

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

December 8, 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 Nellie McCoy
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Larry Faison, Town Manager	John Jackson, Town Attorney
Alvin Brown, Police Chief	Allen Coats, Finance Director
Debbie Disbrow, Human Resources Officer	Robert Doberstein, Fire Chief
Danny Gerald, W&WR Director	Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director	Tom Spinks, Planning Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk	

2. Invocation.

Alderwoman McCoy gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Solomon McGinty, Life Scout, from Scout Troop #705 led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

The Board reversed the order of the presentation items listed on the agenda and moved the presentation for Ruth Lucas retirement to the first item.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Hogans

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Agenda and Consent Items.

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes from the November 24, 2008 Board workshop and meeting.

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.)

6. Presentation.

a. Retirement, Ruth Lucas.

Mayor Clark presented Ruth Lucas with a plaque and check for 16 years of service to the Town. Doris Snider, the Senior Center Director, said a few words of appreciation to honor and celebrate Ruth for all the help she provided over the years. Mayor Clark explained that we had originally planned a retirement reception following the Board meeting but due to Ms. Lucas' medical condition we will postpone the celebration until such time that she feels up to it.

b. Murchison Road Update.

Mr. Faison stated that he requested Mr. Rick Heicksen, Cumberland County Planning Department, to come before the Board to offer an update on the Murchison Road project.

Mr. Heicksen, the executive director of the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and senior transportation planner, gave the Board a synopsis of the history of the project which started in 1985. He presented a PowerPoint presentation and explained that other options have been considered over the years. The project was estimated to cost approximately thirty-six million dollars when it was first studied and the costs now is approximately forty million dollars. There have been twelve other options that were proposed prior to the existing proposal and all but one option conflicted with environmental issues. The problem is that there will be an estimated 99,200 vehicles per day traveling this roadway by the year 2030. One of the options would have supported the traffic but would have closed 26 businesses and nine homes. This was not acceptable. A bypass was considered in the early years but the Spring Lake Board of Aldermen and local business owners did not want a bypass because it would route traffic around Spring Lake and they wanted people to drive through Spring Lake. The design now is called Alternate 2 and is the preferred design. Some amendments have been made at Mayor Clark's request. One is to add a right turn onto Olive Street. There are some other right turn lanes in the plan and a traffic signal on Spring Avenue. That will be the only traffic signal in Town. It has been requested to look at adding a traffic signal at North Main Street. Once the corridor is set up DOT engineers will set down with property owners and discuss how the roadway will impact their property.

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

7. Public Forum

No one spoke at the public forum.

8. Public Hearing.

a. Case P08-57 Initial Zoning McCormick Farms LP Property.

Ms. Brooks, Cumberland County Planning Department, presented Case P08-57 for initial zoning. Both tracts were annexed into Spring Lake on November 25, 2008. Initial zoning was R10. There are no objections to the zoning request by the Regional Land Use Advisory Committee but they did recommend that any future plan for development of this property include a legally binding conservation design element which identifies and permanently preserves the undeveloped portions of the tract and the forested conditions. Mr. Spinks advised that it is a requirement of the Board to set the initial zoning. The Plan Review Committee has reviewed the initial phase which is approximately 264 units. Staff recommends initial zoning to R5A residential district.

No one spoke for or against the initial zoning.

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

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

9. New Business.

a. Case P08-57 Initial Zoning McCormick Farms LP Property.

Mr. Spinks advised that staff recommends approving initial zoning of the property to R5A.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the initial zoning of the property to R5A.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

b. Amendment to Personnel Policy.

Mr. Disbrow stated that an amendment to the current Personnel Policy regarding the holiday schedule is required to maintain the integrity of the observation of holidays that are currently part of the benefits package for full time employees.

Alderwoman Sutherland requested clarification about what it means to allow the manager the authority to set the holiday. Ms. Disbrow stated that if an approved holiday falls on a Friday, the Manager would have the flexibility to observe the holiday on either the Thursday before or the Monday after depending on what is best business wise for the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked how Christmas will be observed this year.

Action: The Board approved a motion to amend the Personnel Policy as recommended. Alderman Higgins changed his motion to be adopt Resolution (2008) 23 with the amended effective date of January 1, 2009.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman McCoy

Vote: Unanimous

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

c. Resolution, Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse.

This Declaration of Intent to Reimburse deals with storm water projects. We have to have this resolution in place in order to pay ourselves back for costs incurred. We have to do engineering up front and this resolution allows us to reimburse ourselves any money that we have to pay up front.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2008) 24.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

d. Budget Amendment #8.

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment #8 to budget additional electricity sales tax proceeds derived from an audit of Progress Energy records for the hiring of two new Fire Fighter I positions.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #8.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

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

e. Resolution, Sanitation Chipper Installment Purchase.

Mr. Coats stated that the Board approved the purchase of a chipper in September 2008 and this Resolution is approving financing for the chipper for a three-year term at a rate of 3.31%.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2008) 22.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

f. Board of Consider Canceling or Rescheduling December 22, 2008 Board Meeting.

Mayor Clark requested that the Board cancel the meeting with flexibility to schedule a special meeting if it becomes necessary.

Action: The Board approved a motion to cancel the December 22, 2008 Board Meeting and give the Mayor flexibility to reschedule if need be.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

g. Water Contract, PWC.

Mr. Coats presented a contract for water service with PWC. The existing contract has a ratchet clause that is detrimental to the Town. It requires the Town to pay a penalty for water that we do not use. The new contract does not have a ratchet clause. The new contract is still a tiered structure. PWC usually makes rate increases on January 1 and this contract requires a 120 day notice for rate increases. It also states that rate increases will occur July 1 instead of January 1. This is beneficial to the Town since rate increases will not occur in the middle of our budget cycle. The contract is for 5 years with an automatic 5-year renewal.

Mr. Faison stated that Mr. Coats, Mr. Gerald, the Town Attorney and himself were intricate in making this contract possible. It is a good contract and took almost two years.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2008) 20, Water Service Agreement between the Town of Spring Lake and PWC.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

9. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderman Higgins

- Merry Christmas to everyone. It is good to see such a good turnout.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- Good to see everyone this evening.
- Still have some feelings about the Christmas holiday. Suggested that the Board give the employees ½ day off on Wednesday before Christmas. He made a motion to give the Manager flexibility to give employees ½ off on Wednesday December 24th. Motion seconded by Alderman Higgins and passed unanimously.

Alderwoman McCoy

- Thanked Mr. Gerald for getting the material that she requested.
- Thanked the Police Department for being patient when they come to deliver the Board packets.
- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Alderman Hogans

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Glad to see Ms. Ruth out and thanked Doris for the comments about Ruth.
- Enjoyed the luncheon today and always enjoy being with the Seniors.
- Thanked the staff for the wonderful Christmas lights. They are beautiful and festive. Thanked the Appearance Commission for the wonderful job they did decorating the triangle.
- Merry Christmas to Town employees.

Mr. Faison

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- He asked each one to take a moment of thanks for the many blessings that we have and to remember the troops that are in harms way and wish them a safe passage home.
- Thanks for all the good work from the Board, employees and citizens.

Mayor Clark

- Thanked everyone for coming.
- Will see the employees and the Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, December 16th.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion: Alderwoman Sutherland
Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor