

Regular Meeting – July 13, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 13, 1999, at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W.B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Lt. Sam Hunt, John Jackson, Jenny Huggins, Ronnie Seals, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Betty Overturf, Shirley Price, Shirley Eaton, Rebecca Fisher, Huel Faulk, Larry Nichols, Janice Thompson, Scott Witten and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Perry made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on June 8 and the special board meeting on June 29. He made a correction to the June 8 minutes concerning the \$100 donation to Larry Nichols and the Special Olympics. The minutes stated the money was for Larry Nichols personally when it actually went to the Robeson County Special Olympics. It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Huel Faulk asked for police protection at the pool near First Baptist Church on North Main Street.

Mrs. Shirley Eaton informed the board that she had an album of town photographs available for viewing.

Mrs. Janice Thompson came before the board with Special Olympian Larry Nichols, his mother and Special Olympics Coordinator Betty Bridyers. Mrs. Thompson thanked the town for its support of the Special Olympics. Ms. Bridyers also thanked the board. She introduced Larry Nichols and his mother. She commented that Larry was one of 112 athletes from Team North Carolina. Larry won three medals at the Olympics. He won silver for the bench press, a bronze for the dead lift and a bronze for the bench press/dead lift combination. Ms. Bridyers presented a certificate of appreciation to the board. Mrs. Nichols gave the board a tee shirt, a silver coin and pin as gifts from Larry. Mrs. Thompson gave each board member a Special Olympics tee shirt. The board applauded Larry and congratulated him on his achievement.

Mayor Lewis recognized Codes Officer John Jackson with a plaque for twenty-five years of dedicated service to the town. Mr. Jackson thanked the citizens of Fairmont for putting up with him that long.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss Wayland B. Lennon's request to subdivide land on White Pond Road, containing a proposed thirteen (13) lots. It was seconded by Comm. Gaddy and passed unanimously. Comm. Lennon did not vote. Mayor Lewis reported that the Planning Board met on July 5 and recommended the approval of the final plot plan for "Mrytlewood Acres." After input from several citizens, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. Comm. Lennon did not vote.

Comm. Perry made a motion to approve Wayland B. Lennon's subdivision request. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. Comm. Lennon did not vote.

Ms. Jane Price described the North Carolina Transportation Enhancement Program. It is a cost reimbursement program with the state paying 80% and the town 20%. Any town streets can qualify; it depends on the project you want to do. All projects must have a transportation link and an acceptable maintenance plan. Some of the enhancement categories are pedestrian and bicycle facilities, landscaping and scenic beautification and historic preservation. Applications for the program are due September 15, 1999. Mr. Hill asked the board to give him their feelings and suggestions by the next board meeting.

The board wanted to have more discussion on the health insurance resolution passed at the last board meeting. Attorney Charlie Floyd explained that a commissioner who voted in favor of the resolution must make the motion to bring it up again for discussion. Comm. Kemp made a motion to discuss the health insurance for retired employees. It was seconded by Comm. Lewis and passed unanimously. Mr. Hill was asked if the town's health insurance would be the primary or secondary provider. He responded that after age 65, Medicare would be the primary provider and the town's insurance would be secondary. Comm. Lennon was concerned about the rising cost of health insurance and how this would affect the town in the future. Currently, there are only four retired employees who will be benefit from this plan at an average cost of \$2,200 per person per year. Comm. Lennon is afraid that with increased longevity that we may have 20 or 30 retirees on this program in the future. Comm. Perry felt that would not be a major issue. The board did not have to revote, so the resolution stands as passed on June 29.

General Business

Ms. Jane Price furnished the board with a codes and zoning update. Ms. Jan Hester from the LRCOG was scheduled to be at tonight's meeting and wrote a letter apologizing for her absence. Ms. Hester has gone through half of Fairmont's municipal codes and is working on updating them to reflect new state regulations. She will start bringing the updated codes to the board in September for their approval. Comm. Kemp asked Ms. Price to invite Ms. Hester to the next board meeting. He wants more information on regulating commercial property using either aesthetics or safety.

Mr. Hill and Ms. Price supplied information on the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem. The Town of Fairmont is doing its part by upgrading our computer system. CP&L, Southern Bell and Time Warner Cable foresee no problems with Y2K. Mr. Hill did said to prepare for Y2K like a hurricane just to be on the safe side.

Mr. Hill discussed street paving. Mr. Hill and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals did a rough survey of the town and came up with twenty streets that appear to be in the worst condition. (See attached list). Mr. Hill would like to get the commissioners' input over the next few weeks to finalize the list.

Mr. Hill and Comm. Kemp provided an update on Time Warner Cable. Mr. Hill declared that Fairmont will be tied into the Lumberton lines and the new fiber optic system will be online August 2. Comm. Kemp went to the cablevision office and saw a demonstration of the new fiber optic system. He was really impressed by the clear channels and option packages. He mentioned that cable representatives will come to your house after August 2 to explain the new system and options. Mayor Lewis would like a representative from Time Warner to come to our next meeting.

Mr. Hill presented the board with a plan to change water bill late fees. He proposed charging a late fee of \$8 instead of \$1 from the 11th to 15th and locking the meters. After the 15th, the meters will be pulled to get them off the computer system and a \$25 reconnect fee will be charged. Mr. Hill said these changes were necessary due to the high number of customers who do not pay their water bills on time. There is an average of 60 people per month on the cut off list, 50% of who are on it every month. The board agreed with Mr. Hill's proposed changes. The new fees will go into effect with the August water bill.

Mayor Lewis brought up the town's welcome signs. The one on Highway 130 east has fallen down and the other three are in bad shape. Comm. Kemp passed around a design drawn by a local citizen. Four new signs will require about 8,500 to 9,000 bricks. Comm. Kemp said we can use the bricks from the demolished school once they are cleaned up and save the cost of buying new bricks. Mayor Lewis asked Betty Overturf to print a request for sign designs in the paper. The board agreed to discuss this issue further at the next board meeting.

Mr. Ben Hill, Ms. Jane Price, Mr. Ronnie Seals, Chief Terry Hunt and Comm. Hayes Lewis recently went to a CP&L workshop on hurricanes and power outages. Comm. Lewis stressed that it was important for citizens to call the CP&L 1-800 number from their homes whenever the power goes out. CP&L can then pinpoint your location and get a crew out to your house faster than if you call 911.

Mr. Hill announced that a letter had been sent to County Inspector William Stone concerning the burned houses in our one-mile ETJ. We are currently waiting to hear from Mr. Stone's investigation.

Commissioner's Input

Comm. Perry made a motion that the Town Manager not be allowed to buy any more cars without prior approval from the board of commissioners. It was seconded by Comm. McCree. Attorney Floyd advised that he needed to check the amount of expenditure to see if it requires board approval or not. Comm. Kemp remarked that the drug fund money was used to buy the vehicles and did not come out of the general fund. After discussion, Comm. Perry and Comm. McCree withdrew their motions and the issue was tabled.

Attorney's Input

Attorney Floyd disclosed that no bids had been received for the land next to Robeson Insurance and Britt Associates.

Announcements

Mayor Lewis announced that the 100th Opening of the Fairmont Tobacco Market will be held on Tuesday, August 3 at Twin States Warehouse on Highway 41 North beginning at 8:00 a.m. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session – GS 143-318.11(a)(3,5&6). It was seconded by Comm. McCree and passed unanimously.

After discussing pending litigation, personnel and land disposition, a motion was made and seconded to come out of closed session. It passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – August 10, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W. B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Chief Terry Hunt, Jane Price, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Lt. Sam Hunt, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Shirley Price, Shirley Eaton, Scott Witten, Greg Davis, Eric Collins, Brenda Bullock, Lyndell Bullock, Linda Vause, Ray Johnson, Chris Mitchell, Kim Mitchell, Dan McKenzie, Keith Rogers, Mitch Stevens, Sandra Stevens, Ann Marks, Ann Ray, Doris Locklear, Geraldine Ivey, Jimmy Ivey, Patricia Brayboy, Charlie Ray Hunt and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting on July 13, 1999. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Charlie Ray Hunt, president of the Fairmont Rural Fire Department, came before the board to make a complaint. He mentioned that the Rural Fire signed a lease with the town in 1989 to coexist with the City Fire Department. It is the responsibility of the Rural Fire Department to pay the electricity bill on the Fire Hall. It was extremely high last month, over \$400, and they would like the town to reimburse them. They only have a small amount of funds to pay bills with and the upkeep of the fire trucks is expensive. He revealed that the money received from renting the Fire Hall is supposed to go into a special fund to help pay for upkeep and that this has not been done. Mr. Hunt furthermore complained that the building was damaged during Hurricane Fran and has yet to be fixed. It leaks every time it rains. He also brought up the Good Faith Agreement concerning the annexations in 1996. The town is supposed to pay the Rural Fire Department for lost revenue due to the annexations. Mr. Hunt claimed that he has yet to receive any money from the town. The board informed Mr. Hunt that they would investigate his claims and get back to him with answers.

Mrs. Ann Marks appeared before the board to complain about the speed limit on Gertrude Street. It is currently posted at 20 mph. She feels that this is too slow and that no one obeys it anyway. She would like it changed to 35 mph. Mrs. Ann Ray also lives on Gertrude Street. She wants the speed limit to stay the same since she has small children and because other children in town ride their bikes down Gertrude to get to the pool. The board took no action on this matter.

Mrs. Brenda Bullock asked for the town council's help with the Fairmont Middle School situation. The appearance of the school is terrible. It was not even ready for the students when they started back to school last Thursday. The grass on the athletic field was

extremely high and there are fire ants everywhere. The bleachers are falling apart and the playing field has holes and is very unlevel. Mrs. Bullock understands that construction on the new addition has not been finished but she and many other parents are concerned about the older buildings on campus. The gym, grammar and band buildings are in such bad shape that they will not last long if repairs are not made soon. She emphasized that the schools have an important social impact on the town. It is hard to recruit new employers when the schools are so bad that they do not want to send their children here. She declared that the staff and student morale is very low. In closing, Mrs. Bullock requested the board to use their influence as elected officials to talk to the County School Board and get much needed improvements made to the school system.

Ms. Betty Overturf, a teacher at Fairmont Middle School, thanked Mrs. Bullock on behalf of all the teachers for her concerns. She mentioned that the construction area has not been turned over to the school yet and until that time no landscaping or improvements to that part of the school can be made. She hopes to have a town meeting once everything is finished to discuss parent concerns and needed improvements. She also expressed that the school is short one janitor and that does not help the appearance of the school any.

Mrs. Shirley Eaton approached the board and invited everyone in the room to repeat after her: “Do It Big, Do It Right and Give It Class.” She then presented the board with her design for the town’s entrance signs. She also introduced Ms. Patricia Brayboy, Executive Director of the Robeson County Red Cross. Ms. Brayboy is looking for a safe shelter for use during hurricane season. They have used the high school in the past but it is really not adequate for a shelter. She would like to use the Premiumwear building if the town ends up buying it and converting it into a community building.

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Mr. Freddie Miller, the new part time Fire Chief. He is replacing Mr. John Jackson who retired in June. Mr. Miller asked the board to call him at anytime if they need any help.

Administrative Matters

Mr. Hill brought up the drainage problems at Stevens Cleaners, McKee Craft and Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mitchell’s house on Church Street. On May 14 and July 24, 1999, the town experienced heavy down pours of rain in excess of 4 to 5 inches in a short period of time. The above-mentioned places had water going into their businesses and homes. The town’s engineers and insurance carriers were called. Mr. Greg Davis, of Hobbs and Upchurch, was present to discuss these issues. They did a survey of seven areas in town that have drainage problems. He made recommendations to improve the areas in question. For McKee Craft, he suggested that the town clean out and deepen the ditch at the rear of the property. He also recommended replacing three 8-inch drainage pipes with one 30-inch pipe. For the Mitchell property, he advocated the installation of a larger drainage pipe. Finally, for Stevens Cleaners, he advised making a depression next to the new Post Office to divert water from the alley. This will be taken care of when the gravel

part is paved. He furthermore recommended cleaning out the pipe system and proposed that the Stevens install a concrete diversion at the back of their property to prevent water from coming in the building. Mr. Davis did not have a cost estimate for the improvements but said he would have it within a week.

The council then listened to the property owners' feelings on the drainage problems. Mitch and Sandra Stevens have been in the same building for 16 years and have never had a big problem with flooding. They feel the new post office is partially to blame. It is elevated higher off the ground than the surrounding buildings and therefore the runoff from the rain affects their property. They remarked that they never had this much flooding before the post office was built. Mrs. Stevens blames the town for not doing anything to prevent the flooding. Comm. Gaddy asked if the engineer of the post office was at blame for not considering the flood problems. Mrs. Stevens declared that they were out of business and that it would cost \$100,000 to buy new equipment. She raised the question why the town has not done anything to help them out. Attorney Charlie Floyd responded that the town has insurance and it is up to the insurance company to decide whether we are liable or not. The Mitchells also inquired if the town would help pay for their flood damages. Chris Mitchell is a police officer for the town. He had a police car flooded during the May 14 storm. The town's insurance adjuster came out within three days and paid for a new police car for Mr. Mitchell. However, the town's insurance said the town was not liable for his personal property. He disclosed that the insurance adjuster even offered him \$1,000 to keep quiet about it. Mayor Lewis called for a special board meeting on August 24 to finish discussing the drainage problems. We should have the final engineer's report at that time and have the town's insurance carrier present.

Mr. Hill discussed Mrs. Doris Locklear's mobile home in the town's one mile ETJ. On May 11, 1999 the town board denied Mrs. Locklear's request to place a second mobile home on her lot for storage. Mrs. Locklear moved the trailer onto her lot anyway. Attorney Floyd wants the town to bring an action to court to get the trailer removed. Codes Officer Jane Price gave the board a letter from the State Department of Insurance. The letter states that no mobile home can ever be used as an accessory storage building unless it is on a "bonafide farm." This means that Mrs. Locklear's other storage building, a burned out trailer, would also have to be removed. Mrs. Locklear and her son, Wayne Locklear, asked the board if there was anything they could do to keep the trailer. Mayor Lewis explained that it is a violation of our ordinances to allow two residences on one lot. There is nothing the town can do to permit the trailers to stay. Ms. Price clarified that the only solution is to remove both mobile homes and build an accessory building for storage. Attorney Floyd proposed that the board table the issue until the August 24 meeting. Comm. Kemp made a recommendation to table the issue.

Mr. Hill informed the board that he had received a letter from Mr. Wilton Wilkerson of the Robeson County Committee of 100. The letter asked the town to give a \$500 donation to help pay for a reception for Dr. Allen Meadows, the new chancellor at UNC-

Pembroke. The reception will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 1999 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Pine Crest Country Club in Lumberton. Comm. Gaddy feels that the reception is nothing but a high class social. Comm. Kemp recommended we table the request until we see what the other towns in the county are doing.

Mr. Hill announced that he had received a letter from the North Carolina Department of Commerce regarding the approval of a \$250,000 Industrial Development Fund Loan for McKee Craft, LLC. He informed the board that no action was needed for the loan to go through, just the mayor's signature on the Grant Agreement.

General Business

Comm. Gaddy was excused. He became ill and was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Eric Collins of Time Warner demonstrated the new fiber optic cable service. There are now 109 channels available for Fairmont customers. He informed the board that any problems with reception with the new system are probably bad wiring and cable. The new system is pumping 90 volts while the old system only pumped 30 volts. He warned that cable not installed by Time Warner could become a fire hazard with the increased voltage. He also displayed the premium service black box, which has a channel preview guide, music channels and pay per view movies. The board thanked him for his time and honesty.

Mr. Hill updated the board on the previously approved Recipients Plan to Further Fair Housing. The old contact person was John Jackson but since he has retired, Mr. Hill is now the contact person.

Mr. Hill presented the board with a petition from North Carolina Natural Gas, which was recently purchased by Carolina Power & Light. The petition asks the state for money from the Clean Water and Natural Gas Critical Needs Bond Act of 1998. The money will be used to add natural gas to the unserved portions of Robeson, Columbus and Montgomery counties. This includes Fairmont and Rowland. Mr. Hill said it would be two or three years before we hear anything.

Mr. Hill brought the board up to date on the town codes. He had asked Jan Hester from the LRCOG to be here tonight but she was unable to attend. She will be at the September board meeting.

Mr. Hill informed the board that the Fairmont Community Park Grant was not selected for funding this cycle. He felt we were not funded because the town does not own the park land. He suggested we move the location of the park to town owned land and reapply next February. We will also have a public hearing before the application deadline to get citizen input.

Mr. Hill solicited the board for their feelings on changing the age of mobile homes brought into town from seven years to five years. He reported that the Town of Pembroke recently changed their codes to five years. Attorney Floyd has talked to County Building Inspector Grady Hunt about the situation. Mr. Hunt informed him that the Attorney General said that no restrictions on age could be placed on mobile homes. Comm. Kemp recommended that the issue be tabled until further information is gathered.

Mayor Lewis spoke on the “Welcome to Fairmont” signs. The board looked at one sign proposal that has the town seal in the middle. The board set September 1 as the deadline for accepting sign ideas. A sign committee will be set up at the September board meeting to work on a final design.

Announcements

Mr. Hill announced that the Town of Fairmont is hosting the Region N Manager’s Association meeting on Friday, August 27, 1999. It will be held at Flagtree Golf Course.

Mayor Lewis declared that the Town offices would be closed Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day.

Mayor Lewis also called a special board meeting for Tuesday, August 24, 1999.

Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session – G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3,5,6). Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing legal matters, land disposition and personnel, Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Perry made a motion to survey the 1.56 acres of land next to Blownrite Insulation, keep .56 acres for the town to extend Center Street and advertise the other acre for a minimum sealed bid of \$10,000 until September 30, 1999. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Special Meeting – August 24, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Hayes Lewis, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W. B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Chief Terry Hunt, Jane Price, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Lt. Sam Hunt, Betty Overturf, Shirley Price, Shirley Eaton, Scott Witten, Bill Lester, Chris Mitchell, Kim Mitchell, Dan McKenzie, Mitch Stevens, Doris Locklear, Geraldine Ivey, Jimmy Ivey, Tina Mayer, John Jackson, Fay Sellers, Paul Woolverton, Terry Evans, Timothy Ailsworth and J. Steven Lee.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Administrative Matters

Mr. Bill Lester of Hobbs and Upchurch, the town's engineer, was present to discuss the drainage problems at Stevens Cleaners, McKee Craft and Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mitchell's house. He highlighted areas from the drainage study prepared by fellow engineer, Greg Davis (see attached study). He began by stating that obvious flooding had occurred from looking at pictures taken after the storm. He said that most engineers design drainage systems that can handle a 10 or 25-year rain. The town had much more rain than that on May 14th and July 24th of this year. Mr. Lester briefly discussed Stevens Cleaners and Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell's house on Church St. In the Cleaners' case, roof drains from all the surrounding buildings affect the alley and make it more prone to flooding. He mentioned that paving the gravel part of Thompson St. next to the new post office would improve drainage in that area. In the Mitchell's case, the drainage pipes that lead into a large canal are too small and are overwhelmed during exceedingly heavy rains. Mr. Lester suggested upgrading the size of the pipes but warned there could still be periodic flooding since it appears to be a flood prone area.

Mr. Timothy Ailsworth, Director of Claims and Underwriting, of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the town's insurance carrier, spoke about the flood claims made by the town. He reported that the League handles the town's general liability coverage and that claims were filed immediately after the rains. Mr. Ailsworth and his associate, J. Steven Lee, went around with Mr. Lester and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals today to look at the areas in question. He explained that the insurance company looks to the engineer as experts in these situations. For example, the engineer informed Mr. Ailsworth that the flooding at Stevens Cleaners would have occurred whether the new post office had been built or not. Mr. Ailsworth came to the conclusion that there was nothing the town could have done to prevent the flooding and therefore the insurance company is unable to make payment on the town's behalf.

Town Attorney Charlie Floyd spoke in defense of the council. He expressed that it was unfair for the citizens to ask the board questions they cannot answer. He informed them that they are free to take legal action if they are unhappy with the insurance carrier's decision. Mayor Lewis called for a five-minute recess. He asked any citizens who wished to speak to the insurance carriers and the engineer to meet in the town manager's office.

After the recess, Mayor Lewis brought up the Doris Locklear situation. Codes Enforcement Officer Jane Price provided the board with Mrs. Locklear's only two options. First, she can have both mobile homes removed and build an accessory storage building. Secondly, she can hire a surveyor and get her lot subdivided into two lots with a minimum of 5,000 sq ft each. She would have to remove the burnt trailer, apply for a variance on age and have an engineer bring the second mobile home up to housing standards. Attorney Floyd responded that the Board of Adjustment affirmed former Codes Enforcement Officer John Jackson's decision to move the mobile homes. The board needs to instruct the attorney to take legal action against Mrs. Locklear in order to get the trailers removed. He mentioned that Mrs. Locklear's chance to appeal the Board of Adjustment's decision had expired. The board asked if Mrs. Locklear had been informed of her options. Ms. Price replied in the affirmative and pointed to the minutes taken of the meeting (see attached minutes). Comm. Gaddy asked Mrs. Locklear if she understood her options. She specified that she did not and demanded that John Jackson take a lie detector test. Mayor Lewis demanded that she not speak of Mr. Jackson, that he was not present and he did not want his character touched by accusations. Comm. Perry made a motion for the Town Attorney to proceed with legal action against Doris Locklear. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced that two appointments needed to be made to the Fireman's Relief Fund. The gentlemen that need to be replaced are Mr. Kyle Chavis, who left Triangle Bank in Fairmont, and Mr. Wiley Taylor, who recently passed away. Mr. Hill recommended Mr. Anthony Sealey, the current president of Triangle Bank in Fairmont, and Mr. Mickey Williamson. Comm. Lennon made a motion to appoint Mr. Anthony Sealey and Mr. Mickey Williamson to the Fireman's Relief Fund. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill updated the board on the concerns of the Rural Fire Department. He met with them on Saturday, August 21 to try and work things out. Mr. Hill hopes to have a full study completed on the situation by the September 14 board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – September 14, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W. B. Lennon, and Charles Kemp. Commissioner Hayes Lewis was absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Lt. Sam Hunt, Betty Overturf, Brenda Bullock, Terry Evans, Terry McGirt, Mary Bruce Grantham, Jan Hester, Fay Sellers, Bobby Walters, and Jimmy Byrne.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on August 10th and the special meeting on August 24th. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to release improperly listed taxes in the amount of \$963.56. Comm. Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Lewis asked anyone who wanted to make a citizens appearance to state their name for the record and to limit their comments to five minutes. Mrs. Brenda Bullock came before the board and thanked the board for showing interest and support of the Fairmont Middle School. She appreciated the mayor and manager's attendance at last night's school board meeting. She mentioned that the school is making improvements and that the school's construction should be finished in six to eight weeks.

Administrative Matters

Jan Hester with the Lumber River Council of Governments was present to discuss updating the town codes and ordinances. She apologized for missing the last two board meetings. The LRCOG is working hard on bringing the town's ordinances up to date. It is a time consuming, detailed process and she appreciates the board's patience. She brought an updated animal control ordinance for the board to look over. She stated that the time schedule for ordinance completion is Spring 2000. At that time, she will turn everything over to the Town Attorney for final approval.

Mr. Hill informed the board about a municipal agreement with the Department of Transportation to inspect four bridges that are within the city limits – Leesville Road, Morro Street, Mitchell Street and Floyd Street. The cost is \$800.00 per bridge, but with this agreement the town only has to pay 20% or \$160.00 each. This inspection has to be done every 3 years. Comm. Perry made a motion to accept a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to perform certain work under the

Federal-Aid Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program, said work to consist of the reinspection and analysis of all public bridges on the Municipal Street System in the Town of Fairmont. Comm. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill brought up the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund's (PARTF) grant program. The town has applied for a grant through this program the last three years but has not received any money. We applied for the money in order to buy land and equipment for a park next to Williamson's BBQ. We did not get the grant because we do not own the land. Mr. Hill mentioned that the Holliday Brothers are willing to give the land between their warehouse and the Fairmont Memorial Park to the town for the park. Mr. Hill would like the board's approval to apply for another grant. We need to have a public hearing in November or December and the grant application must be submitted by January 31, 2000. Comm. Kemp made a motion to go forward with the PARTF grant application. Comm. Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that Governor Jim Hunt has declared a North Carolina Department of Transportation Litter Sweep for September 17-30, 1999. The town clean up week will be September 20-24, 1999. This week will give citizens a chance to get rid of white goods, tires, shingles and other big items at no cost. This program has been very successful in the past.

Mr. Hill spoke on a requirement by the North Carolina General Statutes to pass a resolution identifying areas under consideration for future annexation. He suggested we identify our one mile ETJ as that area. Comm. Lennon made a motion to adopt the resolution identifying our one mile ETJ as the areas under consideration for future annexation. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill discussed the new Fairmont Fire Hall Policy for citizens and employees. The Rural Fire Department has agreed to this new policy and Recreation Director Mickey Williamson is now in charge of all reservations for the Fire Hall. Mr. Hill feels this should eliminate most of the problems we have had in the past. Money raised from renting the Fire Hall will go into a separate line item in the budget to pay for repairs and high expenses. He also brought up the Good Faith Agreement between the town and the Rural Fire Department. The town has agreed to pay the Rural Fire Department for two annexed areas to compensate them for lost revenue. The agreement is for five years and will pay \$1,035 per year for the Happy Hill area and \$883 a year for the Mitchell and Pittman Streets area. We owe the Rural Fire Department for three fiscal years (97-98, 98-99 & 99-00) for a total of \$5,754. Comm. Kemp made a motion to support the new Fire Hall Policy and to pay the Rural Fire Department for lost revenue due to the 1997 annexation. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill reintroduced the Committee of 100's request for \$500 to help pay for a reception for Dr. Allen Meadors, Chancellor of UNC-Pembroke. Mr. Hill stated that the other towns in Robeson County have split the cost with their Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Raymond Johnson, President of the Fairmont Chamber has agreed to pay \$250 if the town pays the other \$250. Comm. Lennon made a motion that the town pay \$250 for the Committee of 100 reception. Comm. Perry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis brought up a resolution given to him by Robeson Health Care Corporation. The resolution declares October 4-8, 1999, as "National Health Center Week." Comm. Lennon made a motion to adopt the resolution celebrating "National Health Center Week." Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Hill showed the board a letter from Time Warner Cable referencing their Social Contract with the FCC. They have decided to quit using the FCC's Social Contract and use their own instead. The Social Contract regulates the cable rates. Also, 25% of Time Warner Cable was recently sold to AT&T. They predict no changes as a result of this sale. Time Warner Cable is also going to provide cable and internet access to the town hall at no charge.

Mr. Hill announced that the Fairmont Neighborhood Park on Marvin Street will be renamed the Rudolph Currie Memorial Park in honor of the former town commissioner. A Grand Opening of the park will be held on September 27, 1999 at either 11:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. County Commissioners Berlester Campbell and Dick Britt will be present. He encouraged all the commissioners to try and attend.

Mr. Hill reported on last night's school board meeting that he and the mayor attended. The school system has caught up on work at the middle school that they were behind on due to being short on janitorial help. The town agreed to help out when needed. He stated that all the old classrooms should be brought up to standard within six to eight weeks.

Announcements

Robeson County is hosting the R.C.M.A. meeting on Thursday, September 30, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at the Robeson County Housing Authority. Guest Speaker will be UNC Pembroke Chancellor Allen Meadors.

Mr. Hill announced that he, Mayor Lewis, Lonnie Nealy and Lt. Sam Hunt attended an emergency management meeting this afternoon concerning Hurricane Floyd. It is a big hurricane and Robeson County is right in its path. The schools will close tomorrow at 12 and the Red Cross will open shelters at 2:00 p.m. Fairmont High School is the shelter for

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our area. Mr. Hill will meet with public works, fire, rescue and police tomorrow at noon to discuss emergency plans. We also have prices from contractors in case we are hit hard and need their help in the clean up effort.

Mr. Hill updated the board on Officer Tina Rhodes condition. She is in the hospital at Lumberton. She will have surgery tomorrow to replace artery valves in her right leg.

Closed Session

Comm. Lennon made a motion to go into closed session – G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5). Comm. Perry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing land disposition, Comm. Perry made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Perry made a motion to have a public hearing on October 12 to discuss giving land across the street from the new post office to Southeastern Regional Medical Center as an incentive grant for a new medical clinic. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – October 12, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W. B. Lennon, Charles Kemp and Hayes Lewis. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Chief Terry Hunt, Betty Overturf, Terry Evans, Mary Bruce Grantham, Bobby Walters, Shirley Eaton, Freddie Miller, Huel Faulk, Lt. Sam Hunt, Scott Witten, Ray Johnson, Lynn Taylor, Fred Hughes and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on September 14th. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Shirley Eaton came before the board and thanked the town, police and rescue for their help during Hurricane Floyd.

Public Hearing on Medical Clinic

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss land for a proposed medical clinic. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The purpose of this hearing is to decide to give a piece of land on Walnut Street, between Leesville Road and Tobacco St., to Southeastern Regional Medical Center as an incentive for a new medical clinic in Fairmont. Mr. Hill stated that SRMC is acquiring the 1.57 acres of land from the Fairmont Development Corporation. However, the town owns .1400 of an acre of that land. The Fairmont Development Corporation gave it to the town several years ago. The town needs to give this section to SRMC so construction can begin. Mr. Terry Evans and Mrs. Tina Mayer spoke up in support of the new clinic.

Comm. Lennon made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Lennon made a motion to give the .1400 acres of land on Walnut Street to SRMC for a medical clinic. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill advised that Time Warner Cable's franchise is up for renewal and that a public hearing needs to be set to discuss it. Time Warner's franchise expires in March 2000. They are asking for a 10 year extension. Their current franchise was for 5 years. Mr. Eric Collins will be present to answer any questions. Comm. Kemp made a motion to set

a public hearing for Time Warner Cable's "Franchise Renewal" agreement for November 9, 1999. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill explained that the board needs to pick a delegate and alternate delegate to vote at the N.C.L.M. convention, October 24 – 26 in Greensboro, NC. Comm. Perry made a motion to nominate Comm. Hayes Lewis as the voting delegate but withdrew his motion. Comm. Lewis made a motion to make Ben Hill the delegate and Hayes Lewis the alternate delegate. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Hill discussed the Consumer Confidence Report for the Town's Well Water. Postcards were sent to each water bill customer to inform them of the report. It will be published in this week's Times Messenger and copies are available in our water department. The state requires that we let the citizens know the condition and quality of the town's drinking water. Our water is fine and below any detectable limits. Comm. Lewis praised our water and said that he had friends from Canada, New Jersey and Florida who commented on how good our tap water is.

Mr. Hill mentioned the Emergency Plan for Catastrophes in the future. Over the next 60 days, the town will fine-tune its plan for emergencies. Postcards will be sent out to citizens with all the emergency phone numbers. Mr. Hill wants to find a better way to communicate with the citizens during emergencies to keep them better informed. Comm. Kemp congratulated the town for the efforts they made during and after the hurricane. Comm. Kemp called John Elliott from Carolina Power and Light during the storm and Mr. Elliott promised to write a letter to each Fairmont citizen explaining how and why they did things following the hurricane. Several citizens including Lynn Taylor, Tina Mayer and Fred Hughes, complained about CP&L and how long it took for them to get power back.

Mr. Hill remarked that at the September 30, 1999 meeting of the Robeson County Municipal Association, the attending members voted to ask their respective Governing Boards to provide a cash donation to aid in the disaster recovery effort in Eastern North Carolina. Realizing that it could be any of us in such need, The Town of St. Pauls has challenged every town to donate \$1.00 per capita (population) to the Relief Fund. The Town of Red Springs has agreed to serve as a central depository for these funds. Once all contributions have been received, one check will be written to the Office of the Governor, N.C. Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund. Credit will be given for each local government contribution. Mr. Hill reported that the NCLM is not sure this can be done. He asked Attorney Floyd to look into this matter. If we can give money, the town would like to donate \$1,000. Attorney Floyd guessed that we would probably not be able to give money.

Mr. Hill detailed Dr. R. Kent Webb's request for a support letter for a dialysis center in Fairmont. Dr. R. Kent Webb from Fayetteville approached Mr. Hill this past Thursday. He has a dialysis center in Lumberton and has been approved for one in Red Springs. He is interested in building one in Fairmont as well. It takes nine (9) months to get approval. Mr. Hill is asking for letters of support from Fairmont as well as surrounding smaller towns such as Orrum, Marietta and Proctorville. Comm. Perry made a motion for the town to write a letter of support for the dialysis center. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill talked about some letters from Time Warner Cable. The first letter details how Time Warner calculates their Basic Service Tier Rates, equipment and installation charges. The second letter is in regard to the damage received from Hurricane Floyd. The final letter states that 25% of Time Warner Entertainment has been purchased by AT&T. Mr. Hill said this was general information for the commissioners to read and better understand Time Warner.

Mayor Lewis announced that he had appointed a welcome sign committee of four ladies. Linda Carol Hicks is the chairwoman. He hopes to have a report at the November meeting.

Mr. Hill disclosed that FEMA and the NC Department of Emergency Management requires a resolution designating an applicant's agent. This is needed before emergency money can be applied for. The town is asking for close to \$160,000. Comm. Lewis made a motion to designate Town Manager Ben Hill as the applicant's agent. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Lewis made the following announcements:

There will be a Robeson County Leaders Luncheon on Thursday, October 14, 1999, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Lumberton. The Robeson County Office of Economic Development and UNC Pembroke's Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development are sponsoring it. Speakers from the NC Department of Commerce, Ray Denny and Doug Byrd, will present information on the impact of increasing job losses in our county and outline new marketing strategies needed to attract businesses and industries.

Palmer Drug Prevention Program Second Annual Red Ribbon Kick-Off Luncheon will be either October 22, 26, or 27 (depending on Governor Hunt's availability) from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the National Guard Armory in Lumberton. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

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The Farmer's Festival Miss and Little Miss Pageant was held this past Saturday in Rosenwald Auditorium. Miss Toni Marie Webb won the Miss crown and Little Miss Brooke Hunt, Lt. Sam Hunt's daughter, won the Little Miss crown.

The Fairmont Farmers Festival will be this Saturday, October 16th, 1999. Grand Marshal is Zeb Oxendine, a local farmer. Festivities begin with a parade at 10:00 a.m. following by an afternoon full of fun, food, and entertainment. The day concludes with a dance at Hi-Dollar Warehouse starting at 8:00 p.m. The Fantastic Shakers will perform.

Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session – G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5&6). Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing land disposition, Comm. Lewis made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – November 9, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W. B. Lennon, Charles Kemp and Hayes Lewis. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Chief Terry Hunt, Rebecca Fisher, Mary Bruce Grantham, Shirley Eaton, Eric Collins, John Elliott, Susan Rabold, John Masters, Linda Hicks, Lynn Taylor, Fred Hughes, Tina Mayer, Linda Vause, Helen Lockley, Ronnie Seals, Richard Tyner, Ann Ray, Bobby Walters, Angelo McMillan, Huel Faulk and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on October 12th. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to release improperly listed taxes in the amount of \$525.00. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Lewis recognized Commissioner Hayes Lewis for receiving the Lumber River Council of Government's Regional Leadership Award.

Chief Terry Hunt recognized Officer Richard Tyner for being named Top Gun, the best shooter of all law enforcement officers in Robeson County. He won with a score of 99.6.

Town Manager Ben Hill informed residents of Happy Hill that the contractor would grade Taylor and Griffin Streets this week.

Mr. Hill announced that Agenda Item I-D, Phil Wallace's request for help at the Golf Course, has been tabled until a later date.

Town Attorney Charlie Floyd spoke as a citizen on behalf of Rosenwald Elementary PTA. The PTA is handing out vouchers for citizens to use at Food Lion on November 15, 16, & 17. If you purchase groceries on these days and hand in a voucher, Food Lion will donate 5% of your total purchase to the PTA. Funds raised will go toward new playground equipment and to help teachers purchase supplies.

Public Hearing on Time Warner Cable

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss Time Warner Cable's request for a 10-year extension on their Franchise Agreement. Comm. Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Eric Collins came before the board to discuss the franchise agreement. He explained that this hearing is the first of two readings required by law to renew a franchise agreement. The current agreement will expire on March 13, 2000. He explained that most cable contracts run 10 years or longer, few are less than 10. Mr. Collins expressed that telecommunications is changing daily and that Time Warner will do its part to pass the newest technology on to its customers. He reassured the board that Fairmont would always have the same cable as Fayetteville and Lumberton since the fiber optic cable signal originates in Fayetteville. Comm. Kemp thanked Mr. Collins for his honesty and for keeping his promises. Several citizens, including Angelo McMillan and Tina Mayer, had some minor complaints about the quality of their cable. Mr. Collins said he would have a technician look into their problems

Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Kemp made a motion to accept the first reading of Time Warner Cable's franchise agreement with the Town of Fairmont. Comm. Lennon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 to 2:

For:	Comm. Kemp, Lennon, Lewis and Gaddy
Against:	Comm. McCree and Perry

Mr. John Masters of S. Preston Douglas & Associates presented the board with the audit report for July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999. He assured the board that the town is in a good financial condition and commended the board and town staff for their hard work. He distributed graphs to the board that cover 17 years of the town's financial history. Comm. Lewis made a motion to accept the 1998-1999 Audit from S. Preston Douglas & Associates. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill read a letter from the North Carolina Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. It encourages celebrations and activities in honor of Dr. King. The town currently does not have any activities on that day. The Commission requests that any activities planned for that day be sent to them by November 30 so they can publicize it. Mr. Hill responded that the town plans to contact the area churches to see what plans they may have. The board agreed that the town should participate in an event honoring Dr. King.

General Business

Ms. Susan Rabold from MetroSite Management, LLC gave a presentation on Wireless Communications on behalf of the LRCOG. The NCLM and the NC City and County Commissioners Association endorse MetroSite Management. MetroSite Management has Management Agreements with Elizabethtown, White Lake, Parkton, Bladen and

Robeson Counties. MetroSite's purpose is to analyze potential sites for wireless communications towers and then market them to the nine communications companies in our area. If a lease is generated between the town and a wireless carrier, then MetroSite will share 33% of the revenue. Ms. Rabold stressed that the wireless industry is starting to look at rural areas to expand their coverage. They are also focusing on high-speed internet access through wireless communications. She related that revenue from the wireless companies depends on the site. A water tank can bring in \$1,200 to \$1,300 a month, whereas a new tower will bring in \$500 to \$800 a month. Mr. Hill would like to set up a management agreement with MetroSite, so they can look at our water tank, our landfill and new sewer plant. Comm. Perry made a motion to accept a Wireless Communications Consulting, Marketing and Management Agreement with MetroSite Management, LLC. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. John Elliott and Mr. Greg Byerly with CP&L gave a presentation on the company's response during major storms. They prepare by monitoring the weather, committing to a plan and mobilizing resources. CP&L has 1,000 crewmen on a day-to-day basis, for Hurricane Floyd they used 7,000 servicemen from 16 states. After the storm, CP&L assesses the damage, verifies what is out, determines the resources needed and establishes restoration time. They then work the priorities like hospitals and police stations. Mr. Elliott stated that 537,000 people were without power after Hurricane Floyd and that within 24 hours half of those customers had lights back. He mentioned that Ken Nance is the contact person for Fairmont during emergencies. Mr. Elliott and CP&L are dedicated to restoring power as quickly as possible. He encouraged the citizens to call 1-800-419-6356 whenever the power goes out. Once your call goes through, a symbol appears on the computer screen letting the serviceman know what to repair. Mr. Byerly declared that 90% of the CP&L customers in Robeson County had their power back in two days. Several citizens who were without power three or four days asked the representatives why it took so long. They responded that every situation is different and that a number of reasons could have prolonged power restoration. The board thanked Mr. Elliott and Mr. Byerly for taking time to come to the meeting.

Mrs. Linda Hick, Chairwoman of the Welcome to Fairmont Sign Committee, presented the board with the committee's sign selection. The signs are to be 10 feet wide and made entirely of brick using bricks from the old high school. The face of the sign will have the town seal and "Welcome to Fairmont, NC, Founded 1899" in metal letters. The bottom of the sign will be used for civic organizations to put their seals. There will be a lantern at the top of each column and spotlights and shrubbery in the front. Mrs. Hicks thanked everyone who submitted an idea.

Commissioners Kemp, Gaddy and McCree suggested that the town do a quarterly newsletter to keep the citizens better informed on what is going on in the town. Comm. Kemp prepared a sample newsletter entitled "Town Talk". He praised the press for doing a wonderful job of reporting the actions by the board but feels that a more personal view is needed. He proposed that the town staff prepare the newsletter and send it out

quarterly with the water bills. He wants the first one done in January 2000. Comm. Gaddy and Comm. McCree agreed that the newsletter would increase citizens' knowledge. Comm. Kemp made a motion to establish a quarterly newsletter for the purpose of better informing the citizens of Fairmont. Comm. Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill updated the board on the town's Emergency Plan. He hopes to have the plan ready for the December board meeting. He is working closely with the town staff on this project.

Announcements

Comm. Kemp encouraged anyone who graduated between 1923 and 1976 to attend the Fairmont High School Unified Reunion on Saturday, November 27, 1999 on the grounds of Fairmont Middle School. Activities begin at 10 a.m. There will be an auction of school items at 12 noon and a tour of the new middle school from 1:00 to 3:00. In case of rain, the event will be held in the gym.

Closed Session

Comm. Lewis made a motion to go into closed session – G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1,5&6). Comm. Perry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing personnel and land disposition, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Perry made a motion to authorize Town Manager Ben Hill to sell a 17.5' x 110' lot on Center Street under sealed bids. Comm. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to give Town Manager Ben Hill a \$1,200 yearly salary increase at the end of his probation on May 17, 2000. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4 to 1. The vote went as follows:

For:	Comm. Kemp, Gaddy, Lewis, and McCree
Against:	Comm. Perry
Absent:	Comm. Lennon

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – December 14, 1999

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Firemen's Hall with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, James O. Perry, W. B. Lennon, Charles Kemp, Hayes Lewis, J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Chief Terry Hunt, Rebecca Fisher, Shirley Eaton, Eric Collins, Linda Vause, Helen Lockley, Ronnie Seals, Billy Hayes, Judge Robert Frank Floyd, Jr. and approximately fifty citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9 meeting. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Outgoing Commissioners Hayes Lewis, Rusty Perry and Butch Lennon thanked the citizens for the honor of letting them serve Fairmont. They wished the new board luck.

Due to the recent election, Superior Court Judge Robert Frank Floyd, Jr. swore in Commissioners J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham. Their signed official oaths of office are hereby made a part of these minutes. A small reception was held before the meeting in their honor. Commissioners J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham thanked the public for their support at the recent election.

Organizational Meeting

The new board discussed setting a meeting time and choosing a mayor pro tempore. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to keep the meeting date on the second Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Jackson nominated Comm. Gaddy for Mayor Pro Tempore. Comm. Frank McCree moved that the nominations be closed and made a motion to name Commissioner Ned Gaddy Mayor Pro Tempore. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$138.00. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Billy Hayes welcomed the new commissioners. He asked the board to rescind the annexation lawsuit at the earliest possible date. He stated that no one is gaining but the lawyers and that over \$50,000 had been spent on their side. He expressed that it was a total waste. He invited the commissioners to call him if they wanted to discuss the annexation or sewer plant. Mayor Lewis informed Mr. Hayes that the board would discuss the lawsuit in closed session.

Mr. Bobby Walters thanked the board for their help in making Happy Hill look better. He passed out a list of other things their neighborhood needs including lights and signs.

Several other citizens spoke to the board including Terry Evans, Shirley Eaton, Ann Marks and Annie Jackson.

Public Hearing on Time Warner Cable

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss Time Warner Cable's request for a 10-year extension on their Franchise Agreement. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Eric Collins came before the board to discuss the franchise agreement. He explained that this hearing is the second of two readings required by law to renew a franchise agreement. The current agreement will expire on March 13, 2000. He gave a short presentation on Time Warner for the new commissioners. He explained that Time Warner has invested around one million dollars to upgrade Fairmont's cable to fiber optic. There are currently 111 channels available and in three months there will be over 200 channels. There have been 130 customer compliant calls since September and 70% of them have been customer education calls explaining how the new system works. The rest of the calls involved minor wiring problems and bad connectors. Time Warner responds to every call within 24 hours.

After Mr. Collins answered questions from both citizens and commissioners, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Kemp made a motion to table Time Warner Cable's request for a franchise agreement with the Town of Fairmont until the January meeting. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed 5 to 1. The vote went as follows:

For: Kemp, Jackson, Gaddy, Grantham, Frank McCree
Against: J.J. McCree

Mr. Tony Worley's term on the Fairmont Housing Authority Board has expired and he is willing to serve again. Mayor Lewis reappointed Mr. Worley for another three-year term.

Mr. W. J. Townsend's term on the Fairmont ABC Board has expired. Mr. Townsend is willing to serve again. Comm. Jackson made a motion to reappoint Mr. W.J. Townsend to the Fairmont ABC Board. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis stated that outgoing Commissioners Hayes Lewis, Rusty Perry and Butch Lennon needed to be replaced on the Board of Adjustment with the new commissioners. Comm. Jackson made a motion to appoint Commissioners J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham to the Board of Adjustment. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis announced that the residents of South Taylor Street in the Happy Hill area wanted to change the name of the street to McMillian Drive in honor of the families living there. Comm. Jackson made a motion to change the name of South Taylor Street to McMillian Drive. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis mentioned that speed limits needed to be set for McMillian Drive, Griffin and Webster Streets. Chief Terry Hunt suggested 20 mph for Webster Street since it is near the elementary and middle schools. He also suggested 20 mph for Griffin Street and McMillian Drive since they are in a residential area. Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt an ordinance setting the speed limit of McMillian Drive, Griffin Street and Webster Street to 20 mph. Comm. J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Lewis informed the board that a date needs to be set for the Public Hearing on the \$120,000 Park Grant. The new park site is 5 acres of land between the burned Holliday warehouse and the Memorial Park. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to set January 11, 2000 for the Public Hearing on the Park Grant. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis expressed that the board needed to set a date for the C.D.B.G. closeout. Comm. Grantham made a motion to set January 11, 2000 for the C.D.B.G. closeout. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis explained that outgoing commissioner Hayes Lewis needs to be replaced on the L.R.C.O.G. board. Comm. J.J. McCree made a motion to name Comm. John Jackson as the replacement for Hayes Lewis on the L.R.C.O.G. board. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Hill announced that Blown Rite Insulation Co. was the only bid on the property located on Morro Street, between Red Cross and Center Street. They bid \$10,010. The minimum asking bid was \$10,000. Comm. Grantham made a motion that we sell the property on Morro Street to Blown Rite Insulation Co. for \$10,010. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced that the town has seven surplus vehicles that need to be sold in an auction. He mentioned that there is a company in Virginia that purchases used government vehicles in order to resell them. Comm. Gaddy made a motion for the manager to pursue selling the surplus vehicles to the company in Virginia and if that does not work to sell the vehicles under sealed bids. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The board discussed a letter from Bishop John W. Barber. Bishop Barber has asked the town for a donation for the third annual Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner to be held in the Fire Hall on December 18. After discussion, the board decided not to give a donation.

Mr. Hill gave the board an update on the town's Emergency Plan. He has talked to the both the new and old commissioners and is taking their ideas under consideration. He hopes to have a plan ready in January.

Code Enforcement Officer Jane Price updated the board on nuisance homes throughout the town. There are 10 CDBG clearance houses. Of those ten, one has been removed, one is being repaired, four are ready to be removed and the other four are waiting on paperwork. There are fifteen other dilapidated and deteriorated buildings in Fairmont. All of these properties are being researched and catalogued.

Comm. J.J. McCree made a motion for the town to complete all the items on Mr. Bobby Walters' list for Happy Hill. These items include streetlights, speed limit and stop signs, regular street cleaning, and notifying property owners to clean up lots. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

The Fairmont Recreation Department and the Fairmont Housing Authority are sponsoring a seminar on “Violence in the Workplace and Personal Safety.” This informative one-hour seminar will be held on Thursday, December 16, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

The Town of Fairmont’s annual Christmas luncheon will be held at the Fire Hall on Thursday, December 23, at 12 Noon.

The Town offices will be closed Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27 in observance of Christmas. They will also be closed on Friday, December 31 in observance of New Year’s Day.

The Fairmont Centennial Committee is capping off the town’s 100th birthday by burying a time capsule on December 31 at 12 Noon in the Memorial Park. It will be reopened on February 27, 2049 for the town’s 150th birthday.

Closed Session

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the annexation lawsuit, “William A. Hayes, et al vs. Town of Fairmont” – G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing legal matters, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Council Retreat
January 4, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special council retreat on Tuesday, January 4, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. in Pat Floyd's clubhouse in Fairmont with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner J.J. McCree was unable to attend. Town Manager Ben Hill and Town Clerk Jenny Huggins were also present.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Mayor Lewis stated that the purpose of the meeting was to talk about annexation and Time Warner Cable. There was much discussion by the board on these issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – January 11, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Chief Terry Hunt, Linda Vause, Shirley Eaton, Ronnie Seals, Bill Lester, Raymond Johnson, Huel Faulk, Angelo McMillian, Billy Hayes, Betty Overturf, Annie Jackson and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Graham Pittman. Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 1999 regular meeting and the January 4, 2000 council retreat. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to release improperly listed taxes in the amount of \$631.22. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Angelo McMillian came before the board and thanked the town for everything they have done for Happy Hill. Some residents of Happy Hill presented Commissioner J.J. McCree with a plaque.

Ms. Shirley Eaton warned everyone to be careful of the flu.

Mr. Huel Faulk had some questions on the CDBG program.

Ms. Annie Jackson asked representatives of the town to come to the quarterly Community Watch meetings.

Public Hearing on Closeout of FY97 CDBG

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the closeout of FY97 Martin Luther King Revitalization Community Development Block Grant. Comm. J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner John Jackson was excused from voting since he worked with the CDBG program when he was a town employee.

Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs and Upchurch, was present to discuss the CDBG closeout. He said the grant would be officially closed out on February 28, 2000. He expressed that this was a very successful grant with several houses rehabilitated and a lot of street and drainage work completed. Comm. J.J. McCree asked Mr. Lester how the CDBG program

works. Mr. Lester explained that the town could apply for a new community development block grant in September with public hearings in June, July and August.

After discussion, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Comm. Jackson did not vote.

Public Hearing on New Park Grant

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss a new Park Grant Application. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Bill Lester presented a drawing of the proposed park located on the site of the burned Holliday Warehouse. Town Manager Ben Hill explained that we didn't get a grant in the past because we didn't own the land. The Holliday Brothers are giving the land to the town as a gift. The town is applying for a \$122,000 grant with the state paying half and the town providing the other half in money and services. Comm. J.J. McCree asked about the Calvin Haggins Park.

After discussion, Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed 5 to 1. The vote went as follows:

For: Commissioners Gaddy, Kemp, Grantham, Jackson and Frank McCree
Against: Commissioner J.J. McCree

Administrative Matters

Comm. Kemp made a motion to set the date to closeout the FY97 Martin Luther King Rehabilitation Community Development Block Grant as February 28, 2000. Comm. J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Comm. John Jackson abstained from voting.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to apply for the new park grant as of January 11, 2000 and approve the PARTF Grant Application and Certification. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed 5 to 1. The vote went as follows:

For: Commissioners Gaddy, Kemp, Grantham, Jackson and Frank McCree
Against: Commissioner J.J. McCree

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to grant Time Warner Cable a 10-year extension on their franchise agreement with the town. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion. They later rescinded their motion and second. Comm. Jackson mentioned the recent merger of Time Warner Cable with America Online. He suggested that the board table the agreement until Mr. Eric Collins can be present to discuss the merger. Comm. Jackson

made a motion to table the Time Warner Cable franchise agreement until the February meeting. Comm. J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Charlie Floyd recommended that the board start the annexation process over again for the Golf Course and North Fairmont area. He suggested that a Resolution of Intent be prepared and available for review and adoption at the next Board meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2000. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to consider adopting a Resolution of Intent at the February board meeting. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill described the LRCOG request for use of designated state funds in the amount of \$566.87. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to release \$566.87 to the LRCOG. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Town Attorney Charlie Floyd informed the board that the town now owns the Callahan TV building. The previous owners gave it to the town as a gift. After discussion, Comm. J.J. McCree made a motion to hold a public hearing on February 8, 2000 to gather citizen input on the future of the building. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis discussed the quarterly newsletter to citizens. The first newsletter will be sent out with the January water bills. Mayor Lewis suggested holding an Issue Forum the week following the receipt of the newsletter to gather input from the citizens. The board set the first Issue Forum for Tuesday, February 1, 2000.

Comm. Kemp asked that a suggestion box be put in the water department. He feels that it will be a good way for the citizens to communicate their ideas to the town.

Mr. Hill tabled the issue of surplus vehicles until the February meeting.

Announcements

The Town offices will be closed Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday.

Ben Hill and Commissioner John Jackson will be at a LRCOG workshop January 21 and 22.

The Towns of Lumber Bridge and Parkton are hosting this month's RCMA meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Lumber Bridge. The guest speaker will be a representative of FEMA.

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Mr. Hill announced that a public hearing was held today at RCC for a new Dialysis Center in Fairmont. The response was positive and the permits should be issued by the end of April. The \$1.2 million project should be completed by the end of the year.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

**Town of Fairmont
Issue Forum
February 1, 2000**

The Town of Fairmont held its first ever Issue Forum on Tuesday, February 1, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtroom with Mayor Pro Tempore Ned Gaddy presiding. Those in attendance included Commissioners Mary Bruce Grantham, Charles Kemp, John Jackson and Frank McCree, Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Huggins, Betty Overturf, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Tony McLellan, D.C. & Marlene Bass, Dan McKenzie, Raymond & Nina Johnson, Terry Hunt, Huel Faulk, Annie Jackson, Sam Hunt, Bobby Walters and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ned Gaddy called the meeting to order and Comm. Grantham gave the invocation. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He explained that the meeting is informal and its purpose is to gather citizen input on different topics.

Town Manager Ben Hill welcomed the citizens. He discussed the status of the Community Building. The project is currently on hold because the town is waiting on Premiumwear to give us their facilities on February 14. At the March board meeting there will be a public hearing to gather citizen input on whether to build the Community Building on the lot next to Hi Dollar Warehouse or remodel one of the three Premiumwear buildings. Mrs. Nina Johnson suggested that the town sponsor an open house of the Premiumwear building before the public hearing so the citizens and especially the contributors to the community building can make an educated decision. There was discussion about the tax loss the town would suffer by keeping the building versus trying to sell it to a new industry.

The citizens brought up the Shell Building. Mr. Hill explained that it was built in 1995 when the economy was good and before NAFTA was signed. We have been marketing it but there is a lot of competition with other towns. Mr. Bobby Walters suggested using the building as an indoor flea market.

The next topic of discussion was the proposed park on the location of the burned Holliday Warehouse. The town has applied for a \$122,000 grant to build the park. The current design has a walking trail, playground equipment, picnic shelters, grills and bathrooms. Most of the citizens present did not like the idea of a basketball court. The issue of Calvin Haggins Park was also discussed. Recreation Director Mickey Williamson has spoken to the county recreation office about this park. They are going to send him a list of events for this year plus they promised to add more equipment in the future.

Mr. Hill stressed the importance of Census 2000. He explained that the town gets around \$200 in federal and state money for each citizen of Fairmont. In 1990, we lost around 200 to 300 people because of a bad count. He assured everyone that the census information is completely confidential and that there is no reason not to tell the truth on

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the forms. The town may sponsor a “Town Hall Day” to encourage and assist citizens in completing the census forms.

Mr. Hill suggested the idea of giving free water and sewer taps, a value of \$525, to encourage more people to build in Fairmont.

Some of the citizens from the Old Field area complained about the dangerous conditions of their neighborhood. Most of the residents are elderly women who are scared to leave their houses. Chief Hunt encouraged them to work together as a community. Most of the people causing the problems do not live in the Old Field area. One lady complained about the large number of dogs running wild.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – February 8, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Shirley Eaton, Ronnie Seals, Raymond Johnson, Linda Link, Billy Hayes, Dick Britt, Annie Jackson, Lt. Sam Hunt, Eric Collins, Freddie Miller, Barbara Strickland, Bobby Walters and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2000 regular meeting. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to release improperly listed taxes in the amount of \$290.60. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mrs. Shirley Eaton came before the board to promote tourism of Fairmont.

Mr. Billy Hayes came before the board and spoke for thirty minutes on why he is against involuntary annexation and the proposed sewer plant.

Mrs. Linda Link of linking services asked the Mayor and council to form a committee to help her organization find suitable housing for persons with traumatic and acquired brain injuries.

