

Minutes  
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting  
January 2, 2024

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, Eric Gainey, Brent Cone, Tommy Toney and Drew Griffin.

Also, present was Town Manager Andrew DeIonno, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Town Attorney Mark Edwards, and Code Enforcement Officer Shwan Lucas.

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

Commissioner Cone made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2023 meeting; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno told the board that he had been contact by NCDOT about the pedestrian bridge on Railroad St. He reminded the board that the subject of ownership had been discussed in the past and that the town had no documentation which would prove ownership. He said that DOT wanted to have a public hearing on the bridge as they had deemed it unsafe. He also said that the town would do further research and get the town attorney involved.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to have the town set a public hearing for March 4<sup>th</sup>; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno asked the board to look at the response from Wooten for the RFQ for the WWTP and Tower Grants. He said that they were the only firm that responded to the project and that NCDEQ was satisfied with the bid procedure as it was done in accordance with the state.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to approve the RFQ; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to send the update of the Sidewalk Ordinance to the Downtown Development Board for their consideration before it comes back to the BOC; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Mark Edwards had no new business.

Chief Gant was not available due to going out for a call.

Mr. DeIonno asked the board if they had any questions about his monthly report that he submitted. He recommended that the board think about using some of the economic development funds for uniform furniture downtown in front of stores which would be something for the entire downtown. Mayor Pritchard said he was in favor of maybe helping property owners with a façade program. He said he thought it could be something that the Downtown Development Board could spearhead to show why they are in existence.

Commissioner Cone asked if there was any update on the Ash Street properties that were purchased by Tom White. Mr. DeIonno said that Mr. White is moving on and has more of a plan to finish up the buildings.

Commissioner Cone said that he was disappointed in the late pick up for recycling and the amount of garbage that was left on the ground. Commissioner Griffin said that GFL always seemed to have some kind of issue and still wanted to raise prices. They both asked Mr. DeLonno to speak with GFL.

Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas said that he had written approximately 18 letters for residents and owners for junk on the property. He also said that he reinspected properties that he had previously sent warnings to and that most had complied.

Commissioner Cone asked what the financial violation was for not following the stack parking ordinance; Mr. Edwards said it was \$100.00 a day after the warning.

Commissioner Cone asked Mr. Lucas to look at the amortization of the parking ordinance that was passed several years prior. He said that the time for compliance would be in December and that business owners needed to be renotified. Mr. DeLonno said that he had personally visited a owner but that he was aware that the town had not sent letters in the past fiscal year.

Commissioner Griffin asked Mr. Lucas to make sure that the business owners are reminded that this message has been a long time coming for the clean up of properties.

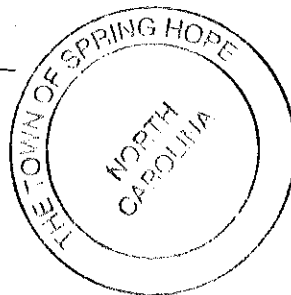
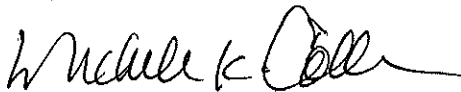
Mayor Pritchard asked if they had any issues on Hopkins St. Mr. Lucas said the only current case was for a house that had a storage box on the property. Commissioner Cone said that during the night hours the house on the corner is still parking on the street; Commissioner Griffin said that maybe the Chief needed to be aware so that the PD could take notice.

#### Other Business

Commissioner Toney said that people had been asking about the businesses that were coming and why there may be duplicate types of establishments. Commissioner Cone said it was obvious now that the new building was a Dollar store and asked what was happening in the Brantley building. Mr. DeLonno said that there was nothing new. Commissioner Griffin asked about the old Lowe's building. Mr. DeLonno said that the owner of the property was trying to generate interest with his improvements. Commissioner Lucas said despite the duplicate businesses it is positive to create competition.

There were no other comments by the board.

Submitted



Attested

