

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

July 13, 2009

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:

Allen Coats, Interim Town Manager
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Gregg Jarvies, Interim Police Chief

John Jackson, Town Attorney
Daniel Gerald, W&WR Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director

Tom Spinks, Planning Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Tina West, Interim Finance Director

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

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra requested that the Board add approval of a Special Meeting on July 16, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. to the agenda. Mayor Clark requested that the Board add Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel to the agenda.

Action: The Board approved a motion to add a Special Meeting on July 16, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. and a Closed Session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege to the agenda.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Agenda and Consent Items.

The Board approved the agenda as amended and approved the consent items: Minutes

of the June 22, 2009 Regular Board Meeting and June 29, 2009 Special Board Meeting.

Action: The Board approved the agenda as amended and the consent items.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

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

No one spoke at the public forum.

7. Public Hearing 2030 Growth Vision Plan.

Mayor Clark opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Will Denning from the Cumberland County Inspections Department reminded the Board about the information that he presented previously. He stated that he will focus on the 2030 Growth Vision portion of the information that he provided the Board. He gave an overview of the 2030 Growth Vision Plan.

No one spoke for or against the 2030 Growth Vision Plan.

Action: Mayor Clark closed the public hearing on an approved motion to close.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

8. New Business

a. Resolution, Overhills Water Company Bulk Water Contract.

Mr. Gerald requested that the Board approve the Resolution authorizing a contract between the Town of Spring Lake and Overhills Water Company for bulk water sale.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked how we will handle rate increases from our supplier. Mr. Gerald stated that we will increase the bulk sale amount based on rate increases that we receive but they are capped at 20% in a twelve-month period.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked how the meters will be read and Mr. Gerald stated that we will have one meter for Overhills Park Subdivision and Mr. Wellons will determine how to charge his customers.

Mr. Jackson asked if the language on the tiered rates is consistent with our contract with Public Works Commission and Mr. Gerald stated that we have set the contract on our Fiscal Year. Mr. Jackson clarified that if our rate goes up we can only adjust their rate once each year at the end of the year.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2009) 14 to provide

bulk water service to Overhills Park Subdivision.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland???

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Resolution (2009) 14 and the contract with the Overhills Water Company is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

b. Resolution, On Call Policy Amendment.

Mr. Coats presented the amendment to the On Call Policy and stated that the Animal Control Officer was not specifically listed as being exempt because that position was supposed to be moved to the Police Department in a re-organization under the previous Town Manager. The re-organization was put on hold until a permanent manager is hired.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2009) 15.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2009) 15 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

c. Automatic Meter Reading System.

Mr. Gerald presented the Automatic Meter Reading System and explained what it is and how it works. He requested that the Board approve the plan and designate funding for the project. He stated that currently it takes the Town two weeks to read the meters and that time does not include the "re-read" requirements. He stated that two positions, which are now meter reading positions, would move to the Water Operations Department and would eliminate the need for two vehicles. It will cost approximately \$1.2M to implement this technology. The debt payment on the project will be \$76,000 per year. Lapse salaries from the two meter reader positions of \$72,000 can be used to pay the yearly debt payment. The remaining funds not covered by lapsed salaries will most likely be covered by the recovered water which has been being lost due to old meters. He stated that the older meters tend to run slow which means that more water is going through the meter than what the meter is reading. This causes us to show a loss in water due to old meters not reading correctly. He explained the process that would occur should the Board approve the System. That process includes approaching the LGC for funding, soliciting bids, moving two meter reader positions to the Water Operations Department, preconstruction and construction periods, training staff and finally being automated in the meter reading area.

Alderman Hogans asked about the error ratio of this system. Mr. Gerald stated that no system is error proof but he could not provide an error rate. He stated that the only thing he had been warned about is the interfacing. He was told to make sure the

interfacing was set exactly before it is put online. Alderman Hogans asked about how long the meters last. Mr. Gerald stated that the meters should last approximately 30 years.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked about the training and Mr. Gerald stated that the contract included in-house training. She asked if this technology was the kind you read from the vehicle and Mr. Gerald explained that someone in the Town Hall would receive the readings. No one has to go out to read the meters.

Alderman Higgins stated that he understands that the LGC would look at this proposal and let us know if we are financially able to implement this and Mr. Gerald stated that is correct. He also questioned the two vacancies and whether we will actually save anything. Mr. Gerald stated that he anticipates two vacant positions in the near future in the Water Operations Department. Alderman Higgins stated that unless there are vacancies he does not see any savings, we are just moving positions to another department.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked how the Town Manager feels about this initiative and Mr. Coats stated that he believes we can accomplish this plan if the LGC approves the financing. He stated that he previously made a presentation to the Board about AMR being the direction we need to move in and we are in as good of a position as we ever have been to implement this project.

Alderwoman McCoy asked how much this will have to do with the water bills that the customers will receive. Mr. Gerald stated that old meters tend to slow down and if a meter is reading slow and we put an accurate meter in the water bill will probably go up because the meter will give a more accurate reading. This should help our loss ratio. He stated that this system will also flag a meter that is reading high or low.

Action: The Board approved a motion to move forward with the program.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

d. Resolution, Search Firm for Town Manager.

Mr. Coats stated that there were three firms who submitted proposals to assist the Town in their search for a Town Manager.

Alderwoman McCoy asked about the costs and if this was how we hired the previous managers? It was clarified that the cost ranges from approximately \$7,000 to \$17,000 depending on what they will provide.

Alderman Higgins made a recommendation that we table this item until we have more

time to look at the proposals. Mr. Jackson stated that it might be helpful if the Town Manager summarizes each proposal for the Board.

Action: The Board approved a motion table this item to the next regular scheduled meeting.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

e. Spring Lake Police Department Rebuilding Plan.

Interim Chief Jarvies gave an overview of the new police department plan. He stated that main components of the plan are re-assessment of the skills, knowledge, abilities and character of the incumbent officers, completion of a thorough background process of incumbent officers, assurance that officers are fully trained and prepared to return to the streets, expedited recruitment and hiring of a permanent chief, implementation of a new command and control structure, assurance that all officers' law enforcement certifications are current and valid as determined by the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, recruitment and hiring of new officers beginning within forty-five days, agreement with Judge Keever that the plan and its outcomes meet the standards necessary for regaining access to magistrates and collaboration with Sheriff Butler allowing for Cumberland County Sheriff's Office support personnel to cover operational shortages due to minimal Spring Lake Police staffing levels. He recommended that we not rush into this plan. We need to do the right thing and put together a department that is credible and will be recognized as an outstanding department.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked if any of the new officers who will be hired will be supervisor level officers. Chief Jarvies stated that we need to look from within first. He stated that he proposes to hire entry level officers and train them to be promoted from within. It is more expensive to hire a lateral position as supervisor. Supervisors need to understand the community and be familiar with the community. She also asked if officers will be allowed to take their vehicles home still and he stated that yes it is a great recruitment tool.

Alderwoman McCoy asked about collaboration with Sheriff Butler. Chief Jarvies stated that we will need his support with training and with supervising. There have not been discussions about the extent of the contract that will need to be in place. She asked about the time frame and Chief Jarvies stated that he is looking at a sixty-day time frame. We will move as quickly as possible without taking shortcuts.

Alderman Hogans asked how many times Chief Jarvies has met with the DA and the Judge.

He stated that he has met with DA once and with the Judge twice. He stated that the

Judge has told him that we have to put men and women on the street who are capable, trustworthy, and have nothing in their background that taints them. Chief Jarvies and the new Chief must sign testament to this fact. Alderman Hogans stated that he does not want us to proceed with this plan and not have any indication that we are moving in the right direction.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2009) 16.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: 4-1	Yes	No
	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra	Alderwoman McCoy
	Alderman Higgins	
	Alderman Hogans	
	Alderwoman Sutherland	

(A copy of the agenda memo, the transition plan and Resolution (2009) 16 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

f. Special Meeting Schedule.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra requested that the Board meet again this week to discuss feedback that we may get from the Judge once the Board approves the plan. Mr. Jackson stated that Chief Jarvies did request some time to implement the plan and that it might not be prudent to meet again this week. Alderwoman Sutherland did not see the need to meet again.

Action: A motion to schedule a Special Meeting for July 16, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Amended motion: An amended motion was made to state the purpose of the meeting: to discuss the Police Revitalization Plan.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Amended Action: The Board approved a motion to schedule a Special Meeting for July 16, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss the Police Revitalization Plan.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

9. Board and Staff Comments :

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- Thanked everyone for coming out this evening.
- Special thanks to Chief Jarvies.

Alderwoman McCoy

- Thanked everyone for coming out.

- I believe parts of the plan need to be revised before I vote to approve it.

Alderman Hogans

- Thanked the people who have expressed so many words of kindness during the death of a family member.
- I am totally committed to getting our Police Department back on track. We as elected officials have an obligation to public safety and I am willing to do whatever it takes to get this done.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- I have always tried to make the best decision for all mankind. I would like to get the police force back on track as soon as possible. I feel very confident in the Chief's plan.
- I will be working hard to get re-elected because I try to make the right decisions for this Great Town of Spring Lake, not only with our police force but with making sure that our taxes do not go up. As an elected official I will be working very hard to make sure, because I live here also, that we do have the best police force once we get it back up and running.
- Thanked Mayor Clark for working on the BRAC committee for so many years and for all the meetings that she attends to make sure the Great Town of Spring Lake is not passed up.

Alderman Higgins

- Good to see everyone here tonight.
- Commended Chief Jarvies for the work that he has done. We will wait to see if we get the cooperation that we deserve. We are trying to follow the directions that we have been given and it is in their ball court now.
- The reason that Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra wanted to meeting was to show that we are being proactive and not reactive.
- Thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Mayor Clark

- Appreciate Chief Jarvies' efforts.
- Appreciate the citizens coming to the meetings.

10. Closed Session.

Action: The Board went into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege at 8:32 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

The Mayor called the meeting back into Open Session at 9:23 p.m.

11. Adjournment.

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

was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderman Hogans

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor