

## **Minutes**

### **Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting**

**June 2, 2025**

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 Commissioner's Room.

**Members Present:** Mayor William K. Pritchard, Commissioners Eric Gainey, Brenda Lucas, Drew Griffin, and Tommy Toney

Also Present, Town Manager Andrew DeIonno, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Town Attorney Mark Edwards, Chief Nathan Gant, Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas, Public Works Director Bobby Ball, and Finance Clerk Linda Pena.

Mayor Pritchard called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting; Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno asked if it would be okay if he read a letter from Commissioner Cone, Commissioner Griffin said that would be okay and the rest of the board agreed. In Commissioner Cone's letter he stated he was resigning due to personal health and family reasons. Commissioner Cone thanked and praised the current and past Board of Commissioners, Town Staff, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Michele Collins and her team, Chief Gant and his officers, Public Works Director Bobby Ball and his team, and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas. He thanked the previous staff for helping us start our progress, Jae Kim, Sandra, and Chief Puckett. He is proud of the current staff for continuing their efforts towards the town's improvement. Commissioner Cone is honored to have worked with all the town staff, and it does sadden him to have to resign.

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

#### **New Items**

Mr. DeIonno said there will not be any major changes to the revenues. He said the only changes they will be proposing in the FY26 budget will be small, incremental changes of 2.25% and 2.50% to the water and sewer rates. He said these increases will help bring the salaries of town staff up to date and will also help with capital improvement projects.

Mr. DeIonno said that the water and sewer rate increases are from a study the NC Rural Water Association previously conducted. He said that at the time of the study they also suggested a 70% increase on the rates at that time, but at the time they only implemented the one-time 70% increase to the rates and not the incremental increases. Mr. DeIonno said after FY26, sometime

in FY27 they plan to start using radio read meters to have a more efficient meter reading and billing process.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the budget; Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno said that Budget Amendment 2025-09 is required by statute because revenues have largely increased due to the tax revaluation done by the county.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2025-09; Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Collins said, regarding the Budget Amendment 2025-10, that earlier this year they borrowed \$75,000 appropriated fund balance and NC DEQ said they would pay for the emergency repairs and seeing as though they are not finished yet they need to put the money back in the account, so the accounts are leveled.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2025-10; Commissioner Gainey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno began talking about the Bid Tabulation Depot Restoration Project. He said the lowest bidder was Westridge Construction LLC located in Raleigh, NC. He said their bid was just over one million dollars and that included the base bid and add alternate items. He recommended the board approve that bid so they can go ahead and begin working on contracts and getting a project schedule set.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to accept the bid for Westridge Construction LLC; Commissioner Gainey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno said that they plan to divide the cost of the disposition of the Community Building between this fiscal year and the upcoming fiscal year, FY26. He said the disposition of the community building would cost just over \$48,000 and that includes demolition, leveling the site, bringing the site up to grade, and grassing the site.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the disposition of the community building; Commissioner Gainey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Reports**

Pam Brantley came up to represent the Chamber of Commerce. She recommends everyone go look at the amazing artwork from the Chalk It Up event that happened on May 31, 2025.

Mr. Shawn Lucas for Code Enforcement said they only had two properties that he and Mr. DeIonno had a discussion with; those properties were 322 E Nash St and 508 E Nash St which are both residential properties. 409 W Main St has \$10,600 in fines, 804 E Nash St has \$10,600 in fines, and 406 Hopkins Ave did remove the shipping container from the property, so their fines

have stopped at \$7,900. He also said they received complaints regarding 317 S Walnut St so they will be working towards getting the property owners to remove the junk vehicles that people are complaining about.

Chief Gant said they had six incident reports, four hundred and ten calls for service, sixty-eight traffic stops, two hundred and nine security checks, eight traffic accidents, five domestic violence calls, nine disturbance calls, and thirteen investigations with eleven of those investigations being cleared.

Mr. DeIonno said the board had a copy of his report and asked if they had any questions.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to continue the Pumpkin Festival Event Permit to next month's meeting; Commissioner Gainey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Kyle P. [Signature]

Michelle [Signature]

