

Town of Spring Lake
Board of Aldermen Workshop
Municipal Building
300 Ruth Street
Spring Lake, NC 28390

May 16, 2011

MINUTES

5:33 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a workshop in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Municipal Complex 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
Allen Coats, Finance Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Steve Rosser, Interim Fire Chief
Tina West, Human Resources Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

The purpose for this workshop was to discuss budget topics and questions that were raised. Mr. Barefoot advised that he is proposing to present the budget at the May 23rd meeting.

Take Home Vehicle Policy

Mr. Barefoot proposed a take home vehicle reimbursement policy. He offered the Board two options: a 12-mile radius or a 15-mile radius. Reimbursement amount proposed is \$25 per month if the employee lives within the approved radius and \$40 per month if the employee lives outside the approved radius.

Mayor Clark expressed her opinion that when the officers were hired allowing them to drive their vehicles home was a perk they were told they would have and she believes we need to leave this alone.

Alderman Christian stated that he prefers a flat \$25 per month required reimbursement for any employee who lives 15 miles or more. He also stated that he believes Mr. Hoover should not drive a Town owned vehicle to his home. He believes that take home vehicle policy should apply only to Police and Fire personnel.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated that she does not believe it is unreasonable to charge

the officers for the privilege of driving a Town owned vehicle home. She agrees with a 12-mile radius.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that 15 miles does not seem like too much to allow the officers. He advised that we have discussed this issue several times in the past. He feels that driving the vehicles home is part of the deal that we made with the officers and the Chief to get the department on track and up to par. He stated that \$10,000 is not that much and we need to go somewhere else to look for this money.

Alderman Higgins agreed that the money is not that much but every dollar counts and we need to show the community that we are looking at every possibility and \$25 is not unreasonable in his mind. He advised that we have discussed this issue before and it will probably be discussed again. He would agree with \$25 reimbursement and a 15-mile radius. He suggested that in the future, we hire people closer to Spring Lake. He also stated that the policy needs to be reworked because on-call personnel need to be addressed.

Alderwoman Hudson asked where the savings would go if we approve one of the recommendations and Mr. Barefoot stated it would go to help balance the budget.

The Board's consensus was to charge a \$25 reimbursement fee for police personnel who live outside the Town limits. It was also the Board's consensus to not allow Mr. Hoover to drive a Town owned vehicle home.

Spring Lake Transit System

Mr. Barefoot provided the Board with requested information concerning ridership of the Spring Lake Transit system. He advised that the budget was balanced by taking out paving for next year but he recommended that the new Manager, Mr. Hoover and the Board look at borrowing funds to pay for paving. Discussion included the fact that \$150,000 would not pave very much roadway. Mack Street was used as an example and it was clarified that \$150,000 would not be enough to pave Mack Street. Mr. Hoover advised that it costs approximately \$265,000 to pave one mile of street and the Town has approximately 28 miles of paved roadways.

Sanitation Fund

Mr. Barefoot advised that Ordinance changes for the Sanitation Fund will be presented at the May 23rd meeting. He gave the Board an overview of the proposed changes that were discussed previously. These changes will allow the Town to get their money much quicker.

Town Hall Hours of Operation

The proposed Town Hall (including Water Department) operating schedule was discussed. Mr. Barefoot proposed that Town Hall hours change June 6, 2011. He stated that Town Hall will open 40 and ½ hours every week. Some Board members questioned why the Water Department will close at 12 noon instead of 2:00 p.m. on Friday and it was

clarified that keeping that department open those additional hours would create staffing problems. It was the Board's consensus to proceed as recommended by the Manager.

Water and Sewer Fund

The Water and Sewer Fund was discussed. The proposed changes are that the deposit amount is based on credit (homeowners, \$50; renter – good credit, \$100; renter – denied credit, \$200), existing accounts will have a one time courtesy before the deposit level increases. The Town will incur a \$2.70 per credit check. An Ordinance amendment will be presented at the May 23rd meeting. Changes will go into effect July 1, 2011 if the Board approves them.

Insurance

Mr. Barefoot advised that staff is in the process of comparing two companies (North Carolina League of Municipalities and Snipes Insurance Company) for property and liability insurance.

Alderwoman Sutherland thanked staff for all the work and she feels these workshops have been very beneficial.

Mr. Barefoot discussed the upcoming Board meetings and suggested that the Board move the June 6th meeting to Tuesday, June 7, 2011. The Board could adopt the budget at this meeting if they wanted to.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



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

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor