

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

June 29, 2009

MINUTES

2:00

p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a special 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 O'Garra
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderwoman Nellie McCoy
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Alderman Napoleon Hogans was absent.

Others Present:

Allen Coats, Finance Director
Daniel Gerald, W&WR Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director

Robert Doberstein, Fire Chief
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Gregg Jarvies, Interim Police Chief

Tom Spinks, Planning Director

Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation.

Alderwoman Sutherland gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

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

4. Business

a. Appointment of Interim Town Manager.

Mayor Clark requested that the Board consider appointing Allen Coats as Interim Town Manager.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Mr. Coats as Interim Town Manager.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

b. Police Department Reconstitution Plan.

Chief Jarvis stated that after meeting with the Sheriff this morning he proposes to withdraw the plan that was presented two weeks ago. He will prepare an alternate plan based on what was

discussed this morning. The plan will help protect the officers who are here. He proposes to have the plan ready by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

Action: The Board approved a motion to not consider the Police Department Plan today.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman McCoy

Vote: Unanimous

c. Adoption of FYE 2010 Budget.

Mr. Coats presented the proposed budget and advised that there were some changes based on workshops that the Board previously held. They include \$1,000 for the Appearance Commission, \$103,000 for street resurfacing, \$15,000 for code enforcement and an additional \$75 per month increase in Town contribution towards employee health insurance. He stated that this budget does not include the service level and contract with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, the Reconstitution Plan for the Police Department and the additional funding and service level for the FAST Route 40 bus service. Mr. Hoover updated the Board on the estimated cost to fund Route 40 Bus Service. He stated that the grant will not support a Rural area route which is what Spring Lake is considered. The cost to operate the bus service is \$164,462. Based on estimated rider fares the Town will be left having to pay \$156,026. The Town has budgeted enough funds to continue the bus service for another five months or through November 2009. He requested that this issue be brought back before the Board in August 2009 to determine if there are sufficient funds to continue the service after November. He wants to make sure riders receive sufficient notice should we have to terminate the bus service.

Mayor Clark questioned if they have considered alternate routes that will allow us to have some coverage. Mr. Hoover stated that he will address that with FAST. Alderwoman Sutherland requested the same information and requested that Mr. Hoover report back to the Board.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that the grant was for Rural areas and we have been lucky to get the bus service for seven years.

Alderwoman McCoy asked about a fare increase to help keep the bus service going.

The Board's consensus was to continue the bus service for the five month period and determine what can be done before this time runs out.

Mr. Coats requested that the Board approve the FYE 2010 Budget.

Alderman Higgins asked for a report of where the Town stands with the Sheriff's Department at this time. Mayor Clark stated that the Sheriff said he would not just up and move everyone out of Spring Lake but he will cut back on coverage that they will provide. We are still in negotiations as to the level of the service we will receive. They will increase the number of zone officers from one to two for this area. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that we are going to request that the Sheriff provide two deputies to patrol the Town in addition to the two zone officers.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated that we pay Cumberland County taxes and we did not ask for them to close the Police force down to begin with so she was disturbed by the letter stating that they would pull the coverage on July 1, 2009 if we had not signed an agreement. She feels as a citizen paying County taxes Spring Lake needs the best possible service we can get since they pulled the Police force out.

Mayor Clark stated that citizens should go downtown and voice their opinion. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that citizens have been asking what they can do. We need to work together as a team.

Alderwoman McCoy stated that she has done a lot of research and this is illegal what the District Attorney and Sheriff are doing. She stated that the Police Benevolence Association is willing to help us out. She suggested that our attorney start working on this. We do not need to release the Police Officers that we already have.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that Sheriff Butler is only doing what he is told to do. He is not our problem, the District Attorney and Judge are the problem.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the FYE 2010 Budget as presented.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: 3-1	Yes	No
	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra	Alderman Higgins
	Alderwoman McCoy	
	Alderwoman Sutherland	

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

5. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman McCoy

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor