

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

August 11, 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 Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Ethel T. Clark presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro-Tem James O'Garra
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderman Napoleon Hogans
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

There was a vacant seat on the Board due to the death of Alderman Jack Vannoy on June 13, 2008.

Others Present:

Larry Faison, Town Manager
Alvin Brown, Police Chief
Danny Gerald, W&WR Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

John Jackson, Town Attorney
Allen Coats, Finance Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Tom Spinks, Planning Director

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 and Approval of Agenda and Consent Items.

The Board approved a motion to move the Resolution from the consent agenda to the regular agenda, to approve the agenda as amended and to approve the consent items.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

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. Public Forum.

No one spoke at the Public Forum.

6. New Business.

a. Resolution Fixing Date for Public Hearing on McCormick Farms Annexation.

Mr. Jackson stated that the Resolution was the next step in the annexation process and told the Board if they wanted to move forward with the annexation they should fix a date for the public hearing.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2008) 16, Fixing Date for Public Hearing on McCormick Farms Annexation.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

b. Budget Amendments #2 and #3, Capital Outlay.

Mr. Coats asked the Board to approve the transfer of funds from lap salaries and some savings that were recognized from the group insurance and allocated the funds for the purchase of replacement vehicle and authorize staff to make the purchase. Budget Amendment #2 deals with general fund and Budget Amendment #3 deals with the water and sewer fund. He stated that the plan is for general fund to purchase five police vehicles and for the water and sewer fund to purchase a replacement truck.

Alderwoman Sutherland inquired why the purchase of new vehicles was not addressed during the budget process. Mr. Coats stated that at the time the budget was being created there were no funds available to purchase vehicles and that was not an option for the budget at that time. She also asked how often the vehicles are serviced. It was clarified by Mr. Hoover that the vehicles are serviced approximately every 3,000 miles. She wanted to make sure that the vehicles are serviced regularly to ensure we are getting the most use from each vehicle.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra inquired about the size of the replacement truck for the water and sewer department. Mr. Hoover stated that the vehicle being considered is a full size truck. Mayor Pro Tem asked if a smaller truck would be sufficient. Mr. Gerald stated that the full size truck is necessary because of the use of the vehicle and the loads that it will be required to carry. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra is concerned about gas mileage and would like to down size when possible.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #3.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

c. Utility Billing Police Guidance.

Mr. Coats requested guidance from the Board concerning water billing practices. He stated that currently the Town can not prorate water bills. He also stated that we can set the computer up to not bill a flat rate if a customer has been in a location less than a certain number of days. He gave an example of a person moving into a residence and the meter being read three days after they move in. Under the current system, that customer would get their first bill for a full month minimum amount. He stated that he desires guidance as to the billing practices the Board wishes to employ.

Alderman Higgins stated that we need to be customer friendly. He stated that he doesn't know what the cut off amount should be and wanted to know if they can identify the accounts that are short accounts and print a bill just for the amount they use. Mr. Coats stated that is not possible. He stated that they can set the system up with an established time frame, for example ten days, and the system will not generate a bill if the customer has been in a location less than the time frame. The actual water used by that customer will be billed on their next bill. He also stated that research will be done to determine the best cut off day if the Board is interested in pursuing a policy.

Alderman Hogans stated that he believes we need to charge the customer for services provided, no more and no less, and asked if what is being considered will be cost effective. He wants to be absolutely fair to the customer.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated that we do need to be friendly to the customer. She also inquired about sending out second notices. Mr. Coats stated that the Town has not sent second notices and stated that it would not be cost effective to send second notices. The cost would have to be passed on to the customer if we sent second notices and it would drive up costs considerably. She wanted staff to look into sending second notices and stated that the late charge assessed to the bill could help pay for sending the second notice.

Action: It was the Board's consensus to have staff work on a policy that is customer friendly and bring it back to the Board.

c. Naming of Industrial Park Roadway.

Mr. Spinks requested the Board pick a name for the Industrial Park Roadway. He explained that the roadway requires a unique non repeating name that meets Cumberland County 911 Addressing requirements.

Mr. Jackson stated that this would be a good time to honor someone if the Board wanted to.

Alderman Hogans stated that it took the United States Senate to get involved to get the land and we all know who the prime mover was to get all that done. It was suggested that Manning be considered in the name. He stated that if the Board agrees, it would be a good idea to try to honor someone who had a strong hand in getting the Industrial Park established.

The names submitted by the Board will be vetted and brought back before them the first meeting in September.

Action: The Board submitted the following three names: Manning Drive, Marvin Lucas

Parkway, and Prosperity Parkway.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

d. Board Vacancy Discussion.

Mayor Clark stated that the Town received six applications to fill the vacancy left by Alderman Jack Vannoy's death. She stated that the Board is looking for someone who has had prior service to the community. She opened the floor for nominations. Alderman Hogans nominated Ms. Nellie McCoy. There were no other nominations submitted. Mayor Clark announced that Ms. McCoy will be sworn in at the August 25, 2008 Board meeting.

Alderman Hogans stated that he is glad the Board picked someone who has been involved in the community for years. She served on the Appearance Commission, the Board of Elections and the Parks Foundation. He is proud to support her.

Alderwoman Sutherland thanked all the applicants and stated that there are plenty of committees and boards on which to serve. She encouraged them to get involved. She thanked Ms. McCoy for all the work that she has done for the Town.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the nominations and appointed Ms. Nellie McCoy by acclamation.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

7. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderman Higgins

- Glad to see Ms. McCoy put in her application.
- Thanked everyone for coming.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Thanked everyone for coming out.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- Glad to have Ms. McCoy aboard.

Mayor Clark

- Manager is on vacation celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary.
- Look forward to working with Ms. McCoy.
- I have found a splash park in Sanford that I want to go look at. It is my goal by next summer to have a splash pad for the little kids in Spring Lake. It is not expensive and is do-able.

9. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Hogans

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor