.
- Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Fling.

Mr. Barefoot

- I would like to piggyback off of what Alderman Christian said and hold a fundraiser wrestling match with Board members (stated in jest).
- I have been doing a little research on the Town's history and as of last Sunday the Town was 60 years old.

Mr. Jackson

- I'm just happy to be here.

Mayor Clark

- I am excited about the Spring Fling. Our theme is "A Winning Tradition" and the 10th anniversary of the event is a good thing and something to look forward to each year. We have a fantastic day planned for everyone.
- For the public's information, our Interim Fire Chief, Mr. Rosser, did send a letter to Southwinds Plaza addressing the pot holes and he will follow through on this.

II. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor