

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

July 26, 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:

Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Robert Thomas, Fire Department
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Allen Coats, Finance Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Tina West, Interim HR Director

2. Invocation.

Alderman Christian 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.

The Board approved the agenda.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda.

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. Approval of Consent Items.

The Board approved the consent items: Minutes of July 12, 2010 Regular Meeting with a correction to who gave the invocation.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Mr. Robert Cooper of 130 Deerfield Drive spoke concerning recycling and the clay target center. He expressed an objection to allowing people to shoot at the Clay Target Center when it is against the Town Ordinance elsewhere in Town limits. He commended the Board for initiating a recycling program.

Ms. Pamela Story, Social Work Coordinator for Cumberland County Schools, spoke concerning the school supply drive. On August 6, 2010 at the Spring Lake Wal-Mart from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. they will host their annual "Stuff the Bus" drive. They want to stuff the yellow school bus with school supplies for needy and homeless Cumberland County children. Alderman Higgins advised that Spring Lake has an annual drive similar to this program called "Unity in the Community."

8. Presentation

a. National Night Out.

Captain Stafford advised that National Night Out is also known as America's Night Out Against Crime. It is designed to heighten awareness and prevent crime. It is traditionally held the first Tuesday of August. There will be mascots, free hot dogs, drinks and chips, contests and activities for the kids. Since this is the first one Spring Lake has been involved in it will be held as one large community event on August 3, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The plan is to expand the event next year as it was intended to take place in the communities with the community watch groups.

9. New Business

a. Ordinance, Annexation of Quality Oil Property.

Mr. Uskiewicz advised that this is the final step to welcome Quality Oil into our Town. He requested that the Board approve Ordinance (2010) 11 if they want to annex the property into the Town.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2010) 11.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Ordinance (2010) 11 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

b. Budget Amendment #2011.2, Police Department.

Mr. Coats advised that this budget amendment is to recognize revenue and expenses associated with two grants that the Police Department received from the Governor's Crime Commission. One is the Protect Life grant for \$6,141 that will assist in the purchase of tasers and the other one is the Viper Communication grant for \$36,469 that will assist in upgrading the Viper Radio system. This amendment is to budget the grant revenue.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2011.2.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment #2011.2 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

Mr. Metcalf advised that the Town was awarded a PARTF grant for Mendoza Park for \$363,000. The Town will have to match this amount. He commended the Recreation Advisory Board for their tireless work and recognized the members in attendance: Jannell MeDena, Tammy Stephens and the chairperson Charles Derrickson. He also thanked the Board for their support.

9. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- Thanked the Recreation Advisory Board for the work that they do for the Great Town of Spring Lake.
- Asked about an update on the building at the corner of Murchsion Road and Bragg Boulevard. Chief McDuffie advised that Officer Bronson has contacted the owner of the property and they are working on it.
- The car wash on Wilson Avenue is also an eyesore. Can we do anything about this area.
- I think it is great that the Town is recycling but I would like to see the citizens receive some education about the recycling program. Mayor Clark advised that an informational flyer explaining how the program works was put out with each recycle can. Mr. Hoover advised that the flyer that was with the can will also be put on each door and information will be put in the water bill and in the paper.

Alderman Higgins

- Echoes what Alderwoman Sutherland said about cleaning up the Town and eyesores. IT is a slow process and we have to be patient but it is something that we have to constantly be on. I don't want Officer Bronson to think that we are picking on him but if we don't keep on it, it will not get done. If we don't do something about it we will lose citizens and neighborhoods.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- Encouraged Mr. Cooper to serve on the community watch for Deerfield because he was so sincere.
- I am glad we got the recycling program. I fought it for a long time but the citizens want it and I understand now and I "bow down now that it's here."
- Glad to see town workers here.

Alderwoman Hudson

- Good evening to everyone. Thank you all for your continued support.
- Chief keep up the good work. Town employees are doing a wonderful job, you all are hard working people. Ken, wonderful job.
- Asked about the match for the PARTF grant and if the money is already in the budget. It was

clarified that it is not currently in the budget. Mr. Coats advised that we are looking at a possible loan. Alderman Higgins stated that he has always believed that the money from the sale of the Industrial Park land should be used for capital improvements and not for operational purposes.

Alderman Christian

- Thinks that Alderman Higgins idea is an excellent idea especially when we can alleviate any burden on the taxpayers.
- Would like to look at naming a baseball field after people who have helped the Town or maybe naming the concession stand after the Optimist Club. Mayor Clark suggested that an idea like that should probably be run through the Recreation Advisory Committee and also advised that when we name something like that we must approach it carefully lest we miss someone and offend citizens. He also mentioned naming something after Ms. Da La Cruz daughter who died in the Twin Towers.
- Asked about the bicycle man update.
- Good to see the recycle can out.
- We have a lot of vacant rental property and sometimes that property sits vacant for a long time. I would like to see some sort of program to rebate a portion of the trash and recycle costs that the property owners are assessed when the service is not being used.
- Mentioned there was a drive by shooting on his street just before the Board meeting. He stated that he
- Commented on an article in the newspaper and he will be glad when we get our felony powers back. There was a drive by shooting in my neighborhood just a few hours ago and it is annoying that things like that happen in our Town. It frustrates me that there are a lot of things going on and we can not ignore them. If we can't do anything about it maybe we can get on the County Sheriff's Office or ALE or whoever to address these issues because we are County tax payers too. They should step up to the plate and do what we are paying them to do.
- Appreciate everyone coming out.
- Appreciate employees and the work that they do.

Michael Uskiewicz

- Good to be back. I apologize that information has not been free flowing. This is actually my first full day back to work. I feel 100% better and I appreciate the prayers. Staff was exceptional in my absence.
- Good job Ken on the PARTF grant.
- I hope to have a positive update on the Freedom Center at the next Board meeting.
- Compliment Tom Spinks on his aggressive efforts on the dilapidated structures. I had the opportunity to go on six inspections with him and the Fire Department and we are actually getting some of the property owners to work with us. We identified which structures could be used as burn training. I am encouraging some of these property owners to turn their property over to the Town; they can write it off of their taxes, we can get it cleaned up and we can give it to a non-profit organization or someone like Kingdom Development to build new structures. Alderman Higgins asked about the Board appointed committee that will help with the minimum housing issues and encouraged the Board and citizens to try to recruit people who could serve on the committee.
- Provided the Board with update information on Flashing Lights and Schools Zones, 2010 street paving priorities, and economic development information.

- Welcomed Officer Timothy Torres, our newest Police Officer.

John Jackson

- Commended officers Hutchison, Hice, and Smith for their role in helping at an accident that his son witnessed. The officers went above and beyond what was required to make sure the children were taken care of.
- Final two title opinions for notification are almost done.
- Ask Allen if the whole PARTF grant reimbursable? Mr. Coats advised that it is.
- I am happy to be here.

Mayor Clark read a letter of congratulations from Governor Perdue regarding the PARTF grant.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor