

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

October 14, 2019

**MINUTES**

7 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 O'Garra  
Alderman James Christian  
Alderwoman Soña Cooper  
Alderwoman Jackie Jackson  
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

**Others Present:**

Ellis Hankins, Town Attorney  
Tim Garner, Water Resources Director  
Claiburn Watson, Finance Director  
Melissa Pereira, Deputy Town Clerk  
Bill Zell, Interim Town Manager  
Jay Graves, Recreation Director  
Jason Williams, Fire Chief  
Rhonda D. Webb, Town Clerk/HR Officer

**2. Invocation**

Alderman Christian gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Dobbins led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda**

The Board added an update on the Inspections Department as Item 8c and an update on the Ground Breaking for the New Fire Station and item 8d. The Board also moved Item 9a to Item 6b.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

The Board approved the agenda as amended.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the agenda with the additions and changes.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**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.)

**6. Approval of Consent Items**

The Board approved the consent items:

- a. Minutes of the September 23, 2019 Regular Meeting

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve the consent items: Minutes of September 23, 2019 Regular Meeting.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderman Christian

**Vote:** Unanimous

**b. a. Oath of Office, Deputy Town Clerk**

Mayor Dobbins administered the Oath of Office to Melissa Pereira, the Deputy Town Clerk.

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

**7. Public Forum**

Ms. Betty Sanford, 104 Wapiti Drive, stated she has been praying for each one of the Board Members. She stated she would love for the Town to have a swimming pool. She wants to have a movie theatre, or skating rink, family sit-down restaurants or some things like this. She asked about the Town changing the curfew for children from 11 o'clock to 7 p.m.

Mr. Fitch, 755 Goodyear Drive, thanked everyone who came to his boxing event this past weekend. He plans to take kids from the community to the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. They must see Mr. Graves to sign up. The first 80 children who sign up will get to go for free.

Ms. Webb read a statement from Mary Thomas explaining what the Spring Lake Board of Adjustment does and made a plea for people interested to step up and serve on this committee. They do not have enough members to meet and hear a case for the past two months.

Dee Taylor, Cumberland County Community Development, updated the Board about the public meeting to be held on October 17 at 6 p.m. to provide more information about programs for low to moderate income families. They include Home Repair Assistance, Homebuyer Assistance, Assistance for Homeless Families and Individuals, Public Facility/Infrastructure Improvement, Small Business/Economic Development Assistance, and other housing and non-housing community development activities. They are in the process of preparing their annual action plan. The five-year plan is a more comprehensive plan and that is what includes the citizens input. They will have a survey online if people are not able to attend the meeting.

**8. Presentations**

**a. Low Income Energy Assistance Program**

Ms. Gale Bullard from Cumberland County Social Services stated the Crisis Intervention Program is designed to help individuals with their heating and cooling. The program starts in July. Payments go directly to the vendor and not the customer. She also stated the low-income energy assistance program will pay one time for an individual's heating and/or cooling bill. They will be taking the program to various locations in the County. People can still apply at the Department of Social Services. On December 16, 2019 they will be in Spring Lake at the Senior Center for elderly and disabled. The program will open up for others in January and they will be at the Spring Lake Family Resource Center on January 9, 2020 and will take applications as long as funds are available. They are hoping this will make it easier for people to apply. They will be providing posters in all the churches and at the Town Hall.

**b. Grant Writing**

Mr. Bengie Hair stated that he and Alderman Cooper talked a couple of months ago and she shared some Town issues with him and he told her that he may be able to help. He explained the grant application process and explained the various essential elements. He shared his successes from the past. He stated some grants ask for a match and some don't and grants are usually on a three-year cycle. He also stated the strategic planning process is the most important thing. Alderman Christian asked where we can find these grants and Mr. Bengie stated Grants.gov will show federal grants. Foundation grants can be found at Grantmaking.com or Philanthropy Journal. For cities and municipalities, The Golden Leaf Foundation of NC is a good place, State level grants can be found at the Department of Commerce and Transportation.

**c. Update on the Inspections Department**

Mr. Hankins stated that we have to make sure the proper procedures are followed and that the property owner's rights are respected and only after that, submit demolitions to the Board of Aldermen. Staff has been reviewing files before any structures are demolished. He stated we may need to recommend some corrective steps if we discover our procedures were not followed. Alderwoman Sutherland wanted to make sure we are enforcing our Ordinances. Mr. Hankins stated that will be a discussion between the Inspections Supervisor and the Interim Town Manager.

**d. Update on Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Fire Station**

Chief Williams thanked the Board for their support of the Fire Department and for allowing the Department to expand. The groundbreaking was today and they had a great turnout. Alderwoman Sutherland stated she really likes the networking that they do with the County. Mayor Dobbins stated that we will soon be seeing the benefit of the drone on our social media.

**9. New Business**

**a. Oath of Office, Deputy Town Clerk**

This item was moved to Item 6b.

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

**b. Budget Ordinance (2019) 9, Third Street Sidewalk Project**

Mr. Watson presented Project Ordinance (2019) 9 for the Third Street Sidewalk Project. He stated the amount of the grant will be \$223,578.76 is the total construction cost. The Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Organization will pay for all but 20% of the cost. Additionally, the Town is responsible for paying for the engineering cost and some contingency. The total cost for the Town is 259,920.34.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Ordinance (2019) 9 for the Third Street Sidewalk Project.

**Motion by:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderman Christian

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the Agenda Memo and Budget (Project) Ordinance (2019) 9 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment five.)

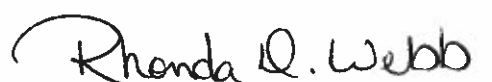
**10. Adjournment.**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

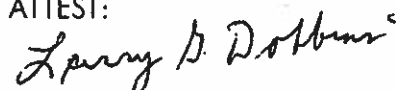
**Motion:** Alderwoman Cooper

**Second by:** Alderwoman Jackson

**Vote:** Unanimous

  
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

ATTEST:



Larry Dobbins  
Mayor