

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

March 23, 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
Alderwoman Nellie McCoy
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Alderman Hogans was absent.

Others Present:

Larry Faison, Town Manager

John Jackson, Town Attorney

Alvin Brown, Police Chief

Allen Coats, Finance Director

Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director

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.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

The Board added a Resolution Authorizing Execution of Application of the COPS Grant to the agenda as item 7d and added a Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development.

5. Approval of Agenda and Consent Items.

The Board approved the amended agenda and approved the consent items.

Action: The Board approved the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman McCoy

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved the consent items.

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.)

6. Presentations

Mr. Jonn Thomas, President of the Greater Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce, presented a check to the Town for \$2,500 to co-sponsor the Youth Baseball and Softball program.

7. Public Forum

No one spoke at the Public Forum.

7. New Business.

a. Case #08-133 Spring Lake Green Apartments, Group Development and Subdivision Review.
Mr. Spinks presented case #08-133. He stated that this is a re-submittal. The proposal is for a 48 unit apartment complex consisting of 4.13 acres located off of Odell Road near Laketree Boulevard adjacent to Village on the Lakes Apartments. The developer redesigned the apartment complex to meet the two access entrances as required by ordinance. Town Plan Review Committee has reviewed the detailed construction plans and recommends conditional approval. Ms. Brooks stated that the County Planning Staff concurs with the Town's Plan Review Committee. Alderwoman McCoy clarified that there is only one entrance on Odell Road.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve case #08-133, Spring Lake Green Apartments Group Development and Subdivision.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

b. Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 98, Noise.

Chief Brown presented the new Noise Ordinance. He stated that the proposed Ordinance includes many new features such as objective measures for violations, noise limitations by area and time of day, permitting and appeal process.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Ordinance (2009) 6.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

c. Spring Lake Rate and Fee Schedule Amendment.

Mr. Coats explained that we need to add the fee structure for public records requests. The rate

for copies of public records include only the cost to make the copy, the paper and the toner.

Mr. Jackson questioned the method that we were using to make the change to the rate and fee schedule. Mr. Coats stated that the Budget Ordinance references the Town's Rate and Fee Schedule. Mr. Jackson requested that the rate and fee schedule be changed by ordinance amendment to the budget ordinance.

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

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

d. Resolution Authorizing Execution of Application of the COPS Grant.

Chief Brown requested the Board to authorize staff to apply for a COPS Hiring Recovery Program grant. He explained that the Town does not have to match the grant. The grant covers 100% of the approved entry-level and fringe benefits of each newly-hired and/or rehired, full-time sworn law enforcement officer for three years. The Town's only obligation is to retain each position for 12 months following the three-year period. He stated that the plan is to integrate these officers into the Detective Division. The award date for the grant is approximately 120 days following the closing date of April 15, 2009.

Mr. Faison stated that he generally supports the idea of the grant but he wants to emphasize that a day of reckoning will come when we have to continue the salary and all the other costs associated with hiring a police officer. This will cost approximately \$120,000 to \$130,000 in staffing costs alone.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked if the Chief has considered not allowing officers to take the vehicles home to help save mileage and vehicle replacement costs. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra reminded that allowing the officers to take their vehicle home allows them to respond to calls in route to and from work when necessary. He also stated that three years allows a lot of time to plan for absorbing the costs on the fourth year.

Alderman Higgins stated that we owe the citizens good fire and police protection. He believes this falls in line with our recovery plan for the Police Department.

Alderwoman McCoy thinks the idea is a wonderful idea and fully supports the initiative.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra inquired how many officers we have now and Chief Brown responded that we have 18 now. This initiative will not take us over the amount of position that we have already authorized.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2009) 3.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

8. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Thanked everyone for coming.
- Thanked employees for hard work.
- Spring is here and summer is coming and we need to keep the beautification of the Town in consideration. Make sure that trash coming into and going out of Spring Lake is picked up. The buggies from Wal-Mart are scattered around Town again and they need to be picked up and yard sale signs are hanging on poles after the yard sale and they need to be addressed.

Alderman Higgins

- Welcomed neighbors from his neighborhood.
- Thanked the Chamber for the donation.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- Thanked the Chamber for the money.
- Thanked Planning.
- Thanked Allen for workshop and reminded him that he owes us something.
- Thanked everyone for coming out.

Alderwoman McCoy

- Thank you to all who came out.
- Good to see the Chamber doing something for Recreation.
- Good to see positive in newspaper about Mayor delivering food.
- Glad apartment complex was passed.
- Good day in Spring Lake.

Mr. Jackson

- Happy to be here.

Mayor Clark

- Addressed Worthy letter and requested that Board have manager work with Mr. Worthy. Consensus of the Board was to have Manager speak with Paul Hoover to

work on street. We can't close the street.

- Thanked everyone for coming.
- Thanked Jonn and the Chamber for what they are doing for us.

9. Closed Session.

Action: The Board went into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development at 7:41 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

The Mayor called the meeting back into Open Session at 8:05 p.m.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Motion: Alderwoman McCoy

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor