

Minutes
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 5, 2023

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

Members present: Mayor Pritchard, Commissioners Brenda Lucas, Tony Jefferys, Drew Griffin and James F. Gwaltney. Commissioner Cone was absent.

Also present was Town Clerk Michele Collins, Town Attorney Mark Edwards, Public Works Director Bobby Ball and Chief Nathan Gant.

Nancy West-Brake from the Nashville Graphic and Hannah Camarena from the Spring Hope Enterprise were in attendance.

Mayor Pritchard called the meeting to order and led the pledge.

Commissioner Gwaltney made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7th meeting, move the agenda item Depot Restoration to the top and add a closed session to the end of the meeting; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Andy Lopina and David Gall representing Alliance Architecture told the board that they were grateful for the opportunity to help the town with the restoration of the Depot building. Mr. Gall said that he was the contract Historical Architect and that he had experience with NCDOT and the state historical offices. Mr. Lopina told the board that once the qualifications were accepted that they would present a contract and specs.

Commissioner Gwaltney made a motion to accept the qualifications of Alliance Architecture; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pritchard asked the Clerk to clarify the discharge of property taxes from Spaulding Resource.

The Clerk explained to the board that the town was never entitled to collect the property taxes from Spaulding as they were exempt due to their status as a non-profit. She said that Spaulding was charged because they filed their exempt paperwork late.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to discharge the 2021 taxes for Spaulding Resource Center; Commissioner Gwaltney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Clerk told the board that the prices of opening and closings of cemetery plots by the contractor had increased and that the town would need to go up to be able to pay the increase. She said that it was the first time in many years that the contractor had increased his prices for the service. She also mentioned that concrete and granite ledgers had become an issue at both cemeteries as they often crack and cause the sinking of graves.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to increase the amount charged for cremations at both Meeks and Oakdale by \$65.00 as well as to no longer allow any type of ledger to go on top of the graves; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pritchard asked the Clerk about the system development report. She referred the question to Bobby Ball. He said that it was needed to be able to enforce the regulations when new developers come to town. Commissioner Jefferys said he thought the discussion should wait until the town manager was there.

The discussion was tabled.

Commissioner Gwaltney made a motion to accept the amended Nash County Park Agreement which changed the liability to the town; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Clerk presented Budget Amendment 2024-01 to reflect the use of the restricted Peg Channel Fund money.

Commissioner Gwaltney made a motion to accept Budget Amendment 2024-01; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Karen White from the Chamber asked to have the permit for the festival approved. She also stated that the carnival was not going to happen. She also said that the street closures had been approved.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the Pumpkin Festival event permit; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Attorney

Mark Edwards had no new business.

Police Chief Report

Chief Gant told the board that there were 100 total calls for service, 18 vehicle stops and five vehicle accidents. He also said that they had cleared 5 outstanding cases.

There was no additional business from the board.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to go into closed session; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

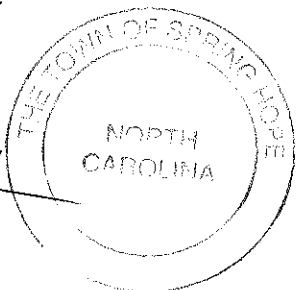
Closed Session

Commissioner Gwaltney made a motion to leave closed session; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Gwaltney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted

Michelle C. Cole



Attest

[Signature]