

Minutes
of the
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 8, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Buddy Gwaltney, Commissioners Marion Clark, Clyde Best, Lee Bissett, Bill Newkirk and Stanley Hawley.

Also present: John Holpe, Town Manager; Betsy Boykin, Town Clerk; Ken Murchison, Spring Hope Enterprise; Amelia Harper, Nashville Graphic; Antonio Velarde, Wilson Daily Times.

There were several citizens present.

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by the Reverend Chris Earlick in memory of September 11, 2001.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2008 and the Special Called Meeting of August 25, 2008 were approved by Commissioner Best and seconded by Commissioner Bissett.

Sylvia Williams and Tommy Toney were present to discuss the plans of the Pumpkin Festival for October 3rd and the 4th. Mr. Toney stated that the streets will be blocked off the same as last year. He stated there will be more things for the kids this year. Commissioner Best made a motion to close the streets at the Railroad and Main Street at Ash Street for the Pumpkin Festival. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob Sepe with Action Audits was present regarding Time Warner Cable. Time Warner Cable was requesting a transfer consent of its cable system. Commissioner Best made a motion to adopt the Resolution Denying Consent to the Proposed Change in Control of Ownership of the Cable Television Franchise for Spring Hope. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Forum: Ollie Shepard, a resident of Oakhill Apartments was requesting the town to contact the owner of the property behind Oakhill Apartments concerning high grass and weeds or the town cut it and bill the owner. John Holpe, Town Manager stated that he would contact the owner to see if he would cut it

Kevin Varnell with Stock Engineering presented to the board a map with a priority list for street paving. It will give the town a game plan for the future. He based the plan on two principals which was traffic volume and the current conditions. He stated the cracked streets are in good shape. They are starting to develop cracks and will need to be budgeted for repairs in the next five to ten years. The streets with potholes would need to be resurfaced in two to five years and the poor streets will be in need of repairs within the next year or two.

Charlene Booth, resident at Oakhill Apartments asked the board if Spring Hope was going to have any Habitat Homes. The board recommended her to call the Rocky Mount Habitat for Humanity to see if they could help her.

Commissioner Best made a motion to go into a Public Hearing regarding amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow chain link fences in residential areas, seconded by Commission Hawley and it passed unanimously. After some discussion, Commissioner Best made a motion to closed the Public Hearing and go back to the regular session, seconded by Commissioner Bissett and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bissett made a motion to adopt a resolution amending the text of the Zoning Ordinances, 309.2 Fences and Walls, seconded by Commissioner Hawley and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bissett made a motion to make a budget adjustment of \$ 7,000 for a used dump truck for the Public Works Department. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mark Edwards, Town Attorney stated that Chapter 7, Section 3, Paragraph (a) on Property Kept Clean of the Code of Ordinances needs some clarifications. He recommended adopting a resolution. Commissioner Hawley made a motion to adopt a resolution deleting Chapter Seven, Section 3, Paragraph (a), seconded by Commissioner Newkirk and it passed unanimously.

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that the Town Hall drainage situation area is working out well, and the parking lot was not done like the architect had drawn up so the town is holding back the last payment. He stated the town had received a letter from the North Carolina Department of Labor about an alleged health and safety hazards.

- Employees of the Police Department and Public Works are not provided vaccinations (such as hepatitis B) as required.
- Employees are concerned about exposure to second hand smoke when operating vehicles.
- Employees are not receiving appropriate training for safe operation of equipment and vehicles.
- Hazard communication training is not provided

Tim Denton, Police Chief gave an update on the police department. He stated an audit was done by the SBI and it was in compliance. The first Community Watch Program was a good meeting and had good attendance. He was going to talk to Victor Lopez about translating the program in Spanish. He met with the Senior Citizens last week and done a presentation on fraud. He held a meeting with officers concerning alcohol beverages. He stated that his schedule will change starting September 16 to Monday – Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. He stated there will be a Fire Extinguish Training on September 24th.

Commissioner Clark stated the library will be doing some repairs to the pier around the library. She was requesting \$ 1,500 to repair it. Since it was already budgeted for this project, there was no need for a motion.

Commissioner Best made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss police personnel issues, seconded by Commissioner Bissett and it passed unanimously. After some discussion, Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go out of closed session and go back to the regular session, seconded by Commissioner Bissett.

There being no further business, Commissioner Best made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bissett and passed unanimously.