

Minutes
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 6th, 2026

A regular meeting of the Town of Spring Hope Board of Commissioners was held at 7 pm at the Spring Hope Town Hall in the Commissioners Room.

Members present were Mayor Pritchard, commissioners Brenda Lucas, Pam Brantley, Stephen Brunfield, Antonio Toney, and William Toney.

Also Present, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Lieutenant Jason Leary, Code Enforcement officer Shawn Lucas, Town Attorney Nick Berry, Town Manager Jonathan Allen, Linda Pena.

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners Antonio Toney made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2nd meeting, Commissioners Brantley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Jimmie Harris 206 Hopkins Avenue, Mr. Harris said he is here because he is being bullied by the town due to racism and that it had been going on since he bought the house. Mr. Harris said he had pulled several zoning permits since 2021 and is now being told several things have not been in order. Mr. Harris also said he is getting harassed about his grass being overgrown and the canal that runs beside his home. Mr. Harris said the latest is the lady across the street saying she can't sell her house because of the way his yard and home look. Mr. Harris said he spoke to Mr. Shawn Lucas and asked him what the problem with the porch was and was told safety and health issues as far as the wood and lumber. Mr. Harris said he moved 90% of the stuff off the porch onto his trailer and put a tarp over it so it can't be seen, but it's now being identified as a nuisance. Mr. Harris also said Mr. Shawn Lucas informed him that the county said he didn't have a zoning permit for remodeling in his home and stopped all his renewal of his permits. Mr. Harris said the county changed their law back in 2024 where any permits that you buy expire in 6 months, but he said those changes came after he made his initial permits. Mr. Harris said all he is asking for is justification.

Jeanette Bucher 207 Hopkins Avenue, Mrs. Bucher passed out pictures to the Board of Commissioners about the property at 206 Hopkins Avenue. Mrs. Bucher said the property has not gotten any better and that things have gotten worse. Mrs. Bucher said she took her property off the market after the last board meeting thinking that things were going to get done and that she could put it back on the market, but no privacy fence has been put up like he was supposed to do. Mrs. Bucher also said this is her third time coming to the board about these issues and she would like to know what is going to be done about these issues.

Mayor Pritchard swore in to the new Town Manager Jonathan Allen.

Continued items

Surplus property bids town clerk Michele Collins told the board that they got one bid, and it was for 3,000.00 dollars from a James Wagner. The mayor asked Lieutenant Leary if they had an estimated value for the 2016 Charger with a blown motor. Lieutenant Leary told him not his knowledge, but Chief Gant was the one who oversaw all that. The mayor told the board that they can accept the bid, or they can put it back online for open bid. Commissioner Brunfield made a motion to accept the bid, Commissioner Brantley second the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

New items

DDB representative brochure /Main Street approach Brandy the Vice chair on the DDB spoke about the brochure they have been working on, Brandy said they have put a lot of time into it over the last year with the help of the now newly elected Commissioner Brunfield. Brandy said their hope is to highlight what Spring Hope has to offer and it is designed to be able to grow with the town. Brandy said it promotes local businesses and events and supports economic growth and development. Brandy asked the board for approval to host it on the town's website. Brandy

said the Main street approach has four main points, organization, design, promotion, and economic vitality. She said the approach is designed to work cohesively with all these areas to grow the town. Their next meeting they would like other business owners to come Thursday April 9th at 6pm to Depot Delights. Commissioner Brantley made a motion to approve the brochure, Commissioner Brumfield seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

DDB Applications, the DDB, has three vacant seats and the board needs to appoint new members. Mrs. Collins Said that she has gotten three applications from, Max Cohen, Christoher Jones, and Elle Browder. Commissioner Brumfield made a motion to approve all three applicants, Commissioner William Toney seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Rezoning public hearing for property off First and Third St, Code Enforcement officer Shawn Lucas said the property is a 12.88-acre vacant property that owner is wanting to change the current zoning of R_MF(Residential-Multi-Family) back to the original zoning designation of R-8 which matches the entire surrounding. On March 26, 2026, the Planning Board found the rezoning request favorable and voted in favor of it with a vote of 3-1. Mr. Lucas told the board in their packet on page five the statement that was sent out to all the property owners about the public hearing 10 days prior to the hearing date. Mr. Lucas said he gave the board a map from GIS and everyone highlighted had received a letter from the town about the public hearing being held tonight. After Mr. Lucas finished Mayor Pritchard asked a question of clarification so everyone understood, right now it's zoned Residential-Multi-Family, which would be apartment complexes Mrs. Lucas said correct. Going back to R-8 you are opening the door back up to have single-family dwellings, which is a less intense style of zoning versus your multi family is extremely high dense zoning. Kevin Varnell, with Stocks Engineering Firm, told the board that after the Planning Board meeting, he did go back to the owners and Mr. Varnell said they are willing to restrict access to First Street and go out to Third Street. And Mr. Varnell told the board the intent is single family residential subdivision. Mr. Varnell told the board he would be happy to answer any questions they had.

Commissioner Brumfield made a motion to go into public hearing, Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Peggy Leggett said she live on the corner of Walnut and Second St and that the traffic is so bad already because of the dollar general that she calls it the Spring Hope bypass. Mrs. Leggett was concerned about all traffic going by her house, Commissioner Brumfield pointed out that the alternative would be apartment complexes and that would be a lot more traffic.

Jonathan Jeffries, he said he lives at 515 First st, he was wanting to know if the entrance on the Third St were confirmed because his concern was if it were on the First St Road it would be right in front of his driveway. Jeffries also wanted to know if there was going to be a buffer to separate the existing houses and neighborhood that is already there. Mr. Jeffries also wanted to know if a storm water plan or any drainage has been talked about, he said, as we know from experience it's been a problem and he doesn't want that at his house. Code enforcement officer Shawn Lucas told Mr. Jeffries all that would been done when it goes through the TRC but tonight is just about the zoning.

Commissioner Brantley made a motion to end public hearing, Commissioner Brumfield seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas said he recommends that the board approve the rezoning request for RME back to R-8.

Commissioner Brantley made a motion to approve the rezoning request back to R -8, Commissioner Brumfield second the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Colors for the Depot the Board of commissioners decided to go with the Maroon and the green, which will be the different trim colors. And the main part of the building will be buckram binding.

Commissioner Brumfield made a motion to approve Buckram binding as the main color for the depot, Commissioner Antonio Toney seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

MOA and NCLA Grant Resolution Town Clerk Michele Collins told the board she spoke to the league the other day and they confirmed everything that they would pick up all the cost and all the board had to do was sign the paperwork.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve MOA and NCLA Grant Resolution, Commissioner Brantley second the motion, and the motion padded unanimously.

Commissioner Brantley made a motion to approve the Chalk it up permit with administrative approval, Commissioner William Toney second, the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Lieutenant Jason Leary told the board that for the month of March they had 471 calls for service, 156 vehicle stops, 226 security checks, 8 wreck, 4 domestic disturbances and 4 civil unrest calls and a total of 12 investigations and have cleared 11 of them so far.

Code enforcement officer Shawn Lucas told the board that he set out 13 letters in April, that in March that try to let things slide a little because grass hasn't really got started yet. April is when he started sending out the letter about overgrown grass. Mr. Lucas said he also issued 4 Zoning permits over the past month. Mr. Lucas said that is all he has for now, but he will be going after vacant properties first.

Town manager contract Commissioner Antonio Toney made a motion to approve the contract as written, Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Manager report: Mr. Allen told the board that the water project was seventy percent done. Mr. Allen also told the board that Lieutenant Leary was dispatched out the 64 where a lady was having a medical emergency. He said that Mr. Leary did what they call a safe pit maneuver. No one was hurt and the lady was taken to the hospital to be seen. Mr. Allen said they found out she had early onset dementia, which was partly to blame. Her family expressed their gratitude to the department.

Commissioner Brantley made a motion to go into closed session, Commissioner Brumfield seconded the motion, and motion passed.





