

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

January 11, 2010

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 James Christian
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderwoman Debora Hudson
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Michael Uskiewicz, Town Manager
Allen Coats, Finance Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections

John Jackson, Town Attorney
Robert Doberstein, Fire Chief
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief

Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Tom Spinks, Planning Director

2. Invocation.

Mayor Clark gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

5. Approval of Agenda and Consent Items.

An amended set of minutes was placed before the Board prior to the meeting. The Board approved the agenda and approved the consent items: Amended minutes of the December 14, 2009.

Action: The Board approved the agenda and consent items.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

6. Public Forum

Ms. Jannell Medena, 112 Bruce Lane, spoke concerning her garbage pickup. Waste Management failed to pick up her trash one week before Christmas. She called Waste Management who finally picked up her trash the following week. When they came to pick up her trash they were very rude to her and left trash in her yard. She called the Town Hall and spoke with Abby who came to her residence and took pictures. Waste Management again left trash in her yard this week. She provided the Town Manager with the pictures that she took. She also requested that we try to get the Southwinds Plaza to fix the parking lot by Pizza Hut.

Mr. Don Miller, 504 Thalia Road, spoke concerning a water leak in C-Me Mobil Home Park. He stated that well over 75,000 gallons of water were wasted due to this leak. He stated that he reported the leak on Wednesday. The Town sent a crew out on Thursday. They dug the meter box up and left. The Town did not return to fix the leak. They did return today after his wife called and spoke with the Town Manager and the leak is fixed. He believes this is a system failure because the Town's staff that is responsible for fixing the leaks was under the impression that they had to wait for "no cuts" to come mark the area and did not realize that there was an emergency contact number. He commended the crew who was out there today getting the leak fixed and commended the Manager and Board for taking swift action to fix the problem. He also stated that he was made aware of organizational changes that are supposed to help prevent this type of system failure in the future.

Ms. Tammy Stephens, 437 Wapiti Drive, requested verbatim minutes and for them to be posted on line. She stated that we need to have complete transparency.

7. Public Hearing

a. P88-191, withdrawal of the consideration of amendments and revisions to the Town of Spring Lake zoning map to establish a MH(O) manufactured housing overlay (zoning) district in portions of the R6 residential district.

Mayor Clark opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Spinks advised that Case P88-191 is an obsolete zoning amendment that exists within our Zoning Ordinance that needs to be withdrawn. Since the creation of this zoning amendment the Town has approved other zoning districts which make this amendment obsolete. Mayor Clark and Mr. Jackson clarified that we are withdrawing proposed amendments that would have allowed Mobil Homes in certain R6 zoned areas. The amendments were never enacted and they have now become obsolete.

No one spoke for or against the case.

Action: Motion to close public hearing.
Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland
Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
Vote: Unanimous

8. New Business

a. Action on Case P88-191.

Mr. Spinks recommended approval of Case P88-191.

Action: The Board approved a motion to withdraw considerations of amendments and revisions to the Town of Spring Zoning Map.
Motion by: Alderman Higgins
Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Cumberland County's memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

b. Approval of Special Events Permitting.

Mr. Metcalf presented the Special Events Permitting Policy and requested that the Board approve it. The Policy was presented at a workshop in February and at the November 9th Board Meeting.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the proposed Policy.
Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland
Second by: Alderman Christian
Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Special Events Permitting Policy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

c. Budget Amendment 2010.10, Recreation Department.

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment #10 to recognize revenues received for the athletics department.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Budget Amendment #10.
Motion by: Alderman Higgins
Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland
Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment #10 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

d. Budget Amendment 2010.11, Police Department.

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment #11 to recognize the cost associated with reorganizing the police department staffing structure and to account for additional cost of sheriff's office due to delay in retaining police duties and to budget for the purchase of a used highway patrol vehicle for use as administration car for the department. There is also extra money in the salary line to fund item j of this agenda.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2010.11, Police Department.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment #11 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

e. Budget Amendment 2010-12, Administration Department.

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment #12 to purchase a 2010 Ford Explorer for the Administration Department.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #12.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment #12 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

f. Cost of Living Adjustment.

Mr. Uskiewicz advised that in reviewing various salaries in the operation and he found that we have not been able to give adjustments in salaries to employees for quite some time. Additionally, the Town has imposed certain increases in health insurance costs. In looking at the budget and our projected revenues that are coming in better than expected, he recommended a 3% COLA for part of the fiscal year beginning the first pay period in January 2010.

Action: The Board approved a motion to accept the 3% COLA raise for the Town employees effective the first pay period in January.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

g. Budget Amendment 2010.13, COLA.

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment #13 to fund the mid-year 3% cost of living adjustment effect the first full pay period in January 2010.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #13.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment #13 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

h. Budget Amendment 2010.14, Water Department.

Mr. Coats presented Budget Amendment #14 to recognize revenues received from developers who purchase meters at cost and to reimburse the Revenue Billing Department for those meters purchased for developers.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Budget Amendment #14 in the amount of \$43,921.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment #14 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

i. Resolution, Bank Signature.

Mr. Coats advised the Board that it is customary for the Town Manager's signature to be on the Town's bank account and requested that we add his name to the account.

Action: The Board approved a motion to add the new Town Manager to the bank's signature card.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2010) 1 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

j. Budget Ordinance Amendment.

Mr. Coats presented Budget Ordinance Amendment to increase the salary range for Police Officer, Police Sergeant and Police Lieutenant one pay grade which is equivalent to 5%.

It was clarified that officers will receive the 5% in addition to the 3% COLA. This will

bring the police officers salary in line with Hope Mills who is our strongest competitor for employees. It was mentioned that if the Police Department is under paid then other departments are under paid and we need to address the other departments as quickly as possible. The Town Manager is already looking at this issue, that is what prompted the 3% COLA which is a start.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2010) 1 to amend the Position Classification Plan.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Ordinance (2010) 1 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment ten.)

k. Appearance Commission Appointment.

Mrs. Webb advised that Ms. LaTonya Person submitted an application to serve on the Appearance Commission.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Ms. LaTonya Person to the Appearance Commission.

Motion by: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and application is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eleven.)

l. Board of Aldermen Budget Retreat Date.

Mr. Uskiewicz requested that the Board set a date to hold a budget workshop. He proposed February 10, 11 and 12. He also needed the Board to determine the time.

It was proposed that Saturday be considered to help with the Board Members who work. It was also proposed to strongly look at the 18th and 19th.

The Board requested more time to look at their calendars and will address this issue at their next Board Meeting.

II. Board and Staff Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- Glad to see everyone here this evening.
- The transit system will work and I look forward to it.

Alderwoman Hudson

- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- Welcomed LaTonya to the Appearance Commission. I will still be involved as much as I can.
- Thanked Rhonda for doing an awesome job.

Alderman Christian

- Thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the people for speaking and bringing some of the issues in our Town to the Board's attention, we really appreciate it. Feel free to call me personally.
- Happy Birthday to Mr. Higgins next Saturday.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Thanked the Water Department for all the work they have been doing. There was a situation on Saturday that you took care of and I thank you.
- Recognized Saul Kent for what he did to help get the person help who passed away on Ruth Street the other night. She personally thanked him for what he did.
- Thanked the Chief for assisting her.
- Thanked Rhonda for what she does.
- Please bring situations to the Board so they can be addressed.
- It was brought to her attention that the article in the paper on Sunday stated the employees would get a 3% raise. It had not been brought to the Board and would have to be brought to the Board first and she had not approved anything at that time. Mr. Uskiewicz clarified that the article stated that it had to be approved and that it was proposed. He stated that the article clearly stated that the Board had to approve the item not the Manager.

Alderman Higgins

- I am glad to be here.
- We are all thankful for all of our employees and they all do a terrific job.
- Two faithful people from my neighborhood come to every the meetings, Evelyn Brown and Bryson Sherrer and that is good citizenship

Michael Uskiewicz

- Thanked the Board for the support for the COLA.
- Publicly thanked Carrie DeGarmo, Jim Schultz and Rhonda Webb for some outstanding work by going above and beyond the call of duty to make sure some situations that were severe were corrected. We appreciate employees and I plan to do more letters of commendation to show appreciation to employees for going above and beyond.
- Thanked Paul Hoover.
- We are working on the concerns that were brought up.
- Thanked Chief McDuffie is doing a great job.
- Talked with corporate headquarters of Carlie C's IGA. They are going to close due to economics. They are not opposed to the possibility of coming back. We are going to create some type of economic summit to show the growth that is going to

happen here. This will help eliminate decisions begin made based on misconceptions.

Mr. Jackson

- Complimented the Board. It was obvious by the way the business was done tonight that everyone did their homework.
- Still happy to be here.

Mayor Clark

- Recognized Edible Arrangements one of our newest businesses.
- RLM, the first tenet in the Freedom Center, is moving in this week.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor