

Minutes
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 3, 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 of March 6th as written and to add a proclamation to the agenda; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed .

New Business

Mr. DeIonno explained that the next item was a continued hearing for a map amendment to change R8 to LI off Wilkins St. He told the board that the owner Kent Sessoms was not present but that his business associate Tiffany Williams was there as well as his daughter.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to go into a Public Hearing to discuss the map amendment; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed.

Public Hearing

Ms. Williams told the board that Mr. Williams wanted to use his property for his own truck storage and not a terminal. She also said that he had jumped and put a building on the property without the proper permits and that they would be trying to resolve the error. She said that he was working with an engineer to work on what he needed for NCDOT.

Devin Keaton from the Auto Barn asked how they had gotten all their permits and who else was going to park their trucks there. Ms. Williams said that for right now he was only going to park his truck. Commissioner Gwaltney reminded everyone that the hearing was for the rezoning only and that if it was rezoned it would be the Light Industrial just like everything around it.

Deleon Parker from the Parker Law Office introduced himself and a letter from the adjoining property owners. He said that they were against the rezoning and that they thought that the use being proposed was not consistent with the rest of the area. He also commented that owners felt like the area would be better as a residential use due to the road traffic and character of the area.

LeAnne Hahnel submitted a petition from two residents in the area and four from different parts of the town that were against the rezoning. She said that they had only been in the neighborhood for a short time but that they moved in due to the quiet nature of the area. The

resident at 106 Virginia commented that even at the Bojangles that was designed for that kind of traffic the area was very congested and hard to navigate. Ms. Williams said that Mr. Sessoms owned four trucks and that he was only using the area for his personal use. Stan Hahnel also from Virginia St. said that there were already decisions made by the town to limit truck use as there were no thru truck signs on many roads. He said that he was all for business and that the town was going to grow but that using that area for truck parking was not a good idea.

Ms. Lockhard, the daughter of the property owner said that her father Kent Sessoms would be cautious and aware of the area.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to close the Public Hearing; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Gwaltney asked Mr. DeLonno if West Branch St was a state-maintained road; the manager said yes. Mr. Gwaltney reminded everyone that the meeting was just to rezone a small part of the land that he already owned. He pointed out that all the other property that Mr. Sessoms owned was LI and that he thought it was wrong that the larger companies were against the smaller company.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to deny the map amendment changing R8 to LI; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed 4 to 1 with Commissioner Gwaltney voting against the motion.

Mr. DeLonno asked the board to consider Resolution 2023-05 adopting the Spring Hope Local Water Supply Plan. He said this was a requirement from the state of North Carolina.

Commissioner Gwaltney made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-05; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. DeLonno asked the board to consider two resolutions to apply for funds for ware/sewer infrastructure.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for 2023 WWTP Improvement grants; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for 2023 Elevated Water Tank grant; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to renew the manager's contract; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. DeLonno asked the board to consider a contract for a new bookkeeper. He told the board that the LGC strongly recommends that all units of government have an independent bookkeeper.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the contract for the new bookkeeper; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. DeLonno told the board that there were two applications for the open seat on the Downtown Development Board.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to accept both applications; Commissioner Gwaltney seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 2023-05 transferring \$8,100.00 from General Fund unrestricted account to Water Sewer Engineering line item; Commissioner Gwaltney seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to accept the Proclamation for a long-time business in Spring Hope; Commissioner Gwaltney seconded and the motion passed.

Chamber

LeeAnn Hahnel from the Chamber told the board about the Car Show. She said that were expecting a large crowd and that the following weekend would be the flea market in the depot area.

Town Attorney Mark Edwards had no new business.

Police Report

Police Chief Gant told the board that during the month of March they had 205 calls for service, 37 vehicle stops, 72 security checks, 7 vehicle accidents and 6 non-chargeable calls at residences. Mayor Pritchard asked about the traffic on Virginia; Chief Gant said that he had guys out there giving warnings and that new signs had been ordered.

Chief Gant said that Lt. Leary had done a great job with K9 Jax and wanted the board to know that he had trained the dog to the point that he was one of the best in the area.

Managers' Report

Mr. DeIonno said that he wanted to thank Lt. Leary for the wonderful job that he had done. He also mentioned the Corporal Gwaltney had moved on to Nashville but that he would stay part-time. He asked the board if they had any questions about the managers report and they said no.

Other Business

Commissioners Gwaltney, Griffin and Jefferys had no new business. Commissioner Cone said that he wanted to throw out the idea of changing the time of the DDB meeting.

Commissioner Lucas told the board that she had attended the COG meeting and that she had some information for water/sewer grants.

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

Submitted

Attested

Michael E. Celler

Kyle F. [Signature]