

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

March 14, 2008

MINUTES

7:00 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a regular scheduled meeting 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 Richard Higgins
Alderman Napoleon Hogans
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland
Alderman Jack Vannoy

Others Present:

Larry Faison, Town Manager
Allen Coats, Finance Director
Daniel Gerald, W&WR Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director

John Jackson, Town Attorney
Debbie Disbrow, Human Resources Officer
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
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 and Approval of Agenda and Consent Items.

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda. The Board approved the agenda and approved the minutes of the March 10, 2008 Board Meeting with one correction reflecting that Mr. Derrickson is the Recreation Advisory Board Chairman.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans
Second by: Alderman Higgins
Vote: Unanimous

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

5. Presentations

a. Quarter Cent Sales Tax Initiative.

Cumberland County Commissioner Billy King explained the sales tax initiative. He stated that the proposal will be on the ballot on May 6, 2008. He advised that the State of North Carolina took over handling Medicaid from the County. When they did so they took a portion of the County's sales tax. The County is trying to restore some of that money by proposing this tax initiative. He stated that the County has promised to reduce property tax by two cents if the tax passes. If this tax passes it will go into effect in October 2008. The tax will cost twenty-five cents per one hundred dollars purchase. He stated that the municipalities in the County will not receive less than they are getting now. The tax should give the County an approximate five million dollar net gain. He stated that if they don't get the funds from the sales tax initiative they will have to hit the property tax again. He stated that the County is a retail center and believes this tax will impact county residents less this way.

Alderman Hogans requested information on this issue before they are asked to vote on the resolution. He wants to know how much money the County lost in the Medicaid transaction. Commissioner King will provide informational flyers for election. Alderman Vannoy stated that purchases made at a Wal-Mart does not effect us but if property taxes are raised it will effect every one of us. Mr. Jackson stated that both Wade and Steadman both passed this tax.

6. Public Forum.

Ms. Gloria Nelson promoted this year's Big Read, Fahrenheit 451. She requested that everyone come out and support your library, these are your tax dollars at work. The programs are free.

7. New Business.

a. Public Hearing, Case P08-01, Rezoning 4.12 acres to R5A or More Restrictive District.

Mr. Spinks and Ms. Brooks presented the rezoning case to rezone 4.12 acres of commercial property to R5A or a more restrictive district. The property is located on the south side of Odell Road, west of Laketree Boulevard and submitted by W.H. Owen and owned by Stewart and Everett Theatres, Inc.

Mr. Owen spoke for the rezoning and advised that this project will provide housing based on the County's median household income. Some of the apartments will accommodate incomes up to 40% of the County's median income, some up to 50% and some up to 60%. The plan will provide twenty-four two-bedroom apartments and twelve three-bedroom apartments. Rent could be as low as \$336 per month excluding utilities. The highest rent would be \$490 per month. Alderman Higgins asked if these were subsidized and Mr. Owen stated that they are not.

No one spoke against the rezoning.

Action: Mayor Clark closed the public hearing.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

b. Case P08-01, Rezoning 4.12 acres to R5A or More Restrictive District.

Mr. Spinks advised the Board that staff recommends approval of the rezoning.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the rezoning with the recommendations of the Planning Board and staff.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

c. Site Plan Review, Case 08-042, Murphy Oil USA.

Mr. Spinks advised that is site is across from the Wal-Mart Super Center. Ms. Brooks stated that a revised site plan showing additional landscaping would have to be submitted prior to any permit request. She stated that it is condition #7.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case 08-042 with conditions recommended by staff.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

d. Spring Lake Kiwanis Circus.

Mr. Spinks advised the Spring Lake Kiwanis is planning to bring a circus to the old Wal-Mart site. The Kiwanis club has requested the following from the Board:

- Waive the \$200 site plan review fee
- Donation of 3500 gallons of water to be used for the circus animals
- Placement of signage on public right-of-way to advertise
- Police and fire support
- Waive any other fees associated with the Town of Spring Lake

Mr. Spinks advised that the Fire Department submitted a letter stating that they would not be able to support this issue with a truck on site but would respond to any and all emergency calls.

Alderman Higgins stated that he may need to excuse himself from this vote since he is a member of the Kiwanis club but wanted to share that this is not a fund raising

project. The intent of this project was to make a circus available for the children of this area. The Kiwanis club is getting sponsorships to make sure children can attend who are not able to pay.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked if the circus is able to provide the necessary personnel since the Fire Department is not available. He responded that they do have the safety personnel.

Mr. Jackson stated that Mr. Higgins does not have to refrain from voting because he has no financial benefit from this vote.

Alderman Vannoy wanted to make sure the signage would not be flyers stapled all over town and Alderman Higgins assured that was not what they intended to do.

Mr. Faison asked the Board to also consider whether they want to incorporate a waiver allowing placement of signs within the right of way to be coordinated by Mr. Spinks into the motion.

Action: The Board approved a motion to waive the fees and coordinate placement of signage as recommended by staff.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Vannoy

Vote: Unanimous

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

e. Budget Amendment #20.

Mr. Coats presented budget amendment #20 to budget Senior Center general purpose grant funds for the purchase of four new computers and supplies to support their use.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve budget amendment #20.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

f. Proclamation, Air Quality Awareness Week April 28 – May 4, 2008.

g. Proclamation, U.S. Census Dress Rehearsal Day, May 1, 2008.

Mayor Clark asked the Board to affirm her actions contained in the two proclamations.

Action: The Board approved a motion to affirm the actions contained in both proclamations.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Hogans

Vote: Unanimous

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

h. Resolution, Clean Water Management Grant Agreement.

Mr. Coats advised the Board that in January 2006 a grant was approved for \$822,000 from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. In the process of requesting funds to cover the work that has been done, it was discovered that a resolution that should have been adopted at the time the grant was approved was not done. Clean Water Management Trust Fund requested the Board to adopt the resolution now to complete their file so that they can release funds to us.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt the resolution.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

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

9. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderman Higgins

1. Spring Fling went very well and was very organized. Great day at the park. Staff did a fine job

Alderman Vannoy

1. Asked where we are on the signage initiative that was brought up earlier in the year. Mr. Spinks stated that it is a part of our work program and will come to the Board soon in a workshop.

Alderman Hogans

1. Requested that Manager provide holistic information before the Board is asked to make any decisions.

Alderwoman Sutherland

1. Thanked the citizens for coming out.
2. Thanked Chief Doberstein and Chief Brown for the work that they do in the community.
3. Thanked Ms. Nelson for coming.

4. Would like to look into a primary care office in Spring Lake. I received a call from Sanford stating that they would like to see one in Spring Lake.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

1. May 1, Prayer Breakfast in the community center.

Mayor Clark

1. Thanked the staff. She works closely with them through the entire process and they did an outstanding job. The Spring Fling is getting better every year. Paul was the official counter and estimates close to 2000 people at the Spring Fling.
2. Thursday night is Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at 6:00 p.m. at Mi Casita.
3. Annual Spring Clean Up scheduled for April 26, 2008. It starts at 8:30 and Mr. O'Garra will treat us to hamburgers and hotdogs when we finish up around noon.
4. Spring Lake will host the North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials Annual Summer Retreat on August 8 & 9 at the Hampton Inn. She asked the Board members to help her make this a success and to also use their influence to get some goodie bag stuffers.

John Jackson

1. Asked everyone to continue to think about and pray for former Alderman James Wall who is not doing well.
2. Amy at the County office has loads of statistical information concerning the tax initiative. She has an awesome presentation on that.
3. Thanked the Manager for the weekly report helps him to keep up with what is going on.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor