

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

March 10, 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

A.C. Brown, Police Chief

Allen Coats, Finance Director

Debbie Disbrow, Human Resources Officer

Daniel Gerald, W&WR Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director

Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

John Jackson was absent

2. Invocation.

Reverend Floyd Johnson 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. Alderman Hogans requested that the minutes of the February 25, 2008 meeting be corrected to reflect that Alderman Higgins was absent. The Board approved the agenda and approved the minutes of the February 25, 2008 Board Meeting with the requested correction.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
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. Mendoza Park Presentation.

Mr. Ken Metcalf presented a conceptual plan for Mendoza Park and a timeline of activities. He stated that some of the items on the timeline are required by PARTF for grant application. He showed the Board a preliminary draft layout of Mendoza Park created by Mr. Derrickson, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Board, and explained the proposed changes to Mendoza Park such as parking lots, picnic shelters, fields, relocation of concession stand and play ground.

Mr. Metcalf proposed a joint meeting with the Board of Aldermen and the Recreation Advisory Board for April 21, 2008.

Alderman Hogans thanked the Recreation Advisory Board and Mr. Metcalf for all the hard work they put into the proposal. He asked about the costs and how accurate they are. He specifically questioned the one-half million dollar cost of the concession stand. Mr. Metcalf advised that the figures are a ballpark estimate.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked Mr. Metcalf to elaborate on the wetlands behind the park and sited information contained on the conceptual plan and specifically a statement by Mr. Derek Williams of Site Solutions stating that the land is inadequate for construction. Mr. Metcalf stated that he is being conservative and does not plan to develop that area, however, the property on which changes and development are proposed is land that can be developed.

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

7. New Business.

a. Spring Lake Flag and Motto.

Ms. Patricia Archie addressed the Board and stated the following:

The reason why I have come back home after all these years again is to reopen a closed story about our town that a lot of people do not know about as of today, March 10. This is in reference to the flag contest and the motto contest in reference to the town and what happened as of October 1979. I had entered both contests for the flag as well as the motto. I turned it into the office at Spring Lake Junior High. I showed it to Mr. Breeden Blackwell (I will be saying names to the best of my ability.) who was the principal at the time I was a student there and to the office secretary Ms. Nunes. They were supposed to give it to the Chamber of Commerce to enter it into the contest. After a few weeks I was called back to the office and Mr. Blackwell announced over the intercom that I was the winner of both the flag contest as well as

the motto. Then, two days after that I was called back to the office and they said there was two other students whose designs were also going to be considered into the flag contest which was Jay Byrd and Juanita Yarnell. So, instead of getting a \$100 prize for both I received a \$50 savings bond and so did the other two students. We went to a banquet at the old Chinese restaurant which used to be called the Canton Station and there they showed us a cardboard picture of what the flag was supposed to look like. When they revealed it my mother immediately said that looks just like my daughter's picture, all but the motto. And this is where the problem started. As you see in June of 1979 myself, Jay Byrd as well as Junanita were all given a \$50 savings bond for our work. But in October when the flag was originally formed, the real flag was revealed and it was my depiction of what I had did and this is where it starts. In your packet you will see a copy of a newspaper article that Mr. Kirby did in reference to myself and it was kind of like a dare to come back to Spring Lake in order to set the story straight. So I have on record that I've been back to this town on three different times. I left in 1989 when my father, a police officer, got shot in the line of duty and all my family is in the military and I was the only child of my father's who was not in the military in order to attend to my father. At the time I was working for McDonald's Corporation and I was doing all the marketing for them in the area and I had to go take care of my father so instead of going back and forth from Spring Lake to New Jersey I had no choice but to stay in New Jersey with my father. As you will see, Mr. Kirby stated that coming back home should not be a far cry for what I believe in and so I am here today. My daughter Alysica Christine Tanner wrote a story about the black Betsy Ross of Spring Lake instead of writing a story about Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King. Her teacher sent my daughter home with an F on her project because she told my daughter that she could not write something that was fictitious about a parent. The teacher called the Chamber of Commerce and asked them to elaborate on the Town of Spring Lake and there was no information found. She then called the Mayor's office and there was no information found. She called the library and there was no information found. They searched high and low to try to get information about the Town of Spring Lake and the flag and motto and there was not information found. In the packet there is a picture from the Fayetteville Observer in 1978 which depicts Ms. Evelyn Parker who was the president of the Chamber at that time, Jay Byrd, Juanita Yarnell, myself, and Vernon Hobson who was at the time Mayor. At the bottom it reads Spring Lake now has a town motto "Progress for Prosperity" and a new town flag which was a result of a flag contest and motto contest. Then you look at the web site which was put in as of February 15, 2008, shortly after Mr. Kirby wrote the article in the paper and after I spoke with Ms. Rhonda they finally put in the flag and motto information. On this information it is still incorrect. At the top where it says on January 23, 1978 Mayor Hobson and the Board of Aldermen heard from the Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce an initiative to sponsor a student contest for the establishment of a town flag and motto. The contest would involve drawings and slogans to be judged by the Chamber. If you come down in the text it says the image, content, and all the information would be picked by the Aldermen. Then if you come down again in the text more it says that Marvin Mauldin, Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce, appeared

before the Board but I never seen Mr. Mauldin, ever. The president of the Chamber of Commerce was Ms. Evelyn Parker who is depicted in the newspaper article from the Fayetteville Observer not Mr. Marvin Mauldin; he was not with the Chamber of Commerce. Then it says when it comes to the motto and in the minutes, which these minutes are incorrect, it says that the students Patty Adams, Jay Byrd and Juanita Yarnell. In the original minutes my name was not first, my name was last. Then it says the motto by the Board was Unity for Prosperity and was an instant hit. How can it be an instant hit? If you turn back to the newspaper article the Town chose to use Progress for Prosperity instead of Unity for Prosperity, so how could it be an instant hit if they did not use my motto which was Unity for Prosperity. And then it goes down to say that it is unclear who wrote Unity for Prosperity, then you will come over and you will see an email from one of my colleagues and she read the email. She also quoted from Mayor Clark's response email requesting any information he may have. She gave the Board a copy of a letter of recommendation sent from Mayor Hobson which stated that she was a winner of the flag contest.

Reverend Johnson spoke on Ms. Archie's behalf and stated that he wanted the Board to look carefully at the letter from Mayor Hobson which he believed emphatically made it clear that Patty was the one who designed the flag. He stated that there were some inconsistencies with the newspaper article. He stated that the day the flag was raised it was pointed out that the Unity for Prosperity was her logo and the design was her design. He stated that the difference may have been in colors but the design was specifically hers. He stated that eh would like for the Board to take into consideration the times when this happened some thirty odd years ago and the particular area. He stated that there was still an atmosphere that for some reason blacks aren't supposed to receive their due respect. He stated that throughout history blacks have been deprived of their achievements. He stated that all they are asking, all Patty is asking is that the Board correct a wrong by doing the right thing. He asked them to record the history of Spring Lake in reference to its flag and record it correctly and give Patty the credit that is due to her. He stated that's not to say that the others didn't have a part in it, they did – they got awarded for it but it is clear according to the documentation that he has seen Patty is the designer of the flag and the logo is hers and she should get credit for it.

Alderman Hogans thanked Ms. Archie and Reverend Johnson for being at the meeting. He stated that he wanted to have a clear understanding of what Ms. Archie wants the Board to do. She stated "to be able to set the story straight about myself as far as designing the Town of Spring Lake flag and writing the motto. No body but me knows what Unity for Prosperity stands for. Did anybody ever ask me? All they did is just took the words. Nobody knows why there are two circles there but me. Nobody knows why there is an eagle sitting in the middle of that flag." Alderman Hogans asked Ms. Archie again to be specific in what she wants the Board to do. For example is she requesting that the Board draw a resolution giving her credit for the design? She stated "that you go back and re-date and make it a record that the flag design and motto belongs to myself as well as to the Town. I mean the packet

speaks for itself there is no cut and dry to any other question about who designed the Town of Spring Lake flag. The only reason I put Mr. Hobson's letter in there is because Mr. Hobson told me that 6-7 years after the fact that he could not do anything in reference changing the flag situation because it is not his to do." Alderman Hogans stated that he appreciates her passion but what she is asking them to do he is not absolutely sure that even if we found justification to do it he's not sure we could actually do it. We would have to legally support anything they did and that would probably be a question for our attorney.

Alderwoman Sutherland said that we need to make this right if this is so correct. She stated that we need to make sure that we legally do what we need to do and make this right.

(A copy of the documentation Ms. Archie gave the Board is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

b. Board to Consider Cancelling or Rescheduling March 24, 2008 Board Meeting.

Both the Mayor and Manager will be out of town on that evening. The Board approved a motion to cancel the March 24, 2008 meeting.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Hogans

Vote: Unanimous

9. Board and Staff Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

1. He wished Ms. Archie the best of luck in her endeavor.
2. Thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Higgins

1. Remember those times and Ms. Archie sure has grown up. He remembers that Marvin followed Evelyn as Chamber President. He stated that Mr. Marvin passed away some time ago but Ms. Parker may remember the time and events. He stated that it was a very exciting time. The Chamber was very active. He hopes to get to the bottom of this but changing history may be harder than we think. We want to be fair.

Alderman Vannoy

1. Wished Ms. Archie success. He stated that the Board is restricted to what we have in our record. We need something factual or someone from that time involved to come forward.

Alderman Hogans

1. Stated that this Board has never not resolved an issue that was presented to the

- Board. He thanked Ms. Archie for her passion.
2. Gave an explanation of what MDA stands for and who they help. He stated that the Stride and Ride campaign is in April this year and he appreciates everyone's efforts last year and hopes they will help again this year. He gave a heart felt thank you for the help.

Alderwoman Sutherland

1. Hopes that the Board members will not drop the ball and get legal assistant to make this right. If the info is correct we need to make it right. She appreciates her coming to Spring Lake to try to make it right.
2. Thanked everyone for being at the meeting.

Mr. Faison

1. Command Performance Breakfast on the 18th at the Crown Center.

Mayor Clark

1. Thanked Ms. Archie for taking time out of her schedule to come home. It is not over. There are a few more people that we need to check with and we will find Ms. Parker. The mix up on who the president of the Chamber was at the time is the Chamber changes officers in January so it could have been Ms. Parker in the beginning and then been Mr. Mauldin. Mr. Mauldin was very active so that could be where the discrepancy comes in. Don't give up hope, we will do all we can to make it right but we have to make sure that what we do it the proper way to do it.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor