

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

August 23, 2018

MINUTES

4 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 Larry Dobbins presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra
Alderman Christian
Alderwoman Soña Cooper
Alderwoman Jackie Jackson - Absent
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present:

Daniel Gerald, Town Manager
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

Ellis Hankins, Town Attorney

2. Invocation

Alderwoman Sutherland gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Craig Hodges led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Mayor Dobbins added Introduction of Mr. Tony McNeil to the agenda as Item 3a.

Action: The Board approved a motion to add Mr. McNeil to the agenda.

Motion by: Alderwoman Jackson

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

Mayor Dobbins stated that Mr. McNeil is going to hit the ground running. After being introduced, Mr. McNeil stated he is happy to be here and stated that today is his official first day. He stated that he is the previous Economic Development Director for Dillion County. He brought approximately \$5M worth of investments and about 25 new jobs.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that there is a conference going on downtown in approximately one week and Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that he would like for Mr. McNeil to attend the conference. Mr. Gerald stated that we will discuss that on Monday night.

Alderwoman Cooper stated she wanted to welcome Mr. McNeil and that she is excited for what he will be bringing to Spring Lake. She stated she already knows a little bit about him and she is really excited. Mr. McNeil stated he see a lot of similarities to the Town where he is from. He stated he is from a small with not a lot of resources and he is very excited and ready to get to work.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda.

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

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

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

4. New Business

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of Contract for Town Attorney

Mr. Ellis Hankins and Mr. Kevin Hornik both attended the meeting. Mr. Hankins stated that he hopes the Board will approve the contract to retain the firm as General Counsel and him as the Town Attorney. He stated the way this always works is that the attorney always represents the Town entity but the client is the Board (the Mayor and Board of Aldermen). He stated that they will work with and assist the Town's professional staff to help them get things done as the Board directs. Their job is to provide sound, practical, legal advice and help the Board get things done as the Board sees fit but as the law allows. He stated he is happy to answer any questions the Board may have. He stated that he sent a two-page Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the proposal and four (4) possible compensation plans. He reviewed the four (4) proposals and stated that they recommend proposal two (2) because it has been their experience with working with other towns that proposal two (2) works best. It has a flat monthly retainer of \$3,000 per month which includes attendance at both regular meetings each month and includes ten (10) hours of legal work outside of that. He stated that he believes it is very likely that they will provide the (10) hours or more of legal work each month, depending on what is going on. Any hours spent beyond that will be billed at their hourly rate.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated it is a pleasure that they have expressed an interest in the great Town of Spring Lake. She also stated it was a pleasure sitting in his classes and knows that he is well qualified for the position. She stated that she looks forward to working with him.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra echoed Alderwoman Sutherland's sentiment. Mr. Hankins stated that he joined the Brough Law Firm because of the people and what they choose to do and that is representing local governments. He stated that Mr. Mike Brough was his local government and land use law professor. He stated the Board will be naming him as the town attorney but will be retaining the entire firm.

Mr. Hankins stated that he wants the Board to always let him and the Law Firm know what the Board's preferences are with respect to the way they do this work and the way they represent the Board. He stated that they will do their work in a professional way but want to make sure that they know what the preference is. He also stated that they are always accessible to them.

Action: The Board approved a motion to approve from the Memorandum of Understanding proposal option 2 for the Town to pay a flat monthly retainer of \$3,000 per month, which includes attendance at both regular monthly Board of Aldermen meetings and ten (10) hours of legal work outside of attending the monthly Board meetings as well as the contract for town attorney.

Motion by: Alderwoman Sutherland

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous

(A copy of the MOU and compensation sheet is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

b. Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege

Action: The Board approved a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney-Client Privilege.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board approved a motion to come back into Open Session.

Motion by: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

Vote: Unanimous


5. Adjournment.

Action: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.


Motion: Alderwoman Cooper

Second by: Alderwoman Jackson

Vote: Unanimous


Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:


Larry G. Dobbins
Mayor