

Town of Spring Lake
Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen
(June 13, 2011 Rescheduled Meeting)
Municipal Building
300 Ruth Street
Spring Lake, NC 28390

June 7, 2011

MINUTES

7:00 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a special meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Ethel T. Clark presiding.

Board Members Present: Alderman James Christian
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderwoman Debora Hudson
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra was absent.

Others Present:

Tommy Burns, Town Manager	John Jackson, Town Attorney
Leonard Barefoot, Interim Town Manager	Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager
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.

Alderman Higgins gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the amended agenda.

5. Approval of Agenda.

The Board approved the amended agenda.

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

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

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 May 23, 2011 Regular Board Meeting.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Mr. Mark Sullivan, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce President, spoke during the public forum concerning a budget request for the FY 2011-2012 budget. Mr. Barefoot requested that his comments be considered for the Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2011-2012 budget and Mr. Sullivan was in agreement.

8. Public Hearing

a. Proposed FY 2011-2012 Budget

Mr. Barefoot advised that the proposed budget has some minor revisions that had to be made due to a rate increase from Waste Management. The Town did not receive the letter from Waste Management until after the budget had been presented. The change to the proposed Budget Ordinance shows additional revenues of \$14,870 to offset Waste Management's COLA and surcharge. Because of the late date staff recommends that the Town absorb the costs this year instead of passing them along to the customers.

Mayor Clark opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Mark Sullivan, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce President, spoke on behalf of the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee concerning the explosive growth that Spring Lake is beginning to experience. He stated that Spring Lake business growth and development has not kept up with Spring Lake's population growth. The Economic Development Committee wants to draw the residents who are moving into the area just north of Spring Lake's limits to Spring Lake to conduct business and for entertainment. He advised that all resources that have been available to them are exhausted and requested that the Board add \$15,000 to the proposed budget for FY 2011-2012 for the Chamber's Economic Development Committee to pursue the economic development ventures that they can not afford due to lack of funds.

John Thomas, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce Past President and member of the Spring Lake Chamber Economic Development Committee, spoke concerning the request that Mr. Sullivan made. He stated that they are looking for a way to grow Spring Lake. The Chamber will be presenting the IBI Group comprehensive plan study that was done recently. Alderman Christian asked what happened with the request to the County Commissioners for funds. Mr. Thomas advised that they did not get a yes or no. The Commissioners told them to keep proceeding and keep pursuing. Funds were given to them in the current year's budget but they are looking for next year's money. Alderwoman Sutherland asked what the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce is doing with the money that they were given. Mr. Thomas advised that they have not spent the money yet but are about to sign two contracts with two vendors. One vendor is Kimley-Horn to help enhance and mitigate whatever they can regarding the U-4444 roadway project. The other vendor is a company to create an online independent presence for the Town. It will combine what the Town, Chamber and community is doing. Alderwoman Sutherland inquired why it is taking so long to move forward and Mr. Thomas advised that the majority of last year was spent with vendors and consultants on the branding study. He advised that the Chamber will be bringing the study

results to the Board soon. She advised that she would have appreciated this information during the workshops. She would like to do all she can to help.

Alderman Higgins referred to an email that was sent to him from Jami McLaughlin and requested that it be included in the public hearing on the proposed budget.

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

Alderman Higgins requested that the Board hold another workshop with the new Manager prior to approving the budget. He expressed concern about Fire Department staffing and street paving. Mr. Barefoot reminded the Board that the proposed budget recommends an additional position and once a permanent Chief is hired the Interim Chief will go back to his regular position which will increase the staffing level by two people over what it is now.

