

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

September 27, 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
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resource Manager
Paul Hoover, Public Utilities Director
Tina West, HR Director

John Jackson, Town Attorney
Allen Coats, Finance Director
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

2. Invocation.

Alderwoman Hudson gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Due to time constraints, the Land Sales and Purchases item from the workshop was moved to the agenda.

Action: The Board approved a motion to add the land sales and purchases presentation from the proposed workshop agenda to the proposed meeting agenda.

Motion by: Alderwoman Hudson

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

5. Approval of Agenda.

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

6. Approval of Consent Items.

The Board approved the consent items: Minutes of the September 13, 2010 Regular Meeting.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous

7. Public Forum

Tammy Stephens, of 437 Wapiti Drive, spoke concerning retribution from the Town Manager at the last meeting during the comment session. She believes his comments were irrational and unprofessional.

Jammell Medena, 201 Laketree Boulevard, spoke concerning the negativity going on in the Town and offered support for the Town Manager. She quoted Will Durant, "Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty and dies with chaos."

8. Workshop Items

a. Presentation from Workshop, Land Sales and Purchases.

Mr. Uskiewicz briefed the Board concerning proposed land sales and land purchases. These items were previously discussed in the budget workshop. He pointed out property that he proposes to be declared surplus so that we can work toward some land swaps, sales, etc. He also mentioned that the lot across from the Police Annex is for sale. The owner has allowed the Police Department to park their vehicles there but since it is for sale we may need to consider obtaining that property.

9. Public Hearing

a. Water and Sewer Bond Authorizations Extension.

Mr. Coats gave an overview of why the bonds were issued, stating that the bonds were approved based on a study of the Town's infrastructure and its potential needs for the foreseeable future. At the August 9th meeting, the Board approved a Resolution requesting to extend the time line for the bonds. This public hearing is the next step in the process to extend the time we were originally given. The time line extension is only for three years. At a future meeting, a Resolution extending the time will be brought back before the Board.

Mr. Jackson clarified that this is merely a housekeeping function to keep the potential alive should we need bond money or to finance a project through the sale of bonds the mechanism is in place and the limit is there. This in no way causes the Board to have an affirmative obligation. We are just saving this for an additional three years.

Mayor Clark opened the public hearing. No one spoke for or against the issue. Mayor Clark closed the public hearing.

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

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

10. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Thanked Chief McDuffie for helping her find a homeless young man who reached out to her church a place to stay. Would like to get information out to the citizens about where homeless people can go.
- Still concerned about the flashing lights at school zones.
- Nixle will be good for people who use text messages and computers but we need to remember those who do not use these types of communications.
- Web site needs to be up to par.
- Thanked everyone for coming out and thanked citizens for speaking out.

Alderman Higgins

- Thanked everyone for being here tonight.

Alderman Higgins

- Thanked everyone for coming out. I appreciate what the young lady said in reference to what I've seen on the blog.
- Dealing with the flashing light, the Manager did come back with an update and informed us that it had something to do with DOT.
- Optimist club is in the process of putting about \$400 into the youth at the park.
- Everyone have a safe trip home tonight.

Alderman Higgins

- Thanked everyone for coming out.

Alderman Christian

- Thanked Ms. Janell and Ms. Tammy for speaking out, expressing their opinions and concerns.
- Thanked the Fire Department for the way they handled a traffic accident last Thursday.
- Thanked the Police Department for the way they handled traffic this past Saturday during the parade. I appreciate the teams and coaches for coming out and for all the work that they do.
- Would like to look into booking the concession stand. Holly Hills neighborhood watch wanted to book the stand for a fund raiser and found that it was booked for the rest of the season. He suggested a rotation basis to allow various groups to use the stand. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that baseball season is when Holly Hills usually likes to come work the concession stand but if they want to work it some now all they have to do is call Ken Metcalf.
- Reminded everyone that 5th Friday at the Senior Center is coming up in October and this time it will be a 60's night.
- Would like to put a message in the water bill to remind citizens that we have a bicycle helmet law and curfew time for youth.
- Announced Mr. Fitch's event on October 16th.

Michael Uskiewicz

- Happy to be here tonight.

Compliment Ken Metcalf and Chief McDuffie for the way they handled situations at the park on Saturday. Reminded parents that these functions are for the kids.

John Jackson

- Just happy to be here.

Mayor Clark

- Announced the new initiative she will put out called "Walking in the Mayor's Shoes" to let people know what she is doing for the Town.
- Complimented the street department. General Helmick the Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg made a point to search me out at a recent function to tell me how good the Town is looking as people drive through.
- Mayor's Coalition meets once each quarter and Spring Lake will host the next meeting. It will be the first Friday in November. She invited all Board Members to attend.
- Sankofa Festival begins October 2, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at Mendoza Park.

11. Closed Session, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) - Personnel.

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) – Economic Development and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel at 8:05 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

Mayor Clark called the meeting back into open session at 9:05 p.m.

Action: The Board approved a motion that in the best interest of the Town of Spring Lake that we terminate the Town Manager immediately.

Motion: Alderman Christian

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: 4-1	Yes	No
	Alderman Christian	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
	Alderman Higgins	
	Alderwoman Hudson	
	Alderwoman Sutherland	

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

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: 4-1	Yes	No
	Alderman Christian	Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra
	Alderman Higgins	
	Alderwoman Hudson	

Aldерwoman Sutherland

12. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Motion: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Aldерwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous



Rhonda D. Webb

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor