

Minutes

Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 5, 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 Pritchard, Commissioners Eric Gainey, Brenda Lucas, and Tommy Toney.

Also present, the Town Manager Andrew DeIonno, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Town Attorney Mark Edwards, Chief Nathan Gant, and Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas.

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

Commissioner Gainey made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 7th meeting; Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pritchard said there were people present to represent the pumpkin festival, and they would like to share their progress. He said he would like to add this to the agenda.

Commissioner Gainey made the motion to amend the agenda to add pumpkin festival updates; Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Continued Items

Mayor Pritchard asked Mr. DeIonno if there were any updates on the request to rehabilitate and utilize the Boy Scout Hut to local American Legion Post 91 (request to rehabilitate and maintain the existing structure). Mr. DeIonno said there are no updates from the state. Mr. DeIonno requested permission from the board of commissioners to request permission from the state to maintain the Boy Scout Hut. Mr. DeIonno said they should commission a survey of the town park, and they have already commissioned a survey of the Oakdale Cemetery. Mr. DeIonno says once that permission is established with the state then they can request to use the Hut in part with the American Legion and for other public purposes.

Commissioner Lucas made the motion to give the Town Manager permission to go ahead with the Boy Scout Hut; Commissioner Toney seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Cindy, representing the pumpkin festival, says they are trying to keep traditional route while avoiding Ash St. and Main St. for everyone's safety. She said they just ask that they get granted the permits to go ahead and get started. Tina, representing the pumpkin festival, said that out of the fourteen previous food vendors that she reached out to, only one said they could not be here. Tina said there are seven food vendors who have fully paid and done the process that was needed. Ashley Brumfield, representing the pumpkin festival, said they are partnering with the Boys and Girls Club, and they will have field day activities, a photo booth, a hot dog machine, and a popcorn machine. Ashley said they already have invoices for a rock wall, Mr. Bubbles, and a few more things. Steve Brumfield, representing the pumpkin festival, said they have created a

new logo and are working to get more sponsors for the festival. Cheyenne, representing the pumpkin festival, said they already have approximately fifteen sponsors coming to an estimated total of \$5,000. Peggy Leggett, representing the pumpkin festival and garden club, said local farmers would supply pumpkins, corn stalks, and bales.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to return to regular session; Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno spoke up and said the parade route was problematic and that he and Chief Gant met with Ms. Ridgeway to inform her of the problem. He says there is a permit and approval process that needs to be followed. Mayor Pritchard asked why the route is problematic. Mr. DeIonno says it is problematic because there will be a water main project going on at that time, the roads will be under construction, and it could pose a public safety issue.

New Items

Mayor Pritchard brought up the removal of a loading zone from W Branch St at S Pine St. Mr. DeIonno said this request came from the property owner of the K5 Print Shop and they would like the loading zone sign, and the loading zone designation removed.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to remove the loading zone from the W Branch St at S Pine St property at the property owner's request; Commissioner Lucas seconded that motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pritchard brought up Budget Amendment Salaries 2025-08. Mr. DeIonno said that the adjustment was needed for Police salaries due to the hiring of an additional officer.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2025-08; Commissioner Toney seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pritchard brought up amending the board meeting schedule November 4 (request from Nash County Board of Elections).

Mr. DeIonno said municipal elections are the day after the scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting in November. Mr. DeIonno and Ms. Collins suggested November 5th and November 10th as possible make-up dates.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to move the November Board of Commissioners meeting to November 10th; Commissioner Gainey seconded that motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pritchard brought up the agenda item vacant properties ordinance working draft.

Mr. DeIonno said many neighboring communities have similar ordinances. He also said that they should have the ordinance finalized by July or August at the latest.

Mayor Pritchard asked if there was anyone who would like to speak for the Downtown Development Board about the new things they were doing.

Decann Rivera, with the Downtown Development Board, said they have been working on logos and slogans that they have put together for the town. Ms. Rivera also said that the first business hours hosted by Peachtree Country Club went very well and hopes it will become a more regular

event. She said that Steve and Brandy have hosted two very successful marketing classes. The Garden Club and Carter Realty are sponsoring the Rock Your Block Event. She explained the symbolism that is incorporated in the new logo, and she explained two new town slogans.

Mr. Perry from Spaulding spoke up and said that everyone at Spaulding would be very happy to host the pumpkin festival at the center. He says they have ten acres that can accommodate many guests and vendors.

Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas came up and spoke about meeting with Melvin Williams at 224 Gum Ave. He said that Mr. Williams said that he is the resident and his sister who lives outside of town is the executor of the estate and he would get in touch with her about tearing down the cinderblock building.

Mr. Lucas said they had a meeting scheduled for 113 North Ash St (The Enterprise). They gave Mr. Ripley a punch list of items to be completed by May 30th.

Mr. Lucas said that they had a meeting scheduled with Fergie Auto Repair, and Mr. Ferguson assured them that he would work on bringing his property up to compliance. Mr. Lucas said Mr. DeIonno is working with the town attorney, Mr. Edwards to see how they need to go about collecting the fines that some of the citizens have accrued.

Mr. Lucas also stated that the structure at 107 W Main St had one side of the building damaged possibly beyond repair. 101 S Poplar St had some items in the right of way. A letter was sent to the Stricklands regarding the old warehouse and stuff was removed off 101 S Poplar St. 102 N Louisburg Rd, the fence has been repaired.

County Commissioner Freddy Howell was in attendance in case anyone had any questions regarding the Southern Nash Water and Sewer Authority.

Chief Nathan Gant came up to give his report. Chief Gant said they had five incident reports, three hundred ninety-two calls for service, eighty-four traffic stops, one hundred ninety-three security checks, thirteen traffic accidents, three domestic violence calls, four fight or disturbance calls, and six investigations with all six being cleared.

Mr. DeIonno thanked the public works department for recently rehabilitating the Icehouse. He thanked and recognized Ms. Collins for training two new employees for different positions, Shyanne Taylor Bell and Linda Pena.

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



