

Minutes
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
July 6, 2026

A regular meeting of the Town of Spring Hope Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 p.m. at Spring Hope Town Hall in the Commissioners Room.

Members present were Mayor Pritchard and Commissioners Brenda Lucas, Pam Brantley, Stephen Brumfield, and Antonio Toney. Commissioner William Toney was not present.

Also present were Town Manager Jonathan Allen, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Lieutenant Jason Leary, Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas, Town Attorney Mark Edward, Linda Pena, and Public Works Supervisor Bobby Ball.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Antonio Toney made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 1 meeting. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Priscilla Capps signed up to speak but was not present at the meeting.

New Item

Revitalization CDBG Block Grant

Town Manager Jonathan Allen told the Board of Commissioners that the CDBG grant is for low-income housing and then turned the meeting over to Ben Jones to explain the program.

Ben Jones thanked the Board for allowing him to be there. He explained that the North Carolina Department of Commerce offers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Revitalization Program each year to help rehabilitate low- and moderate-income housing within the town limits. He also said it is the only program he knows of that will tear down a house and build a new one in its place.

Ben Jones explained that as long as the program serves low- and moderate-income homeowners, there are several types of projects that can qualify. However, housing projects are more competitive than community-wide projects because they directly benefit low- and moderate-income residents. He also explained that it is a scattered-site program, so qualifying homes do not have to be located in the same neighborhood.

Ben Jones told the Board that applicants must meet the income requirements, own their home, and own the property. He said the maximum grant amount is \$950,000, with no local match required, although local funds can help strengthen the application. He also explained that all administrative costs are paid through the grant, so there is no cost to the Town to apply.

Ben Jones said the application deadline is usually in October and that the grant period lasts 36 months. He added that the Town can currently apply every year because there is no waiting period between applications.

Commissioner Brumfield asked who would identify qualifying homes. Ben Jones explained that the Town could refer homeowners, advertise the program, or his company could go door-to-door looking for eligible applicants. He also said public hearings would be held so interested homeowners could apply.

Commissioner Lucas asked about the income limits. Ben Jones explained that they are based on HUD guidelines for Nash County and household size. He estimated that the income limit for a family of four is around \$50,000.

Mayor Pritchard mentioned that the Town had tried a similar program several years ago but did not have enough qualified applicants to complete the process.

Ben Jones explained that if the Board chose to move forward, the Town would advertise the program, hold public hearings, interview applicants, appoint a housing committee, and then select the homes to include in the application.

Commissioner Brumfield made a motion to move forward with the CDBG Block Grant application. Commissioner Antonio Toney seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Street Paving Proposals

The Board asked Public Works Supervisor Bobby Ball several questions about the paving proposals they had received. The Board wanted more information about some of the fees listed on one of the proposals, and they also wanted to add another street to the paving quotes.

Commissioner Antonio Toney made a motion to table the Street Paving Proposals. Commissioner Brumfield seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mandatory Water Restrictions

Town Manager Jonathan Allen told the Board that, because of the severity of the drought conditions, the Town of Spring Hope is looking at implementing Mandatory Stage I water conservation measures. Mr. Allen said he hopes to make the restrictions effective immediately. The goal is to help protect the Town's water supply.

The Town has proposed several restrictions, including allowing customers to water gardens and lawns only between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., twice a week. The days customers are allowed to water will be based on their address. Washing cars will only be allowed at commercial car washes. Restaurants will only serve water when a customer requests. The Town is also encouraging residents to repair any water leaks they may have.

The Town will enforce the restrictions if violations occur. For residential customers, the first violation will result in a written warning, the second violation will result in a \$100 fine, the third violation will result in a \$200 fine, and the fourth violation will result in termination of water service until corrective action is taken.

For commercial customers, the first violation will result in a written warning, the second violation will result in a \$500 fine, the third violation will result in a \$1,000 fine, and the fourth violation will result in termination of water service until corrective action is taken.

Commissioner Brumfield made a motion to approve the Mandatory Water Restrictions. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Spring Hope Chamber President Drew Griffin addressed the Board and said the event that was scheduled for July 5 had been postponed because of concerns about the extreme heat and the health of those attending. Mr. Griffin said the committee looks forward to rescheduling the event at a later date. He also said they are already working on Christmas in Spring Hope.

Mr. Griffin said the Chamber recognized that the park needed some attention and with the help of the Public Works Department, the Chamber hired Gold Valley Landscapes to complete a significant amount of work at the park. The Town also trimmed back the tree line and removed a dead tree. Mr. Griffin said they are looking into different types of parking barriers to help address issues in the park's parking area and may also add rock to the area.

Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Lucas addressed the Board and said his biggest issues recently involved two properties on Nash Street with items piled on the front porches. Mr. Lucas said he contacted both property owners, and the items have since been cleaned up.

Mr. Lucas said he is now working on the downtown project that the Board asked about last month. He has taken inventory of the properties to determine which are occupied and which are vacant. For vacant buildings, he is also evaluating their condition. Mr. Lucas said there are about three vacant buildings where the Town may need to begin discussions with the owners about plans for the properties.

Mr. Lucas also mentioned about four building located near the bottom of South Pine Street. He said he contacted those owners about a year ago, and at that time they stated they were not interested in selling. However, he would like to reach out to them again to see if they still plan to renovate the buildings so they can be rented or owner-occupied.

Mayor Pritchard asked Mr. Lucas if he had researched a reasonable time frame to allow property owners to bring their buildings up to satisfactory standards. Mr. Lucas replied that for commercial properties, the typical time frame is about two years. For residential properties, he has not usually set a specific time frame because many homeowners simply do not have the financial resources to make the necessary repairs.

Mr. Lucas also pointed out that the CDBG grant the Town plans to apply for could be a great resource to help those residents. He said that after meeting with the Town Manager, he plans to send notices to property owners within the next few weeks outlining the repairs that need to be completed.

Lieutenant Jason Leary reported that during the month of June, the Police Department handled 542 total calls for service, with 460 excluding traffic stops. Officers conducted 82 traffic stops, issued 22 citations, gave 50 verbal warnings and 6 written warnings, and made 3 traffic-related arrests.

The department also responded to 15 traffic complaints, either officer-initiated or called in by citizens. Officers completed 362 security checks and investigated 6 vehicle accidents. They also responded to 4 domestic disturbance calls and 7 civil disturbance calls. In addition, the department opened 10 investigations and successfully cleared all 10 cases.

Town Manager Jonathan Allen updated the Board, noting that work began this week at the depot building. He explained that the crew removed the old ductwork and discovered several historic items, including old bottles, which the Town plans to preserve. He also said preparations are underway for the concrete pillars to be poured.

Mr. Allen informed the Board that the caboose is tentatively scheduled to be delivered within the next few weeks. He noted that it will still require restoration after it arrives.

Mayor Pritchard asked Mr. Allen for an update on the main water project, specifically whether he had spoken with Wooten about adding the Webb's Mills section and addressing the area near the post office where the major water leak occurred. Mr. Allen said he had not yet spoken with them but would follow up on both issues.

Mayor Pritchard also emphasized the importance of ensuring the Town receives a one-year warranty on the asphalt.

Commissioner Brumfield made a motion to enter closed session. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Commissioner Brantley made a motion to leave closed session, Commissioner Lucas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

Commissioner Brumfield made a motion to accept the contract with Axiom; Commissioner Lucas second and the motion passed 3 to 1 with Commissioner A Toney voting against.

Commissioner Brantley voted to accept the contract with Field and Cooper to perform the attorney duties for fiscal year 26-27; Commissioner Brumfield seconded and the motion passed 3 to 1 with Commissioner A Toney voting against it.

Commissioner Brantley voted to adjourn; Commissioner Brumfield seconded and the motion passed unanimously

  