

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

May 18, 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 James O'Garra
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderman Napoleon Hogans
Alderwoman Nellie McCoy
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Larry Faison, Town Manager	Allen Coats, Finance Director
Robert Doberstein, Fire Chief	Daniel Gerald, W&WR Director
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections	Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Gregg Jarvis, Interim Police Chief	Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Mr. Faison introduced the Interim Police Chief, Gregg Jarvis, and gave an overview of what he is going to try to accomplish.

2. Invocation.

Mayor Clark gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Budget Workshop

a. Overview of Budget Message

Mr. Faison gave an overview of the Budget Message which included a summary of projected fund expenses and revenues and outlined resource challenges.

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

b. Question and Answer Session

Q: Alderwoman Sutherland: On the going green initiative, do you have any figures on that and what kind of savings have we had?

A: Mr. Faison: We are not prepared to report that today. A full report will be done in

July for a full six months of data. We are circulating comment cards to get citizen and employee input.

Q: Alderman Higgins: What do you anticipate the fund balance will be at the end of this fiscal year?

A: Allen Coats: Holding steady at 11% - 12%.

Q: Mayor Clark: Is the COPS grant on track for the three police personnel?

A: Mr. Faison: We have submitted an application but have not heard anything yet.

Q: Alderman Higgins: In the Fire Department's budget I noticed an increase in Capital Outlay of about \$300,000, is that for the Pumper? I also noticed an increase of about \$33,000 in personnel, what is that for? Will it be adequate?

A: Robert Doberstein: The \$300,000 is for the Pumper. The \$33,000 is for part-time employees. It will give two more part-timers per day and will be adequate.

Q: Alderwoman Sutherland: When is the Fire Department's busiest time of the year?

A: Robert Doberstein: It is steady right now, around 168 calls per month. Our slow times are normally January and February but this year we did not slow during that time. We are currently running approximately 7 calls per day.

Q: Alderman Hogans: When will you have an idea of how much it will cost to pay the Sheriff's Department and will you have that figure before this budget is adopted?

A: Larry Faison: My objective is to have that figure before we finalize the budget.

Requests made by Board Members:

- Alderman Hogans requested details about the turnover rate and why the people left employment.
- Alderman Hogans wants to know what the performance based initiative cost.
- Mayor Clark would like to consider a COLA for this next year, something between 1.5% and 2%.
- Alderman Higgins wants to keep the focus on Police Department, Fire Department and Fund Balance.
- Alderman Hogans requested that the health care costs for employees be examined more and requested that we think outside the box. He wants to make sure we cover all bases and do the best we can for the employees. Perhaps we could take what we would have given employees in a raise and use it to cover the costs of health care increases.
- We need to fund the volunteer committees. If these people are going to work for the Town and try to make things better, we need to fund them. Their budget was cut last year and we need to give them money to be able to do things.

c. Recommendation for Budget Public Hearing

The Board approved a motion to set June 8, 2009 for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget.

Action: The Board approved a motion to set June 8, 2009 for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget.

Motion by: Alderman Hogans

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

d. Next Workshop Meeting

The Board agreed to set the next workshop for June 1, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

5. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, CMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor