

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

February 25, 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	John Jackson, Town Attorney
A.C. Brown, Police Chief	Allen Coats, Finance Director
Debbie Disbrow, Human Resources Officer	Daniel Gerald, W&WR Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections	Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk	

2. Invocation.

Alderman Hogans 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 February 11, 2008 Board Meeting. They also approved a Resolution Accepting the Report of Unpaid Taxes and Direction to the Tax Collector.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans
Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland
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. Sandhills Area Land Trust.

Mr. Richard Perritt, the Executive Director of the Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT), thanked the Board and updated them on the purchase of the Mutzburg Property. The update was to inform the Board on how this project is developing. He highlighted the following points.

- The primary goal is to protect the water and create a water quality buffer.
- Create a wildlife habitat bridge, an area of rest for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker between the Northeastern portion of Fort Bragg and the Northern training area.
- Prevent incompatible development near Fort Bragg.
- Create a Town of Spring Lake Little River Community Park that will also serve as a water quality buffer.
- Promote opportunities for River greenways.

Mr. Perritt advised that the next step between the Town of Spring Lake and the Sandhills Area Land Trust will be to develop a park master plan that contains the management procedures. The property is currently being surveyed and the purchase of the property should close in May. The master plan could begin in June.

If the plan is started this summer, Mr. Perritt anticipates that the plan could be presented to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund in December 2008. To embark on this plan there would have to be a memorandum of understanding in place. The master plan would have to be funded and the timeline will depend on the funding.

Mayor Clark asked about the Nature Conservancy and whether they will retain their portion. Mr. Perritt stated that they will retain 40 acres and restore that acreage with long-leaf pine and create a place for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. The Sandhills Area Land Trust and the Town of Spring Lake will have 60 acres. The Nature Conservancy will allow the trails to cross their land. He stated that the Fish and Wildlife Service and Fort Bragg are very interested in this project.

Alderman Hogans asked about the total amount of the grant SALT had received. The land and all the transactional costs is \$425,000. SALT also received a planning grant from CWMTF for just over \$7,000. Mr. Perritt stated that it would require the Town and SALT together to go back to the CWMTF for more funding.

6. Public Forum. No one spoke at the public forum.

7. New Business.

a. Police Officers' Separation Allowance Policy.

Mr. Coats and Ms. Disbrow presented a policy governing the Separation Allowance for Police Officers. Mr. Coats advised that General Statute mandates that the Town provide a separation allowance for police officers who retire before they are 62 years of age and have 30 years of creditable service or police officers who between the ages of 55 to 62 and have a minimum of 5 years of creditable service. He stated that the League suggested that the Town adopt a policy explaining how the separation allowance works and the rules that must be followed in order to receive the allowance. The allowance is only paid until an individual reaches the age 62. Mr. Coats stated that the General Statutes offers a broad interpretation of the reemployment of an individual.

Alderman Hogans questioned the wording "it is not the Town's intention to enforce such a broad interpretation". Mr. Coats clarified that was concerning re-employment and stated that the Town's policy defines the conditions of re-employment as employment in a position that would mandate a contribution to the N.C. State Employee's Retirement or the N.C. Local Government Employee's Retirement System.

He stated also that the Town's policy prohibits re-employment by any local, State, or Federal agency in a sworn law enforcement position. Alderman Hogans asked about retroactive enforcement and Mr. Coats stated that the legal staff of the School of Government advised that this policy can not be applied retroactive. Mr. Coats stated that he would advise that we use this policy as a guideline to not only future retirees but to previously retired individuals concerning re-employment.

Mr. Jackson stated that he is comfortable with the proposed policy and the definition of re-employment. He also stated that the policy is enforceable and would withstand a challenge of any new retirees but there would not be a successful challenge as to any previous officers. They are open and the restriction applies only to the new.

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

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

9. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderwoman Sutherland

1. Happy to have the sidewalk and bus stop on 210 in the area of Samuel Drive.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

1. Thanked Mr. Perritt for working with us to help this project happen.
3. Glad to see everyone here tonight.

Alderman Vannoy

1. Thinks the park is a great idea and something the Town has needed for a long time and he is proud to be a part of it.

Alderman Hogans

1. The retreat was a success and very insightful. He thanked the Department Heads for all the work they did.

Mr. Faison

1. Cumberland County Commissioners have indicated an interest in a joint meeting. They suggested April 29, May 29, or June 26. He asked the Board to let him know if any of these dates will work and requested topics that the Board would like to discuss. Mayor Clark stated that April is going to be an extremely busy month and she doesn't think we should consider the April date.

Ms. Webb

1. Reminded Mayor Clark that the second meeting in March is Easter Monday and asked her if she wanted to consider canceling or rescheduling that meeting. Mayor Clark asked the Board to think about that meeting and make a decision at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment.

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

Motion: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderman Vannoy

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor