

Minutes
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 5, 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, Public Works Director Bobby Ball, Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas and Chief Nathan Gant.

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

Commissioner Cone made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2nd meeting; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to amend the agenda to include an event permit; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Mr. DeIonno asked the board to look at Budget Amendment 2024-04 he told them that it was to increase the line item for the Police Department Part Time Salaries.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve BA 2024-04 increasing Part Time Salaries in the Police Department budget; Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeIonno told the board that there were three applicants for the vacant Downtown Development Board seat. Commissioner Cone asked Alec Scott one of the applicants to speak to the board and give his reasons why he wanted to serve.

Mr. Scott told the board that he was interest in helping the town to grow. He said that he ha originally come from California and had lived in Spring Hope for 3 years. Mr. Scott said he felt like his background in construction and the tech world would help him in assisting the town. He said that he wanted to help encourage the town to help each other to have a healthy downtown. He said that he had called several franchises to see if they had any interest in Spring Hope.

Commissioner Cone asked Mr. Scott if he had attended any of the public meetings given by the NC Department of Commerce. He said no that he didn't know anything about them, Mayor Pritchard asked how did he think he could help the DDB. He said that he had looked at the ordinances and felt like they needed to be updated.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to table the nomination for the board member in favor of waiting for the other applications so that they could speak; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. DeLonno asked the board to considered the contract with TPSA for the fiscal year ending 2024 audit. He said that they were good to work with and that staying with them would be a good choice for the town.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to approve the contract with TPSA for the 2024 audit; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeLonno told the board that he is requesting to declare the 2015 Silverado truck currently driven by Chief Grant surplus property as presented in the resolution. He said that this was discussed with Chief Gant and that he would be looking for a vehicle better suited for the department.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 Surplus Property; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeLonno asked the board to release taxes for the upcoming 2024 tax season. He said that these taxes were charged due to an error.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the 2024 tax releases; Commissioner Toney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeLonno asked the board to approve the task orders 4 and 5 for the Wooten Co. concerning the 2023 grants for the WWTP improvements and the new elevated tank. He reminded them that Wooten had been approved as the engineers in a prior meeting and that this was to move forward with the orders.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve task order 4; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gainey made a motion to approve task order 5; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Code Enforcement

Code Officer Shawn Lucas said that during the prior month there was 20 cases that included junk vehicles and a dilapidated accessory building on First St. Mr. Lucas also said that he sent letters to all owners of automobile repairs to remind them of the Zoning Ordinances pertaining to stacked parking. He also said he removed 10 snipe signs as well as sending a notice of violation to a home owner on Montgomery St for violating ordinance pertaining to accessory building quantity. Mr. DeLonno congratulated Mr. Lucas for being the new Planner for the Town of Nashville. And thanked Nashville for allowing Mr. Lucas to continue to help Spring Hope.

Freddie Howell from Howell Farms asked the board to approve the event permit he had submitted to town hall. He said that he wanted to use the Depot area for an event he wanted to have for his run for Nash County Commissioner. Mr. DeLonno explained that there would be no electricity provided as the power was off at the depot building which was now vacant waiting for renovations. Mr. Howell said that he did not need any power and that his event organizers would provide anything else that was needed.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to approve the permit; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief

Chief Gant told the board that the department had 5 incident reports, 15 calls for service, 19 traffic stops, 35 security checks and 7 cleared cases. He also said that due to the department's work through the GHSP they would be receiving a speed sign as well as some radar units.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to re-open the discussion pertaining to the DDB as the two other applicants arrived; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lori Harris told the board that she had lived in Spring Hope for 33 years, opened a business in town and wanted to help bring a fresh perspective to the board. She said that she felt like Spring Hope could blossom into a diamond. Commissioner Cone asked her if she had been to any of the economic meetings. She said yes that she had attended the one at the Auction House as well as gone to several DDB meetings.

Devon Keaton said that he had been in Spring Hope for a few years and that he had also gone to several of the economic meetings. He said that he felt as though he could bring some wisdom from his experience in different areas of business.

The board took a vote and Devon Keaton was named to DDB. Commissioner Cone made a motion to update the board; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to have Commissioner Lucas continue her appointment to UPCOG and NCDOT Tap Boards; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gainey as ex-officio on the DDB as well as appointing Commissioner Toney to the Fire Board; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Closed Session

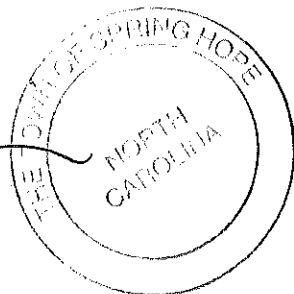
Commissioner Cone made a motion to return to open session; Commissioner Gainey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There was no new business by the board.

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

Submitted

Wade Cole



Attested

Ken R...