

Minutes of the
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
November 4, 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, Tommy Toney and Drew Griffin. Commissioner Brent Cone was absent.

Also present: Town Manager Andrew Delonno, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Michele Collins, Police Chief Nathan Gant, and Attorney Mark Edwards.

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gainey to approve the minutes as written, the motion passed unanimously.

Continued business from last month's meeting:

Consideration/Approval of the project development agreement with Axiom Development LLC. There was no one from Axiom in the audience so Town Manager Delonno gave the following update: The draft has been reviewed by Attorney Edwards who made a few minor changes. Tom White has not had an opportunity to look over the changes, but it could be adopted at this meeting, or it could be held over for Mr. White to look it over. Manager Delonno mentioned that PWD Bobby Ball has been in on this from the beginning making sure all the things required had been adhered to. He also made mention that for a new developer the Town would be in the process from the beginning. Commissioner Gainey made a motion to table this item so Mr. White would have an opportunity to look it over. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

New business:

Consideration and adoption of budget amendment 25-03 Police Radios. Finance Officer Michele Collins explained that this is a reimbursable grant so we will get the money back, but it had to be borrowed from the reserve money until then, that way it doesn't come out of the operating budget. Budget Amendment 25-04 is for money the chamber paid to the town for salaries incurred during the Pumpkin Festival. Commissioner Griffin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gainey to approve Budget Amendments 25-03 & 25-04. It passed unanimously.

Consideration and adoption of Personnel Policy for donation of leave. Manager Delonno explained that other government agencies have this in their policies and would like to add it to ours. He explained that employees would be able to donate a portion of their leave to other employees that may not have enough accrued leave to handle being out for a longer-term illness. There is no fiscal impact on the town. It is strictly from one employee to the other. Once the sick employee returns to work, the left-over balance of time would revert to the person who donated it. This is meant to help any staff member that may need the extra time. Attorney Edwards mentioned that he had looked at the addition to the personnel policy and saw no issues with it. Commissioner Griffin

made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gainey to approve the amended Section 26 of the Town Personnel Policy, motion carried.

Consideration and Adoption of Customer Service Policy for Utilities:

Manager Delonno explained that this policy will take all the self-standing policies and put them into one policy, in one place. Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gainey the Customer Service Policy for Utilities, motion carried.

Consideration of approval for an Event Permit for Christmas in Spring Hope.

Manager Delonno made mention that there would not be any street closures for this event. Commissioner Gainey made a motion to approve the event permit for Christmas in Spring Hope, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, motion carried.

Manager Delonno gave updates on the Depot project and showed some new sketches that Alliance got a head start on for the platform plans. These plans have already been agreed upon by the Mayor and Commissioners. The Depot project will include a large gathering space, a network room, restrooms and catering area on the western portion of the building. The rail car has been scaled back to a caboose and the existing deck will remain. The proposed restrooms will be self-contained and can be used for events or shut down completely. The platform is completely open and accessed by the small bridge connector and will give us a courtyard space in between. There is also a riser room for the fire suppression system for the entire complex.

*Police Chief Report: Total calls for service 254 which includes the following: Vehicle Stops 79, Security Checks 33, Vehicle Accidents 10, Domestic non chargeable 4, Disturbances/Civil Unrest calls 7, Total Investigations 13, Total Cleared 11.

*Code Enforcement Report: Per Manager Delonno, Mr. Lucas had a special planning board meeting tonight and was unable to attend. There is a meeting scheduled for next week with Mr. Lucas and Attorney Edwards along with Manager Delonno to discuss fines and other legal actions to start to compel some of the commercial properties to comply.

Town Managers Report: Manager Delonno asked if any of the members had questions for him from the report, he submitted that he would be happy to answer them. Mayor Pritchard asked about a timeline on road closures for next year, but Manager Delonno said that there was no way to give a definitive timeline for that. There have been more comments on DEQ for a few more revisions. Once everything is finally in, there will be some minimal adjustments to bid documents, and it looks like late winter 2025 before we get started.

There was no one present for an update on the Chamber.

With no further questions/comments, Commissioner Gainey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.

Michelle Cole

Kyle Smith

