

Minutes  
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting  
September 3, 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 and Drew Griffin. Commissioner Tommy Toney was absent.

Also present was Town Manager Andrew DeLonno, Town Clerk/Finance Director Michele Collins, Police Chief Nathan Gant, Attorney Mark Edward and Developer Tom White.

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

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

Manager DeLonno explained that the Planning Board is made up of 5 members and can be made up with some flexibility as to how to appoint or re-appoint members. Town Clerk Michele Collins said that Bruce Brumfield had changed his mind from being a full member to being an alternate. After some discussion, Commissioner Cone made a motion to appoint or re-appoint David Willis, Garfield Mills, Terah Himmelright, and Mayor William Pritchard as full board members and Bruce Brumfield as an alternate. Catherine Ziencik's term isn't up until later this year. This leaves one position open for an alternate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gainey and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to go into Public Hearing to discuss the System Development Fee Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Gainey, motion carried.

Developer Tom White discussed the continuing revenue to the town every year and maybe not charge this one-time fee. He stated that the developments would be giving the town \$600,000 in tax revenue each year. There were no further comments from the public.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to go out of Public Hearing, Commissioner Gainey seconded, motion carried.

Manager DeLonno explained that the price of meters had gone up by a third in just two weeks and that we were not notified earlier so they weren't budgeted for. Unfortunately, we will have to find the money to purchase the meters that we need and are not able to go with a cheaper brand. Mr. DeLonno expressed concerns with saddling these "system expansion" fees onto just the current rate payers of the town and not send some of these fees to the developers. Commissioner Gainey explained that the tax revenue may be helping the town, but they wouldn't help the enterprise fund. The fees for the enterprise fund come from the water we sell, and the fees are attached to the water & sewer system only. Mr. White expressed that he would like to see these fees added to the builder and not the developer.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to table this subject for a month for Mr. DeLonno to explore some other more precise components for this ordinance. Commissioner Gainey seconded the motion, motion carried.

Consideration of resolution excepting funding for the DWI project SRP-W-134-0151. This is the \$3M from Oct 2023 that came through Rep. Chesser. This will be used for improvements to the WWTP and collection system to begin work on the town's I&I. The Wooten Company requested on our behalf a request for funding form. This is the official documentation from the state to accept the funding and begin to move forward with the project. The state has informed Mr. DeLonno that there would be no need to seek another pre-qualification for an engineer unless the town desired to do so. Commissioner Griffin made the motion to accept the funding as stated. Commissioner Cone seconded the motion, motion carried.

Consideration of Truck parking and Compression braking ordinance. Mr. DeLonno explained this was in response to some inquiries from Commission members dealing with some of these issues and some calls that have come in with trucks being parked illegally in town and trailers being dropped illegally as well. Commissioner Cone made a motion to accept the ordinance as written. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion, motion carried.

Recommendation of the selection committee for the Platform Project. Alliance Architect of the Triad. Mr. DeLonno explained there were 4 prospects, some were excellent, and some did not have the experience of keeping this project in with the historical period of the building. The selection committee chose Alliance Architect of the Triad because of their excellence as well as having and architect for this project with experience in historical projects, and the fact that they were already working on the depot project. Mr. DeLonno stated that the selection committee was made up of Pam Brantley, Terah Himmelright, and Michele Collins. After further discussion, Commissioner Cone made a motion to accept the recommendation of the selection committee. Commissioner Griffin made a motion to second, motion carried.

Consideration of the scope of work and price proposal for Alliance Architect of the Triad. Commissioner Cone made a motion to accept the scope of work and price proposal for Alliance Architect of the Triad. Commissioner Gainey seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adoption of Capital Project Fund for the Spring Hope Depot Platform Project. This is the actual funding mechanism to be able to expend the grant. The caboose has already been purchased; this is only for the platform project. Commissioner Cone made a motion to accept the Adoption of Capital Project Fund for Spring Hope Depot Platform Project. Commissioner Griffin made a motion to second, motion carried.

Consideration of resolution for NCDOT recommending removal of the tree at the intersection of N Pine and Franklin St. The tree has been deemed a safety issue, not only for line of site, but for falling. The tree has been inspected by a member of the Forestry Service and is diseased as well. Commissioner Gainey made a motion to approve the resolution to remove the tree. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to second, motion carried.

Chief Nathan Gant gave his report which consists of 312 total calls for service. They were broken down as follows: 142 traffic stops, 40 security checks, 6 traffic accidents, 2 domestics, non-chargeable, 8 disturbances, 11 total investigations in August with 10 cases clear. The final letter was received for the grant to purchase the radios the officers need by May 2024. The amount of the grant was \$29,999. Both new guys are out of training and things are running smoothly.

Report from Chamber by Ms. Claris Bissette:

Ms. Bissette reminded everyone that the downtown development board is trying to help clean the town in preparation for the pumpkin festival. The date has been set for Sept 14<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. You can go onto the town's website to register.

(<https://www.springhope.net/downtown>). Ms. Bissette told the board that she was speaking on behalf of herself now, not the chamber. She noted that there are 48 members of the chamber. The cost to join the chamber is \$50 for individuals, \$100 for businesses, and \$150 for corporations. This year, 2024, will be the 51<sup>st</sup> Pumpkin Festival and the largest sponsor is Nash County Travel & Tourism. Ms. Bissette asked that the town consider putting the Pumpkin Festival in the town budget for next year. She also noted that there was a shortage of pumpkins for this year as well as a shortage of volunteers. Ms. Bissette also noted that the chamber hours are now Tues, Wed, Thurs from 10 am - 2 pm. Mayor Pritchard commended the chamber for the work well done.

Report from Code Enforcement, Shawn Lucas:

Mr. Lucas stated that he was still having trouble with some people continually not abiding by the rules. Commissioner Griffin told the board and Mr. Lucas that he wanted to see some people cut grass and move some junk. Manager DeLonno stated that he and Mr. Lucas were working on some ways to bring folks into compliance or make non-compliance harder on them. Commissioner Cone made mention that we needed to work on the commercial aspect as well as residential.

No report from Attorney Mark Edwards.

Report from Manager DeLonno:

The town will be switching over to VoIP in the next couple of days. The town also moved to a new email provider and Mr. DeLonno has new passwords for everyone.

Commissioner Cone requested a closed session to speak about personnel. Commissioner Gainey seconded the motion, motion carried.

Commissioner cone made a motion to leave closed session; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed.

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





