

Minutes
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 1, 2021

A regular meeting of the Town of Spring Hope Board of Commissioners was held at 7 p.m. at the Spring Hope Community Building.

Members present: Mayor James Gwaltney, Commissioners Brenda Lucas, ^{ABSENT} Ricky Tucker, Brent Cone, Prudence Wilkins and Drew Griffin.

Also present were Town Manager Jae Kim, Town Clerk Michele Collins, Town Attorney Mark Edwards, SHPD officer Jake Gwaltney and Chief Nathan Gant.

Newspapers present were Kendra Jones from the Nashville Graphic and Lindell Kay from the Enterprise.

Visitors included Chamber President Ethan Vester, Joe Wilkinson, Bill Brantley and Jared Thompson from Envirolink.

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

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 4th meeting as written; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

Joe Wilkinson said that he was a Spring Hope building owner as well as running an antique business. He said that he was concerned about inaccuracies and omissions as it pertained to the new revitalization plan. He said he thought that hiring a code enforcement officer was a bad idea for the town and that it would deter growth. Mr. Wilkinson said that in his opinion Spring Hope was not full of blithe it was actually seeing a lot of growth with several small businesses opening. He also said that the county had been very visible within the town limits as it pertained to code enforcement and that the town would just be wasting money on a contractor to do the same job. He said that incentives would be better than mandated revitalization and that the town had an opportunity to be a place for small businesses to grow.

Mr. Kim said that the Downtown board had been working on the plan for at least a year. Mayor Gwaltney asked the board if they felt like they had enough time to read and understand the plan. Commissioner Lucas asked if Mr. Wilkinson was for or against the plan; Mr. Wilkinson said that he was against it. Commissioner Griffin said that he didn't feel like there was enough interaction from the public to be able to vote on the plan. Mayor Gwaltney said that three of the Commissioners did not have enough time to really study and absorb all of the information in the plan. The board decided to attend the next Downtown meeting and not vote on the plan.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to table the discussion until the March meeting; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kim told the board that Ray Wilkins and Deeann Rivera had been nominated to fill the empty spaces on the board of Downtown Development.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to accept the nominations; Commissioner Cone seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kim requested that Catherine Ziencik be moved from an alternate position on the Planning Board to become a full member. He said that this would fill the last open seat on that board.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to move Catherine Ziencik to a full member; Commissioner Wilkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cone made a motion to table Item D on the agenda; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ethan Vester gave the board a copy of the vision and Welcome letter for the SH Chamber. He said that he would like subcommittees for the Chamber to help move business concerns forward.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to table the discussion on the Golf Cart ordinance; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Mark Edwards had no new items.

Envirolink

Jared Thompson gave the report for Envirolink.

Police Report

Chief Gant gave his report which included the armed robbery at the sweepstakes business. He said that he told them that better security measures needed to be established immediately. Chief Gant said when he entered the building he suggested several camera location and security procedures to be implemented. He said that SHPD off duty officers will now be stationed at the business to help keep the business secure. He said that the officers are being paid as contractors but will continue to have arrest powers.

Managers' Report

Mr. Kim said that there was a new point of contact for the Poplar St. well and that she was working on the request from the town. He also said that Bobby Liverman from NCDOT was working with Duke Energy to get the lighting off the exit coming into town from Hwy. 581.

Public Nuisance

Mr. Kim said that all the debris on 314 S Ash St had been removed.

Mr. Kim said that he was working on getting the owner of 101 S Poplar St to come into compliance with their property.

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

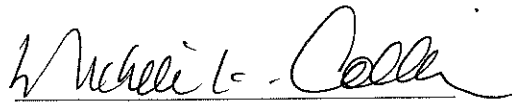
Closed Session

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

There was no new business from the board.

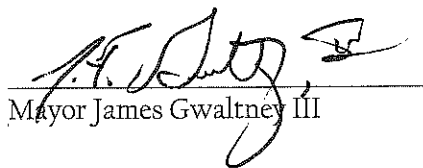
Commissioner Cone made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:



Michele K. Collins
Town Clerk

Attest:


Mayor James Gwaltney III