

Minutes
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 17, 2011

A regular meeting of the Spring Hope Board of Commissioners was held at 7 p.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Spring Hope Municipal Building.

Members present: Mayor Buddy Gwaltney, Commissioners Lee Bissett, Clyde Best, Drew Griffin and Bill Newkirk. Commissioner Stanley Hawley was absent.

Also present were Town Manager John Holpe, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Town Attorneys Mark Edwards and Elizabeth Fairman, and Chief Tim Denton. Newspapers represented were Amanda Clark; Nashville Graphic and Ken Murchison; The Spring Hope Enterprise.

Citizens present were Allan Newcomb and Edna Denton

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order.

Reverend Elizabeth Polk from Gibson Memorial United Methodist Church gave the invocation. She also said thank you to the town and informed everyone that she would be leaving for her new church assignment.

Commissioner Best made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2011 meeting and the reconvened meeting of April 18, 2011 as written; Commissioner Newkirk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Gwaltney opened the public forum.

Allan Newcomb took the floor and began to address the board. He said he was there to talk about all the tires and junk automobiles that were behind Denton's Auto and how they directly affected his property. Mr. Newcomb handed out photos that he took of the area in which he had concerns. He said he thought there was a town ordinance against having so much stuff built up outside. Mr. Holpe said that a letter was sent out to the owners of Denton Auto on May 2 asking him to clear up some of the excess materials. He said that he had given them 14 days to reply and if no reply another letter would be written. Mr. Holpe told the board that only after the second letter could he start fining the owners. He then said after that along with a third letter he could take them to court to get permission to clean the property and put a lien on it for the cost. Mr. Newcomb said he would appreciate any help. He also said this was keeping him from renting the building that is directly behind the auto shop.

Edna Denton had also signed up to speak on public forum. She said that several churches, law enforcement officers and private citizens had contacted her in reference to the termination of Officer Hillery Thompson. Mrs. Denton also said that she had been in touch with the School of Government and the ACLU and all had agreed that a comment made saying that Officer Thompson was terminated for allegedly taking a candy bar and a drink was wrong since it was not true. She said that she wanted an apology from Commissioners Newkirk and Hawley for making this statement in the paper. She noted that Commissioner Hawley was not there and that he had missed many meeting since the comments were published. She said that she had been told by many people that Commissioner Hawley had been spreading slanderous information about many people including other Commissioners, business owners, town officers and town employees. She told the board that the people of the town were tired of the talk and wanted something done.

Mr. Holpe asked the board to consider approving a proclamation to make May 15 thru May 20, 2011 Public Works and Police Appreciation Week. Commissioner Best made a motion to approve the proclamation; Commissioner Bissett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Holpe told the board that he needs some kind of action on the business license subject so that the licenses could be mailed out. He told them that the current licenses would expire on June 30. Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the new business license fee schedule for the 2011-2012 fiscal year; Commissioner Newkirk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Mark Edwards said that no action was required on the easement for the park as the survey still had to be conducted. He also said that the easement for the Waste Water Treatment Plant had not yet been signed and was holding up the project.

Mr. Holpe gave his report and said that the debt set off program had collected \$3496.00 and \$1000.00 had been collected from the State Treasurer. He said that \$276.00 had been collected from wage garnishment for a total of \$4766.00 in collections of bad debt. Mr. Holpe also said that a coordinated effort is being made to save and cut spending as much as possible.

Chief Denton said that they were in the final stages of the investigation of the new prospective officer. He said that he and the town manager had interviewed the candidate and that everything was looking very positive to be able to bring him on board soon.

Mayor Gwaltney asked the Commissioner if they had any new items. Commissioner Newkirk said he thought the grass letters were doing their job since the town looked very good. He also said that he had received many complaints about the yard that was over by Commissioner Best's home. He said he was not sure who it was but that there

was a lot of wood and things in the area. Commissioner Best said it was Dennis Perkerson. Mr. Holpe said that he had a lot of landscaping equipment out there and even though it is zoned residential, he was grandfathered in. He said that he would check into again if the board wanted him to. Commissioner Griffin said that he has had many people make comments to him about what goes on at the park. He said that there seems to be a lot of loud music and obscenities being thrown around. He asked if the police officers could pay more attention to patrolling the area. Commissioners Best and Bissett had no new business.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to go into closed session to discuss contract negotiations regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant; Commissioner Bissett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

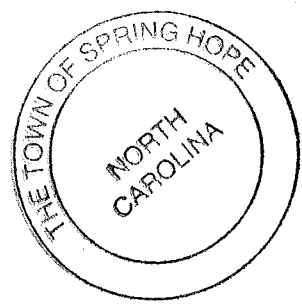
Commissioner Bissett made a motion to go back into open session; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a complaint about a public officer; Commissioner Bissett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Commissioner Bissett made a motion to go back into open session; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bissett made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Newkirk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



Submitted by:
Michele K. Collins
Michele K. Collins
Town Clerk

Attest:

[Signature]

Mayor