Mr. Burns advised that the Chamber is heading down the right road and we need to consider their request whether it is in done now or at a later date as a budget amendment.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

Alderman Christian stated that he does not feel comfortable approving the budget tonight and stated that he did not think the budget should be approved in the absence of Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra. He advised that he has a few questions still to discuss with Mr. Burns. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that she was ready to approve the budget but she will wait if her colleagues still have questions. Alderwoman Hudson stated that she is also not comfortable approving the budget tonight. Alderman Higgins advised that he did not realize the Board would be requested to adopt the budget tonight. Mayor Clark inquired if the Board would feel comfortable recessing the meeting until June 13, 2011.

It was the Board's consensus to have Mr. Burns look into the Chamber's request.

Action: The Board approved a motion recess the meeting until June 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderwoman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

9. New Business

a. Resolution, Annual Audit Contract

Mr. Coats presented the annual audit contract and requested that the Board approve it. Typically he prefers to go out for bid every 5-7 years. This will be Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co.'s sixth year. He advised that the firm is holding their rate steady and he does not believe we will get a cheaper rate. Mr. Coats is proposing to re-bid next year for audit companies. Alderman Higgins stated that he would like staff to ensure that we bid this service next year.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2011) 7.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Audit Contract and Resolution (2011) 7 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

b. Resolution, FEMA Reimbursement

Mr. Coats advised that due to the tornadoes that came through the area in April, Spring Lake can request reimbursement funds for man hours and equipment hours utilized during the storm.

Alderman Christian stated that Board Members need to be informed about what will happen during emergency situations. He received calls during the storm and was not able to answer questions. He requested that all Board Members be kept informed in the future in emergency situations and he would like to see a plan in place that is approved by the Board that becomes a public record. Mayor Clark advised that the Town already has a plan. She advised that normally the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are advised. He requested that all Board Members be kept informed.

Alderwoman Sutherland advised that she has a concern about Spring Lake not having a siren warning system or alarm of some type for citizens to be alerted and requested that we look into that. Alderman Higgins stated that the Town used to have one but now the Town is stretched out so far that he does not think this type of system is feasible. He suggested that an education program be created to help citizens know about emergency radios, etc. He is aware that there is a County wide preparedness plan and requested that the Board receive a briefing on it.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2011) 8 Designation of Applicant's Agent.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Designation of Applicant's Form and Resolution (2011) 8 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

c. Consider Property and Liability Proposals for FY 2011-2012

Ms. West advised that the Town received two proposals for property and liability insurance, one from the North Carolina League of Municipalities and one from Snipes Insurance Company. She advised that the budget will support either proposal. The proposals have an adjusted difference of \$7,798 in premiums. The League of Municipalities is the higher proposal. Alderwoman Sutherland advised that she would like the Town to return to the League. Mayor Clark advised that she too would like to return to the League because of the comprehensive coverage that the other company does not offer. She stated that she did not realize when we changed last year that our property and liability coverage was being changed. She advised that the League provides coverage that the other company does not provide. The League has no co-insurance clause and Snipes has a 90% clause, the League has a limit on liability on Police Officers of \$5,000 per occurrence where the other company has \$10,000 per occurrence. She encouraged the Board to consider the League.

Action: The Board approved a motion to give the contract to the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Property and Liability Memorandum and Spring Lake Premium Comparison Sheet is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

d. Resolution, FYE 2011 Vehicle Financing

Mr. Coats requested that the Board approve the financing for the purchase of several vehicles. These were vehicles that were approved during fiscal year 2010-2011 budget. He recommended approval of SunTrust Bank's proposal. It was clarified that payments for this are included in the proposed budget.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2011) 9.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Table of Proposals Received, List of Vehicles Financed and Resolution (2011) 9 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

10. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderman Christian

- Would like to see some signs around Town advertising the Board meetings to help increase public participation.
- There are a couple of workshops coming up concerning NC87 highway study.
- Appreciate everyone being here.
- As Town leaders we need to question everything. These are tough times and the budget is tight. I wish things could be different. I appreciate everything that Mr. Barefoot has done for us.
- Welcomed Mr. Burns.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Thanked Mr. Barefoot for the workshops on the budget. I have a couple of minor questions that I will discuss with Mr. Burns. I feel comfortable with the budget, there were quite a bit of cuts and of course I would like to see the Town employees get raises as well, but at least the employees did not lose their jobs. We need to be good stewards of the Town's money. The citizens that I spoke with said "great job."
- I appreciate the correspondence your first week (stated to Mr. Burns). I believe it was a smooth transition.
- Congratulations to Mayor Clark for standing up for the Town regarding the magazine article recently published.

Alderman Higgins

- "I don't want to get his head blown up so high that he floats out of here tonight" (stated in jest)

but it has really been a pleasure knowing you and I feel like we have made a friend. God speed and well wishes for your future (stated to Mr. Barefoot). Tommy, I think we are going to have a good future with you.

- I know there is some disappointment from the Department Heads but I know you understand what the real world is like and we appreciate all that you do.

Alderwoman Hudson

- Welcome to Mr. Burns, glad to have you and look forward to working with you.
- Thank you to Mr. Barefoot. I enjoyed the karaoke, it was my first time doing karaoke and I enjoyed it.
- Thank you to the Town employees for all your hard work and for being so dedicated and committed to this Town.
- Jonn and Mark, I am looking forward to the continued growth and development. I know we do have to move to another level. I want to see some entertainment (movies, bowling, skating, etc.) in Spring Lake. I would like the Chamber to focus on that and I look forward to where you all are going next. I have spoken with many businesses that are not aware of the Chamber.
- Thanked everyone for coming out again and I'm glad to be here too.

Mr. Burns

- Thanked everyone for the warm welcome that I received.
- Please get the budget requests to me as soon as possible.
- The employees have been great to work with, they all realize it was a tough time and I told them we are all in this together and I told them that there was other places in the same boat with us and then Fayetteville announced that they are looking at increases for their employees, but you should feel good that you've got good competent people that are making things happen here. I can't say enough about Leonard Barefoot, early in my profession one of the things Hartwell Wright from the League of Municipalities told me was that I was fortunate to have good managers around me and one specifically that he mentioned was Leonard Barefoot in Sanford and I can tell you that his reputation as a Manager has crossed many generations through the years. He is probably one of the most competent and capable managers in the State and I've been fortunate the last couple of days to sort of fly co-pilot with him. He has certainly helped me and I have learned a lot of things from him that we will look at implementing and I can't tell you how fortunate Spring Lake was to have him. I hate to see him go but I know he is ready to enjoy retirement.
- Mr. Burns gave Mr. Barefoot a certificate to fly co-pilot to Beaufort.

Mr. Barefoot

- Inquired if what Mr. Burns just said was being recorded (stated in jest).
- I think the paper said it correctly. I have sure enjoyed myself. We accomplished a lot and I am pleased. In my interview the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem said they would like for me to stay a while and I told them that I couldn't stay so long that we missed getting a good permanent manager. I stayed here for almost 8 months so I did get to stay a while and we got Tommy Burns so we got the best of both worlds.
- I thank you for all your hard work and your comments.

Ms. Webb

- Read a poem she wrote for Mr. Barefoot.

Mayor Clark

- Last Friday Mr. Higgins and I met with representatives from FAMPO and they showed us information about the feasibility study for the widening of Odell Road and other construction in the general area. You should have gotten this information in your email. This is just the beginning of this study. Alderman Higgins stated that the reason he was at the meeting is because he is the Board's representative on the FAMPO committee.
- Thank you all for being so patient with us and thank our faithful employees for working so hard with Mr. Barefoot to put this budget together.

Mayor Clark presented Mr. Barefoot with a Proclamation of Honorary Citizenship and a Town coin engraved with the word "Unforgettable".

Mayor Clark invited everyone to the farewell reception for Mr. Barefoot immediately following the meeting.

II. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was recessed at 8:16 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on June 13, 2011.

Motion: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor