

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

June 22, 2015

MINUTES

7 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Municipal Complex with Mayor Chris V. Rey presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra  
Alderman James Christian  
Alderwoman Densie Lucas  
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

**Others Present:**

Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resources Manger  
Rosa Henegan, Human Resource Director  
Butch Watson, Interim Finance Director  
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief  
Rhonda D. Webb, Town Clerk

JC Combs, Asst. Recreation Director  
Tony Buzzard, Town Attorney  
Jason Williams Asst. Fire Chief  
Janet Smith, Office Assistant

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Mayor Rey called the meeting to order.

**2. Invocation**

Alderwoman Lucas gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Rey led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda**

The Board added budget amendment 2015.17 as item 10f to the agenda.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to add budget amendment 2015.17 to the agenda as item 10f

**Motion by:** Aldermen Christian

**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous

**5. Approval of Agenda**

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

**Motion by:** Aldermen Christian

**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous

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

## 6. Approval of Consent Items

- a. Minutes of the June 8, 2015 Special Meeting
- b. Minutes of the June 8, 2015 Regular Meeting
- c. Minutes of the June 9, 2015 Special Meeting

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items for June 8 special meeting, as well as June 8 regular meeting and June 9 special meeting

**Motion by:** Alderwomen Sutherland

**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous

## 7. Public Forum

Mrs. Rita Perry resides at 1013 Caron Circle Spring Lake NC. She says she wants to read a letter she read on January 15 at the Parks and Recreation Board meeting stating her reasons why we should oppose YMCA proposal. The next thing she spoke to the board about was to ask please provide the reason of delay hiring of the recreation center and finance department directors. She says that by filling these position now it will alleviate the task of having the new town manager taking on this responsibility of hiring new people as soon as they take office. Her last thing she wants to address is employees having to work on holidays without holiday pay. According to our policy section 2 the Town recognizes that employees are required to work on holidays to provide essential services and this hardship should be compensated. She says it says employees who work on a holiday should receive compensatory time off or may be paid overtime as determined by town manager. Actual hours worked on a holiday should be recorded and included with hours from workweek. She says that she understands now employees are being told to take time off from workweek to work these holidays. Mrs. Perry says the only person that is supposed to determine this is town manager and not the department head. She says if this is happening then the town is not following their own policy and is in violation NC General Statute 95-25 of NC Department of Labor Hour and Wage Division.

(A copy of Ms. Perry's letter is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

The next person to speak is Mrs. Patricia Ann Archie who says she "has come back again to address the issue to reference to and virility about the facts about the Town of Spring Lake flag". She says that she and Mayor Rey had a nice diligent meeting this afternoon. She says that some of the information Mayor Rey did not know is because he says he was not born during that time. She says she apologize to him on her behalf because this is not his issue this is a town issue because it has a lot to do with the history about the town of Spring Lake flag that people do not know. She says she does not think at their repass that when it came to having our meeting that a lot of information and as many times as she has come back to spring lake she have had to go through Mayor after Mayor and Chamber after Chamber in order to fix the history of it. She says she does not think it was fair to him to have all of this to be dumped in his lap. She says it's all about time and as many times she has heard that it is a costly issue to fix it and she think too many years has passed and she continue to keep hearing it this issue get pushed back year after year. She says again this is not Mayor Rey's issue this is a Town issue and it has a lot to do with what has happened and this town as a whole. She says she hold no hard feelings at Mayor Rey and his administration but she do hold the town and board members who have been here for some time for not acknowledging the information that she has given them in 2008. She says they sent her a proclamation about the town of spring lake and the proclamation is nowhere in the Town to be found. Ms. Archie says the information about the flag had not been entered into the computers until she came here in 2008. A lot of town members and citizens do not get the information as to the reason why unity for prosperity was written and it was written by her. She says now she has to share credit with

two other students. She says while speaking with Mayor Rey she told him she did not know where they found the ethnics background of the three that we stand for this day. She says she has been giving these presentations to prior boards in the past and she had a letter from Mayor Hobbs stating that she was the designer for Spring Lake Flag. She says we go back and forth about who is right and who is wrong. She says her only question to this board and town is what would make so hard for someone from her ethnic background to be a designer of the Spring Lake flag. She says she was told today by Mr. Rey that a gentleman named Mr. Crawford a gentlemen she says she has never seen before depicted and put all of our ideas into one. Mrs. Archie said if that is so when you bring up the information about Town of Spring Lake Flag then why nobody knows the reason why she wrote unity for prosperity. She says nobody knows why there is an eagle on flag or circle on flag and anything else. She says why the board uses her unity for prosperity to say that town was made up of African American, Caucasian, and Roanoke people it was part of it but not all. She says that is unjust to children as well as citizens of town not to know the debility of the reason why she wrote the moto or designed the flag the way it is. She says we was supposed to have a thirty year anniversary of flag and the Town do not tell the people that supposedly put the moto and flag together. She says the town did not ask the citizens to participate in this event. Everything this Town is about stand on forum of unity and prosperity and that is what that flag stands for.

She says how this Town dare use the flag that she designed under the direction of her old principal Mr. Blackwell against herself and her family. She says this is totally wrong. She says all she ever hear every time she comes back here is we are going to fix it, we are going to see into it and we are going to continue to see what we could do. She says that she get a proclamation sent to her home that she end up sending back because she says she told Mayor Rey if she had accepted it she would be agreeing with what you put in the computer and she does not agree with it. Her only things is going forward she says she will continue to fight request the board fix the history of town of spring lake flag. Unless someone sit and tell her or she see a statement from Juanita Yarnell and Jay Bird stating they had something to do with the flag and what was their part. She says until she see in writing something to substantiate for unity for prosperity that she know she wrote and what we do not have in our paperwork stating what unity for prosperity says. She says she is going to continue to be at this board meeting at least one a month or once a week because she is going to be transferred back here to North Carolina. This town means too much to her and that flag means too much to me. She says Flag Day comes and the town does not even represent the flag. The Town of Spring Lake Flag just sits there. She says the Flag does not fly like it supposed to because the history does not stand behind. She says the Town does not stand behind it and if the Town does stand behind the Flag then they will represent flag with will and not knowing what it stands for. She says hopefully one day we will have the truth about the Flag of Spring Lake and she holds "no aberration toward Mayor Rey". She says all of the other Mayors in past had the chance to fix it and they refused. She says is this because of the person you are looking at and is this not who you want to represent your town. She says this is all she has to say.

Mayor Rey thanked her for her information on this matter. He says he know Mr. Crawford is here and he wants to make sure that Mrs. Archie and Mr. Crawford get an opportunity to talk. Mayor Rey asked Mr. Crawford to speak and discuss the role he played in this event and hopefully some point in future he and Mrs. Archie can discuss this matter further. He says he wants to make sure for the record what part he played with three students in all of this.

Mr. Crawford says being very respectful of Mrs. Archie's comments that he was employed with the Town of Spring Lake from 1977-1984 and in conjunction with the flag he was requested to come up with flag and logo and seal because since 1951 the Town never had any representation of a flag. He says what he did initially was talk to staff and the town manager and this was about 30 something years ago. He says Evelyn Parker was former mayor and she was a chamber president and she got up with the Mayor and Manager saying it would be a good idea to have students involved. He told them that would be a great idea. So what he thinks happen was elementary, middle and high school was asked to do a contest. He says while they were doing that I was involved in doing the town seal. He says we did not have computers back then and the town seal was made up of pin stripes from cars, the eagle was made up of applique and flag was hand drawn by him and wording is press on letters and then flag itself and again he wants the three students to be

acknowledged in this but the actual photograph of the flag where the students are standing behind is something he made up as a representative of those three students and the Town. He says that this is his design and it is made out of illustration board, out of different colors of illustration board the red white and blue and so forth. He says the seal itself is his design and he says he cannot remember if they gave that part to students to have them work on or if it came later. The seal was done pretty much in conjunction before the flag was. He says he is very respectful of what Mrs. Archie is saying the unity for prosperity the whole reason that is on there is representation of Town, the background of town, and all of nationalities but in reality it was representing Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, and Town of Spring Lake. This was done to bring unity of those three fashions. He says at that time Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force base along with Spring Lake were real close and they had good relations. He says he thought it was very important to bring them in and that is the reason they are on the seal. Mayor Rey says he would like for it to be more dialogue between him and Mrs. Archie. He says we need to show more reverence on current flag as how it relates to our history of it. He says he wants to make sure everyone receives the proper credit for their work. Mayor Rey says that we need to make sure it is on our website properly and that it is being displayed correctly in the Town as well. He says it is still his understanding that the three students from 1978 continue to get credit for the design of this flag. He says he appreciates Mr. Crawford's explanation to all of this and he wanted to put this into the record.

## **8. Public Hearing**

### **a. Economic Development Incentive Grant Pursuant to G.S. 158-7.1 and G.S. 160A – 456**

Mayor Rey opened the public hearing. There was not anyone to speak for or against the development incentive grant.

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

**Motion:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Second by:** Alderman Christian

**Vote:** Unanimous

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

## **9. Presentations**

### **a. Presentation, YMCA Proposal – Mr. Derrickson and Ms. Combs**

Mr. Derrickson says he is the Chairmen of the Recreation Advisory Board. He says last Monday at his regular schedule board meeting took up the issue between the YMCA and the Town parks and recreation department. He says there was no support in the advisory board for this partnership. He says they listen to citizens input from Mrs. Perry and they had significant discussion on this issue and decided to take a vote. The vote was unanimous to reject this partnership with YMCA. Alderman Christian say if the YMCA wants to come back and revisit with different proposal he wants the board to be willing to hear it. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra says if the YMCA wants to buy their way back in them he would be willing to hear from them. Mayor Rey says his question to Park and Recreation and Ms. Combs what are we going to do differently to generate revenue? Ms. Combs says the park and recreation will never be a service that generates revenue and there are certainly new programs we can do. She says we do what Alderman Christian said and meet with YMCA and what they would do is pay us to come in our facilities and do the different programs they offer. She says there will never be enough revenue to generate any major funds for town. Mayor Rey says he definitely do not want that or anyone to think that this could generate enough revenue to sustain the Town. He says the mindset is there has to be a level of revenue that needs to take place. Ms. Combs says that they do have revenue being generated from Recreation Center. She says currently we are over \$40,000 in revenue

for current fiscal year we are in. Alderman Christian asked if we could get a summer program for the students who are out of school. Ms. Combs says that they currently have a summer camp program and it is being held by boys and girls club that they can certainly revisit and they have a yearly contract as far as space availability there is not enough space to house both. Alderman Christian asked if we could develop a summer program on our own. Ms. Combs said we could but the boys and girl club takes up the space in summer time. The revenue they get goes to them. She says what we do is every quarter we get a payout. She says they generate \$1000 to \$4000 a quarter and that is for overhead cost while using the facility. She said in past they did have a summer program that generated some big revenue but the board voted to have the boys and girls club come in instead. Alderman Christian said that when he voted for the boys and girls club he thought it was not going to be the only Spring Lake program. He says he thought this would allow us to run our own program separately. He says he would have expected the director to make sure that continued to happen and not let boys and girls club replace what we had here at the Town. Alderman Christian says he would like to see a summer program being held by spring lake recreation center for kids in this town. Alderwoman Sutherland says she asked the gentlemen who was here talking about bringing in YMCA about seniors food and he said that would be cut out as well because he has nothing to do with that. She said to Ms. Combs that since we have generated over \$40,000 this fiscal year how come it seems to have been a cut in the activities offered to seniors. She said that she was told when they had the birthday the food was cut out and now during the holiday you bring things for gifts. She says in future we need to not cut back on services for seniors. She said the senior are the ones who have paved the way for us and they deserve top notch care in return.

**Action:** The board approved a motion to reject the proposal from YMCA.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the letter of recommendation from the recreation advisory board chairman and Ms. Perry's letter is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment four.)

**b. Presentation, Economic Development Quarterly Report – Mr. Hunt**

Mr. Hunt says he would like to present to the board the economic development fourth quarter report. He says just recently last year they was able to conduct the negotiated sale of remaining Spring Lake business and industrial park, including the exit Grant Murray contract and early payment for a total of \$300,000 in payment. The initial proceed in amount of \$70,000 went to employees in form of bonuses last December. Proceeds form sales also allowed Town to purchase two new police vehicles and state of art body cameras which cost \$70,000.00. They also were able to use proceeds to pay off debt services early. The last thing this sale allowed the town to take the remaining amount and place it in fund balance. He says they brought in USDA State Director, Randy Gore to talk to Board about qualifying for certain USDA Programs. The programs they presented to us were direct loan grant and they said it could be used to provide affordable funding to develop essential communities facilities in rural areas. It could also provide public bodies community based non- profit corporations and federally funded recognized tribes. The funds can be used to improve or build town halls, courthouses, fire departments, police station and so on. The business and industry business is different and our Town does not fit into that program. You would have to be in rural area outside city or town with a population of less than 50,000. These funds could be used to purchase equipment and purchase and develop land, easements, right of ways building and facilities. He the next step he wants to do is continue working with developers around our area to see if they want to use gap and financing tool to build amphitheater and restaurants and etc.....He says we can get up \$700,000.00 in

gap financing to get these projects done for the Town. He says they have met with Dales Snipes Town Manager of Dunn to discuss financing strategies to further support revitalization efforts on Main Street in Spring Lake that includes business improvement district and additional funding through Hotel occupancy tax. He says he has continued to meet with different leaders such as Deputy City Manager Rochelle Small Toney in Fayetteville and NC-DOT Director, Greg Burns. He says the Town has funded the design and survey plans that will potentially lead to increased funding for street scape improvements. Mr. Hunt says the project is ongoing. He says there are few businesses on Main Street that are interested in this facade improvement program. He says two years ago they received a grant and from county of \$70,000 and \$32,000 went to fund the main street master plan of improvement program. We have four new business interested in that program Johnny Barber shop, Inner Beauty Hair and Spa, Asian Grocery market, and Hugh Mackey at Regency Job Training on Main Street and have possible demolition of 222 on North Main. He says we have new businesses that are ready to come in on Main Street. We have new Korean Restaurant and there are plans being drawn to bring in Country Fish Fry restaurant. He says going forward regardless of how this board is deciding to fund economic development, we will see a new overpass, berm, traffic circle and new sidewalks and all of this scheduled to be completed by fall 2015. He says his suggestion is to continue the development of Main Street.

Mayor Pro Tem O' Garra asks Jeff about USDA loan is much cheaper loan. He ask can you buy police cars with that and use it to make improvements to police annex such as completing elevator project in police annex. Mr. Hunt says you can use the funds to repair roofing that is needed and possibly build new fire department.

Alderwoman Sutherland says all of this is can happen only if we are approved for this grant. He says it still has to be approved. She asks when are grocery store and theater and coming to the area. He says there was some dialogue in past about this and still working on bringing these things in. Alderman Christian asks which grocery store was taking over in the old IGA location. Mr. Hunt says it is called compare food it is the same one on bonanza drive. The board asked when they will be coming. Mr. Hunt says very close to start renovation on that space. Mayor Rey said he spoke to Ray Barnett and said they were going to be making the announcement in couple weeks about compare foods store. Mayor Rey says the 2015 grant has that process been done yet and Mr. Hunt says we have not applied but we still have a window of opportunity to apply and he says Amy Canon over in Cumberland County says we should be able to get this grant since we were denied the grant with them last year. Mr. Hunt tells the board the deadline for that grant is September 15. Mayor Rey said it was a lot of great information and that is what they like to see happening.

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

**c. Reading of Petition from Holly Hills Resident – James Christian**

Alderman Christian said he attended a community watch meeting for Holly Hills Community this past Thursday and Mrs. Rogers presented a petition to him and asked him to read it into record. He says it works out perfectly since we are going to be getting a compare foods store here soon. He says on June 18, 2015 we the people of Holly Hills and surrounding areas of Spring Lake are inquiring of the need to have a local grocery store in our area. There are many residents without transportation and must walk long distances to and from Walmart on Hwy 210. This is an inconvenience to many. She says we are calling upon your help and he says she signed this letter Mrs. Eller Rogers the coordinator for the Holly Hills petition. He says he just want to read that into public record per her request and pass it along to Mrs. Webb to place in public records. Mayor Rey says you can go back and tell her we are one step closer to getting grocery store in Spring Lake.

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

**10. New Business**

**a. Resolution (2015) 31, Authorizing Economic Development Incentive Grant – Mr. Buzzard.**

Mr. Buzzard says this is resolution the board requested to be put together regarding the Marriott and requested the board approve it.

**Action:** The board approved a motion to approve Resolution (2015) 31.

**Motion:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2015) 31 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment seven.)

**b. Resolution (2015) 32, Approving Annual Audit Contract – Mr. Watson**

Mr. Watson says this is a standard resolution that comes along annually for the approval of the audit contract. This is for town services from the same firm Thompson Price Scott Adams. They have been doing this for the Town for approximately three years and they have done it each time at same price. He said Mr. Thompson would have been here tonight but he had oral surgery.

**Action:** The board approved a motion to deny Resolution (2015) 32.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2015) 32 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment eight.)

**c. Resolution (2015) 33, Supporting NCDOT Median PROJECT ON Bragg Blvd – Mayor Rey**

Mayor Rey read the resolution and requested the board approve it.

**Action:** Board approved Resolution (2015) 33.

**Motion:** Alderman Christian

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Resolution (2015) 33 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment nine.)

**d. Ordinance (2015) 6, Budget FYE 2016 – Mr. Watson**

Mr. Watson he says he has agenda item for approval of the 2015-2016 budget based on recommended changes from last week's budget workshop. He says he will be glad to answer any question. Alderwoman Sutherland says on page 26 of the budget speaking about recreation/senior enrichment. She said that the senior is still included with recreation and last week the board requested that this be separate. She says we do have a director for seniors and that way they are able to utilize and spend their own funds for them. She says she spoke with Mr. Watson who said we can go ahead and approve the budget and do a budget amendment to move it. She says she would like to

see it done before we approve this budget so the seniors will be able utilize their own money. She says the senior center director can give us her budget as well. Mayor Rey says by law we have to approve our budget before July 1. He says we would have to have a special meeting before July 1. He asks we consider to do budget amendment and clarified that the consensus of the board is to have the senior center have their own department that they manage and that they manage their own money instead of having their money go through the recreation department. The board says that they all agree this is alright with them. Mayor Rey requested Mr. Watson bring back an amendment to the next meeting. Mayor Rey wants to consider a title change for the finance department deputy finance director and he wants it to be reclassified as accounting supervisor. Mr. Watson said it was listed as assistant director of finance. Mayor Rey says he want to get a consensus on changing the name back to accounting supervisor for finance department. The board agrees and gives consensus to go forth with that. Alderwoman Sutherland says that the money has been allocated for this position. She says if we could have three account technicians when the finance director is not available or not there.

**Action:** The board approved a motion to approve Ordinance (2015) 6

**Motion:** Alderman Christian

**Second:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous

**e. Contract and Guarantee Agreement between Town of Spring Lake and James O'Garra for July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival – Mr. Buzzard.**

Mr. Buzzard says he has a guarantee agreement the board asked him to draft in consideration in regards to Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra's offer to guarantee certain amounts (loss) to not be incurred by the Town of Spring Lake. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra was excused from this discussion and vote.

**Action:** A motion to approve the agreement died for a lack of a second

**Motion:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Second by:** None

**Vote:** dies due to lack of second vote

**II. Adjournment**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm

**Motion:** Alderman Christian

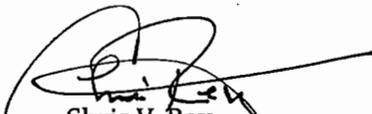
**Second by:** Alderwoman Lucas

**Vote:** Unanimous



  
Janet L. Smith,  
Office Assistant

ATTEST:

  
Chris V. Rey  
Mayor