

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

February 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
Tom Spinks, Planning Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

John Jackson, Town Attorney
Byron Blumenfeld, Interim W&WR Director
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Jeffrey Stafford, Police Captain

2. Invocation.

Alderwoman Hudson gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Boy Scout Troup 772 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 and Consent Items.

The Board approved the agenda and approved the consent items: Minutes of the January 25, 2010 regular meeting, Black History Month Proclamation, Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Recognition Day Proclamation.

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

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Vote: Unanimous

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

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Hudson

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda, Black History Month Proclamation and Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Recognition Day Proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment one, two and three.)

6. Public Forum

Jackie Jackson spoke on being positive. She thanked the Board for the work that they do. She also thanked the Manager for using Work Force to cover the front desk because not only does it save the Town money, it gives the Work Force employee job training and the experience they need to move up.

Tammy Stephens spoke concerning the blog. She stated that she works for the Fayetteville Observer and not the Town and that it is all volunteer work. What she does is for the citizens and she does talk about positive things as well as the issues on the blog. She stated that she does the best that she can do. She has rules that are supposed to be followed but everyone does not always do that and she can not monitor the blog 24/7.

Mr. Gary McKenzie signed up but declined to speak.

7. Presentation

a. FAMPO Multi-Modal Plan.

Mr. Mark Nottingham from the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) stated that they contracted with Kimley-Horn and Associates to develop this plan. They did this to develop recommendations to help mitigate the negative effects of TIP project U-4444. He stated that their committees have approved this plan and hopes that the Board will also approve the plan. Once the Board approves the plan they will send the recommendations to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to get them incorporated into the project.

Mr. Todd Delk from Kimley-Horn and Associates presented the transportation plan for Spring Lake. FAMPO helped fund this study and plan and he thanked them for doing that. He also thanked Mayor Clark, Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra, Alderman Higgins, Jonn and Becky from the Chamber, Lexi, Carl Manning, Tom Spinks and Allen Coats. The plan was started in May 2009. Several public input meetings were held. They learned that the citizens of Spring Lake and also the people who work in Spring Lake were not as concerned with traffic signals and safety as much as they were concerned with the lack of sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic congestion, bike lanes and greenways. They looked at ways to improve traffic flow by giving people more options so they would not have to just go through the middle of town. They are proposing a type of "bypass", called Prosperity Parkway, around Spring Lake from Randolph Road to Pinetree Lane and over to Hwy 210 and a new access control point for Fort Bragg at Odell Road. This means widening Odell Road. This would be considered Phase I. Additionally they are proposing an extension of McCormick Road to Prosperity Parkway and Chapel Hill Road (Phase II) and finally

extend McCormick Road from Chapel Hill Road north to McCormick Bridge Road with connector streets (Phase III.) This will divert 2/3 of the traffic that would have to travel through Spring Lake. Their plan also included academic exercises or focus area studies for Downtown and the NC 210 corridor. Their plan will provide a more connected roadway system in town so that people wanting to do business in Spring Lake can get around better without using Prosperity Parkway. He also explained the five implementation stages: stage 1, adopt the transportation plan; stage 2, collaborate with NCDOT; stage 3, lobby for infrastructure and phase I improvements; stage 4, lobby for infrastructure and phase II improvements; stage 5, implement long term improvements.

Funding was questioned but no concrete funding options have been identified.

Concerns expressed were about moving traffic congestion from one area to another, safety for children walking to and from school, and the ease of people getting out of their neighborhoods. Page 314 of the FAMPO Multi-Modal Congestion Management Plan book addresses the safety for school children problem by using a HAWK pedestrian traffic control device

Access to businesses from Bragg Boulevard will still be blocked; however, DOT is open to other ideas.

Mr. Uskiewicz advised the Board that he will be asking them to approve this plan at the Budget Retreat Special Meeting.

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

8. New Business

a. Resolution, Authorizing Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant Application.

Mr. Uskiewicz presented an application for a grant from Clean Water Management Trust Fund to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The grant had to be submitted on February 1, 2010. This is a house keeping item.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2010) 3.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, the grant application and Resolution (2010) 3 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

b. Ordinance, Public Nuisance and Appearance.

Mr. Uskiewicz presented the proposed Public Nuisance and Appearance Ordinance and requested that the Board approve it. Police Officers will be utilized to enforce this Ordinance.

Mayor Clark advised that this is a good Ordinance and we will have to stand strong when

complaints come in. Alderman Higgins also agreed and stated that as a Board we need to back the Ordinance and put money into enforcement.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2010) 2.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Ordinance (2010) 2 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment six.)

c. Resolution, Accepting Unpaid Taxes and Directing Tax Collector to Advertise Tax Liens.

Mrs. Webb advised the Board that the County had sent a list of delinquent taxes for real property in Spring Lake and has requested that the Board accept the report of unpaid taxes and charge the Tax Collector to advertise the tax liens by approving Resolution (2010) 2.

Action: The Board approved a motion to adopt Resolution (2010) 2.

Motion by: Alderman Higgins

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, Cumberland County memo and Resolution (2010) 2 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

d. Award of Bid for Spring Lake Transit System.

Mr. Hoover presented the bids that were received for the Spring Lake Transit System. He advised that nine firms requested proposal packets and out of those three firms submitted proposals. Majestic Luxury Tours, Inc. was the low bidder at \$50.00 per hour. The total savings by contracting with this company is approximately \$75,000 for FY 2010-2011. He requested that the Board approve Resolution (2010) 4. The proposed contract will be presented to the Board at their Special Meeting next week.

Action: The Board approved a motion to award the bid to Majestic Luxury Tours, Inc. and approve Resolution (2010) 4 as suggested by the Town Attorney.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Christian

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo, bid tab sheet and Resolution (2010) 4 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

11. Board and Staff Comments:

Alderman Christian

- Thanked Mrs. Stephens and Ms. Jackson for speaking out. I appreciate their comments. A lot of people have been wanting me to comment. I am an independent person and the type of person who will speak from the heart. There are two or three sides to every story. It would be nice to put all this behind us. A lot of things have been said and I wish they hadn't been said. I am sorry that Mrs. Stephens had to go through what she went through. There are a lot of issues that have to do with employees that are handled with privacy because there are personnel laws that have to be followed and we can not comment on them in public. I do care what the citizens have to say and they are welcome to call me. We do appreciate the people who do blog and I want people to not be afraid to come to the meetings and speak out. We talk about transparency in Government and we are a lot more transparent than people realize. The meetings are available in audio form if you want to know word for word what was said in the meetings and we are working on televising our meetings. I encourage people to feel free to come speak. My number is 497-7886 or you can call Town Hall and they will get in touch with me. I do appreciate what people say and I do take it seriously. I have a lot of love and respect for the Town of Spring Lake and I have a lot of love and respect for the people who work here. They work a lot harder than people realize and they have your best interest at heart.
- I appreciate everybody coming out.
- Thanked the Fire Department for responding so quickly to a fire on his street.
- Welcomed Captain Stafford to the Police Department.

Alderwoman Sutherland

- Thanked everyone for coming out. If you have anything that you need to say, please come to the Board. If I can take care of a situation, that is what I want to do.
- I want to thank Mrs. Stephens. I am glad to see Mr. Christian speaking out that our job is not always easy when it comes to different decisions that we have to make for this great Town of Spring Lake and when you are sitting on this side of the seat you realize that. There was a lot of blogging and negativity during the police department issue.
- I received an email asking if I, as a Board Member, condone an employee sending out an email of that magnitude and of course I do not. It is not acceptable and I did speak with the Town Manager before the meeting and was told that it had been handled and would be taken care of and this would not happen again. I do not condone this and I do not think it was very unprofessional and I did mention it to Mayor Clark. I will not sit here and say that I felt like it was right because I felt like it was totally wrong. I stated a while back that everybody has a right to do what they want to do. I don't blog and I don't get involved with blogging and that is just speaking from me. Mrs. Stephens thank you for what you do for the Town of Spring Lake for both positive and negative. I apologize that you had to go through what you went through as well as the employee who said her feelings were hurt and I apologize for our employee if her feelings were hurt but this is not the way to take care of the situation.

Alderman Higgins

- Glad to be here tonight.
- I sort of agree with Mr. Christian. I am pretty independent too and I will listen to anyone. We may not always agree but what I tell you and what I do is heart felt. I have always said there are three sides to every story: your side, my side and the real side. So a lot of times you have to really weigh some of these things, you can act right off, but if you do you will be wrong. We do listen and take what you say to heart. We are very transparent and have always given citizens the opportunity to speak whether it's good or bad. There has been some real historic things done here tonight, some really good things. I just want to represent the Town of Spring Lake and you as I should.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

- FAMPO did a wonderful job on the book. I really appreciate what you did.
- Thanked everyone for coming out this evening. Thanked the workers of the great Town of Spring Lake for being here.
- Jackie, I can't say you're my girl cause I might get caught up in this mess.
- We did a wonderful thing tonight for the citizens with the bus service.

Aldерwoman Hudson

- Thank you to everyone for coming out.
- Thanks to the great Town of Spring Lake, the leaders and the people who work behind the scenes to accomplish all the good things that are going on.
- Everyone makes mistakes. I think it is imperative to realize that, learn from it and move forward. I think at this point in time it is imperative that we stay focused and move forward.

Mr. Uskiewicz

- Handed out sheet with retreat items that need to be discussed.
- I am extremely aggressive when it comes to getting things done. It is a new day. We are not doing things the way we used to and if that is causing some consternation in the community I apologize but whenever you are creating a new momentum it will create some static.
- I want to thank the employees because without them I would not be able to get the amount of work done that we are getting done. The energy, enthusiasm, and motivation that I am seeing is a renewed sense of purpose and spirit and I want to thank the employees from the bottom of my heart. We have got a long way to go, they have seen my aggressive agenda and yet they are still hanging with me and looking forward to the movement forward.
- H1N1 and seasonal Flu clinic will be held on Wednesday at the Community Center. It is free but if you have insurance they will want to file with your insurance. It is on our website and the Health Department will do all the advertising.
- Mr. Metcalf requested that I let everyone know that flooding concerns along NC 87 at Mendoza Park will be addressed in the next year's budget.
- If you want to interact with us we have a Facebook page. Our web site is very interactive and there are other ways to communicate with us. I enjoy the camaraderie and interaction I am getting with the citizens, it is very rewarding to have people just walk in and freely come

and talk with us.

Mr. Jackson

- Happy to be here tonight.

Mayor Clark

- One thing about being last, everything has been said. I will do like John and Richard and say I am glad to be here, glad you came here to share with us as we discuss Town business and keep coming cause we do not like to be here by ourselves.

10. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderman Higgins

Vote: Unanimous



ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor

Rhonda D. Webb

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk