

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

March 8, 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:

Michael Uskiewicz, Town Manager
Allen Coats, Finance Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

John Jackson, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Interim W&WR Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Tom Spinks, Planning Director

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

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: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

6. Approval of Consent Items.

The Board was given a corrected set of Minutes for the February 8, 2010 Regular Meeting. Ms. Webb advised that a citizen had requested that a comment made by

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra be inserted in the minutes and additionally that she be referred to as Mrs. and not Ms. Alderwoman Sutherland requested that the minutes from the February 18 & 19, 2010 Special Meeting listed under consent items be removed from consent for correction. She also advised that on page 5 of the minutes under her comments that the word professional should be changed to unprofessional.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the corrected minutes of February 8, 2010 meeting.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

Alderwoman Sutherland requested that the word Budget not be used to title the minutes from the February 18th Special Meeting because the Board did not talk about money. She also advised that on page 7 of these minutes she made the statement that employees of this Town work hard and they have always worked hard and requested that the minutes reflect that she made that statement.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the minutes with all the corrections.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

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

7. Public Forum

No one spoke at the public forum.

8. Public Hearing

a. Case P10-06, Rezoning.

Mr. Spinks stated that rezoning is typical and consists of 2.16 acres. The property is owned by John and Inez McCoy. The recommendation is to rezone this property from R6 and R10 Residential to R5A Residential to allow for multi-family development. This zoning will allow for 13.5 units per acre and would equate to 26 or 27 units.

Mayor Clark opened the public hearing. No one spoke in the public hearing.

Action: The Board approved a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

9. New Business

a. Action on Case P10-06.

Mr. Spinks advised that the Cumberland County Planning Department and Town staff recommends approval of this case and requested that the Board approve the rezoning from R6 and R10 Residential to R5A Residential.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case P10-06, rezoning.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Cumberland County Joint Planning Department's memo is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

b. Case 10-021, Consideration of Freedom Center Development, Phase One, MI(P) site Plan; Zero Line Subdivision and Condominium Development Review.

Mr. Spinks advised that the Town has been working closely with Rocky Keim on Phase 1 of the Freedom Center. He stated that Cumberland County Planning Department and the Town's planning staff recommends approval with the recommended conditions of approval. It meets all the safety and design requirements.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Case 10-021 as designed with recommended conditions of approval.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Cumberland County Joint Planning Department's memos is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

c. Appointment to Appearance Commission.

Mrs. Webb advised the Board that the Ms. Katherine Parker submitted an application to serve on the Community Appearance Commission and requested that the Board decide whether or not to appoint her to the Commission.

Action: The Board approved a motion to appoint Ms. Parker to the Appearance Commission for a three-year term ending March 31, 2013.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

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

d. Budget Amendment #16.

Mr. Coats advised that budget amendment #16 is to budget funds for a state mandated root control program in our sewer system.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve budget amendment #16.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, budget amendment #16 and the impact statement is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

e. Resolution, Annual Audit Contract.

Mr. Coats advised that we are approaching the fifth year with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co., P.A. This will be the last year that we contract with them before we go out for bids again. The Board previously decided that we would use a firm for five years before going out for bid. The audit is required each year. He requested that the Board approve the Resolution that approves the contract and allows the Mayor and Finance Director to execute the contract.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2010) 6.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

10. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderwoman Sutherland

"I would like to thank you all for coming out to hear what we do for this great Town of Spring Lake. Also I want to thank the Police Department. They have actually been working very hard I have been seeing them patrolling Woodland West and I just want to thank them and thank the Chief, citizens are happy as well as myself to see them back on the road. And also the Fire Department. And also I would just like to throw this out there because it was asked of me by several different people if any employees came to me with any concerns would I listen to them. I have always listened to any employee if they had some concerns and it was told to me that, it was several people told me that, if any employees came to any Board Members they would have repercussions if we talk to them. I don't know how true it is but I just want to put it out there that I have always

had an open door policy. My phone number is on the web site if you need to contact me about any concerns. We have employees here who are citizens in this great Town of Spring Lake so I just want to let you know where I stand. If I ask a question or anything and I need the information, I would appreciate it if you would continue to give it to me like you have in the past. Thank you very much."

Alderman Higgins

"I have a couple of questions to ask. Have we initiated any action on the new Ordinance on Nuisances?" Chief McDuffie advised that two officers have been assigned to work on appearance. They are still working on getting prepared to enforce the Ordinance. "Very good, we get a lot of questions so in the future when you start really getting out there and enforcing it will you give us some information so when my neighbors talk to me or people in the neighborhood talk I can tell them yes we are in fact out there enforcing it." The Manager advised that we are also working on a minimum housing code as well. "My second question is did we pass or just discuss an ordinance on street vendors, outlawing them in Spring Lake." The Manager stated that you gave us direction to move forward to forbid them. "I saw someone last weekend on the corner of Spring Avenue selling couches and I couldn't recollect whether we passed it already. My third question is that this morning I was riding down Bragg Boulevard by Pizza Hut and saw a person at Pizza Hut on the sidewalk spraying for weeds. Was that Pizza Hut taking care of their own property or are we doing that on our sidewalks?" The Manager stated that it was Pizza Hut doing it. "It is a good idea, if we could get other businesses that have sidewalk fronts to maintain them, they pay for them, it would be a great idea."

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

"I am just glad to be here tonight and glad everybody showed up. It is always an enjoyable time to come in here. I hope everyone has a safe trip home. Hello workers and all that stuff, I am making it short tonight"

Mayor Clark

"We have a special guest with us this evening. He is our newest County Commissioner, Phillip Gilfus. Phillip will you stand so everybody can meet you. He is our newest public servant. "Would you like to say anything. Don't get long winded though." He thanked the Board for allowing him to come today and stated "I have been looking at your emblem and that is the reason I am here, Unity for Prosperity. As a County Commissioner I have the blessing and the challenge of representing the entire County and that is why I am here in Spring Lake to listen to what your needs are. I am not going to leave here without all of you having my contact information. I can not succeed as your County Commissioner, I could be the smartest one in the world, and I'm not, but I can't succeed without you all and the folks behind me too so I need your input." "Thank you Phillip, appreciate that."

Alderwoman Hudson

"Just glad to see everyone."

Alderman Christian

"I am glad everybody came out. I got an email from the Town Manager, he answered a question for me about the elderly and the handicapped, sometimes they are not able to empty their garbage cans or bring them to the curb and I asked if there is a policy in place and there is with a doctor's note but I would like to see a letter go out with the water bills to let people know and clarify exactly what the policy is and how they can sign up for that service through Waste Management if they are not able to bring their trash cans out to the curb that they would come by their house and pull it out for them and empty it for them. I would like to see that letter put in with the water bills. If nobody else is able to help them do it then there is that option for citizens. I had a medical problem a little more than a year ago and it was hard for me to do it but I was lucky I had brothers and sisters and neighbors to help me with it. If you have that problem you can call me and I will come do it for you. I will be glad to do it. I am glad everybody came out and I'm glad to see everybody. There was an issue about the jackets and shirts and stuff for the Town but I want everybody to know that I am willing to pay for all that myself. I always have said from the beginning I am not going to use taxpayers money to do it. I am willing to pay for it out of my own pocket. I do it right now for my Budweiser uniforms so I am glad to do it."

Mr. Uskiewicz

"I am just happy to be here."

Mr. Jackson

"Ditto."

Rhonda Webb

"Ditto."

Mayor Clark

"Me too."

II. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC

Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor