

Minutes  
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting  
February 6, 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 William Pritchard, Commissioners Brenda Lucas, Tony Jefferys, Drew Griffin, Brent Cone and James F. Gwaltney.

Also present was Town Manager Andrew DeIonno, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Town Attorney Mark Edwards and Chief Nathan Gant.

Lindell Kay 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 of allegiance.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Special Meetings from January 13<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> as written; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

Mr. DeIonno introduced Austin Eubanks the town's auditor from Thompson Price Scott and Adams to discuss the 21-22 audit via zoom. Mr. Eubanks told the board that the town staff was being good stewards of the financials for the town. He said that the recent rate increase was a good move as it was necessary to keep the water and sewer fund from failing. He also commented that the town had a good amount of unrestricted fund balance in the general fund. He said that the town was well over the amount that the state wanted to see.

Mr. Eubanks said that the one finding for the town was the overage in the budget. He said that there were a couple of line items that had not been recorded correctly with budget amendments. He did recommend that the staff be more aware of that finding. He also said that a response letter from the board and staff members would need to be drafted and sent to the LGC concerning the finding.

Mr. DeIonno thanked Mr. Eubanks and his firm for their professionalism.

LeAnne Hahnel from the SH Chamber requested approval for the second annual car show sponsored by the Chamber. She said that they were hoping to get approval to close several streets for the event which include two NCDOT streets.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the Event Permit for the car show; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gwaltney made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2023-03 for Salary Adjustments; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed.

DeeAnn Rivera from the Downtown Development asked the board to consider accepting the agreement provided in the packet with Bizzell Design for a branding strategy.

Commissioner Cone said that the Bizzell presentation was thorough and full of new ideas that would help the town.

Mr. DeIonno emphasized that the money to pay for the consultant would come from the restricted Economic Development line item and not out of the operating budget.

Commissioner Cone made a motion made a motion to approve the agreement with Bizzell Designs; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Chamber Report

LeAnne Hahnel told the board that there were several events scheduled for 2023 starting with the car show. She mentioned Pumpkin Festival and Christmas in Spring Hope.

#### Town Attorney Report

Mr. Edwards said he had no new items.

#### Police Chief's Report

Chief Gant said that there were 125 calls for service and 3 traffic accidents during the month. He told the board that one of the officers had a accident while coming to work and that the car was totaled. He said that the other driver was ticketed and that the officer sustained minor but painful sprained ankles.

Chief Gant also said that there was a new officer hired and that he would be in training .He also said that they had received a grant for approximately \$30,000.00 and that the money would be spent on new car radios and handheld.

Chief said he might try to do a concealed class at the end of April or beginning of May.

Lastly, he asked citizens not to continue to feed stray dogs and cats. He said that Animal Control was trying to get them spayed/neutered to find homes.

Mayor Pritchard asked the Chief why people were so inclined to confess to the crimes that were listed on the report. Chief Gant said he didn't question these suspects without already having the evidence against them.

#### Managers' Report

Mr. DeIonno said that he has reached out to contractors for the various potholes and the bad spot-on Louisburg Rd.

Chris Curry with Alliance Code Enforcement introduced himself and read his report. He said that in the month of January he abated 3 cases, held 3 hearings and opened 26 cases. He noted that 15 of the 26 cases were showing progress. He said that he would try to show at the meeting every other month going forward. Mayor Pritchard asked which cases in the downtown he was working on were still outstanding. He said he was still working on 205 W Main but that the ownership had changed hands and that the new owner had made some progress. Mr. Curry asked Mr. DeIonno to send a list of some of the buildings he considers most concerning.

Other Business

Commissioner Jefferys asked Mr. DeIonno if he had heard anything from NCDOT about the trees in town that were on their right of way. Mr. DeIonno said that he had reached out to but had not heard from anyone yet.

Commissioner Jefferys said he wanted to explain what kind of valves he wanted for the town. He said that he wants to have strategic valves placed so the entire town will not have to be shut down.

There was no other new business from the board.

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

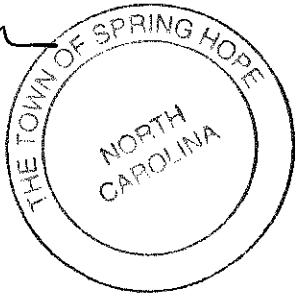
Closed Session

Commissioner Cone made a motion to return to open session; Commissioner Gwaltney seconded and the motion passed.

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

Submitted

*Nicholas K. Allen*



Attest

*Jefferys*