Public Hearing

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the Callahan TV Building that was recently given to the town. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hill stated that one business owner had come to him expressing interest in the building. The board felt the person should follow a strict guideline for fixing up the building. Comm. Jackson made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Gaddy made a motion instructing Mr. Hill to advertise the old Callahan TV Building under sealed bids with the guidelines that the winning bidder had to begin work on the building in 90 days and that work must be completed in a year and that if he was to lease the building that a reasonable rent be charged. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Eric Collins of Time Warner Cable was present to discuss the franchise agreement. He introduced two associates, Lead Maintenance Technician John McMillian and Construction Coordinator Aaron Crisp. Mr. Collins reassured everyone that the merger with America Online was an asset and would not increase cable fees. He also mentioned that Time Warner plans to begin digital broadcasting before the end of the year. Comm. Grantham made a motion to grant Time Warner Cable a 10-year extension on their franchise agreement. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed 5 to 1. The vote went as follows:

For:	Gaddy, Grantham, Kemp, Jackson, Frank McCree
Against:	J.J. McCree

Mr. Hill announced that Ellen Rich, Butch Lennon and Mr. & Mrs. Lafon Berry on Pittman Street and Chris McKee and Timmy Thomas on Morro St. want to voluntary annex into the town. Mr. Hill said the total cost of the annexation should not exceed \$10,000. Comm. Grantham made a motion to go ahead with the voluntary annexation process. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Rudy Paul from the Robeson County Recreation Department was present to discuss Calvin Haggins Ball Park. He stated that the county plans to spend \$20,000 this year to add a playground system for children ages 6 to 12. The long-range plans include one or two basketball courts and playground equipment for children under 6. They are planning to offer free adult softball leagues in order to increase participation. County Commissioner Dick Britt informed the board that he was going to give money toward the park. The issue turned to the condition of the middle school gym. Comm. J.J. McCree made a motion to invite School Board Member Brenda Fairley and County Commissioner Berlester Campbell to our next board meeting to address the school system. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with Comm. Grantham abstaining.

Comm. Grantham stated that several citizens had approached her regarding speeding on the alley behind Webster's Pharmacy and on Church Street. She proposed a 20 mph speed limit. Lt. Sam Hunt said that speed limits cannot be set for alleys and that increased patrol of Church Street would be better than changing the speed limit. The board took no action on this issue.

Mr. Hill advised the board that the parking lot lease for the area behind Webster's Pharmacy and the eye doctor needs to be renewed for another five years. Comm. Kemp made a motion to renew the parking lot lease with the Fairmont Parking Corporation, Brady Pharmacy, Inc. and Edith G. Herring for five years. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Mr. Hill announced that Hobbs and Upchurch would have a Resolution of Intent prepared for the March board meeting so the annexation procedure for the Golf Course and North Fairmont areas can begin.

Mr. Hill wants to hold an auction to sell surplus vehicles on Saturday, March 18. He added that the rescue squad wants to sell some of their surplus equipment at this time as well. Comm. Grantham made a motion to set the date for the public auction of surplus vehicles as Saturday, March 18, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

The American Red Cross is sponsoring a class on Disaster Relief, Damage Assessment, and Shelter Operations. It will be held at the Fire Hall on February 17th at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Maxton will host the RCMA meeting. Date to be announced.

Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss land acquisition and personnel - G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5&6). Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go back into closed session to discuss land acquisition, personnel and the annexation lawsuit, “William A. Hayes, et al vs. Town of Fairmont” – G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3,5&6). Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing the lawsuit, land acquisition and personnel, Comm. Grantham made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill passed out packets of information that was requested by one of the commissioners. Some of the commissioners were upset about the amount of information. They asked Mr. Hill how long it took the staff to prepare the packets and Mr. Hill replied 40 hours. Comm. Grantham made a motion that the board should discuss any requested information that takes over an hour to prepare. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion. Attorney Floyd felt that this could not be done. After discussion, Comm. Grantham and Comm. Kemp rescinded their motions. Mr. Hill suggested that the board have another retreat the last Tuesday in March.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – March 14, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, John Jackson and Mary Bruce Grantham. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Ronnie Seals, Bill Lester, Billy Hayes, Lt. Sam Hunt, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Bobby Walters, County Commissioner Berlester Campbell, Sharon McDuffie, Andy Grimsley, Lynn Taylor and several other concerned citizens. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd was absent.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2000 regular meeting. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Comm. Kemp asked the clerk if there was a vote taken regarding annexation in either open or closed session at the last board meeting. Miss Huggins replied that no vote was taken on annexation last month.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$210.17. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Ms. Lynn Taylor, of 707 Murphy Street, came before the board to thank Lt. Sam Hunt for getting “No Parking” signs for Rosenwald Elementary. It has been very helpful in making things safer for the children.

Administrative Matters

Mr. Hill referred the board to a letter from Mr. Henry Byrd, Executive Director for Administration of the Public Schools of Robeson County regarding the condition of the gyms at Rosenwald Elementary and Fairmont Middle Schools. Mr. Andy Grimsley complained that having more than one school board representative for Fairmont is ineffective. County Commissioner Berlester Campbell suggested that any concerns the town may have should be brought before the school board.

Mr. Hill discussed the “Welcome to Fairmont” signs. Mr. Billy Smith, Jr. has designed a sign that would cost \$1,395 each or \$5,580 for four sandblasted signs. The brick columns to support the sign are not included in this price. The Fairmont Development Corporation has offered the town a \$4,000 grant toward starting the signs. The rest of the money will be budgeted in June. Comm. Grantham made a motion to accept Mr. Smith’s sign proposal and have one sign made now and put money in the budget for the other three. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced that “Robeson County Spring Clean 2000” has been set for April 7 through April 20. In participation with this event, Comm. Jackson made a motion that the town has a clean-up week from April 14 to April 20. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. During this week, citizens can get rid of unusual items such as old stoves, refrigerators, mattresses and shingles.

Mr. Hill suggested that the town council adopt guidelines for communicating with the town staff. Comm. Grantham made a motion that if a town councilman requests any information that take over two hours to prepare the board has to approve it first. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion. After discussion, Comm. Grantham and Comm. Gaddy amended their motion to say that any information that takes each department more than four hours to prepare has to have board approval. The motion passed 4 to 2. The vote went as follows:

For:	Grantham, Kemp, Gaddy, Jackson
Against:	Frank McCree, J.J. McCree

Mr. Hill brought up Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church’s request for help in installing a sidewalk in front of their church. They are asking for the town to pay 50% of the cost. Mr. Hill informed the church that the town would help fund the project in July using Powell Bill funds.

Mr. Bill Lester, from Hobbs & Upchurch was present to discuss the proposed annexation of the Golf Course Road, Marion Stage Road, Eldorado Road and Einstein/North Main Street areas. After discussion, Comm. Grantham made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Intent stating the intent of the Town of Fairmont to consider annexation of the Golf Course Road, Marion Stage Road, Eldorado Road and Einstein/North Main Street areas and fixing the dates of a public informational meeting and a public hearing on the question of annexation. The public informational meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall and the public hearing will be Tuesday, June 6, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This resolution of intent is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Hill informed the board that he has received signed petitions from the Mr. Thomas and Mr. McKee on Morro Street, Ms. Rich and Mr. Lennon on Pittman Street and Mrs. Berry on White Pond Road. The first two are contiguous annexations and the later is a satellite annexation. Mr. Bill Lester stated that the cost for extending sewer to these areas is approximately \$52,500. Mr. Hill feels it can bed one for less than that. Comm. Jackson made a motion to table the voluntary annexation until more detailed information on the cost can be obtained plus instructed the manager to investigate shared cost installation. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that Mr. Ricky Worley is interested in purchasing a piece of town property located on Center Street next to his funeral home. The vacant lot was appraised at \$2,000. Mr. Hill suggested that the property be advertised under sealed bids with a minimum asking price of \$2,500. Comm. Gaddy made a motion to advertise the vacant lot on Center Street under sealed bids for 30 days with a minimum asking price of \$2,500. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Comm. Mary Bruce Grantham stated that her son, Bruce Grantham is designing a web page for the Town of Fairmont for free. She hopes that he will have something for us to look at by June. The page will have links to the state and county and we can post the agenda and minutes on it.

Mayor Lewis is planning a committee of nine members to study revitalization of all of Fairmont. He is still trying to find volunteers for the committee and will have more information on it at the next board meeting.

Mr. Hill discussed the Lumber River Council of Governments request for members on the Economic Development Strategic Plan Committee. The following citizens are willing to serve: Mr. Rusty Perry on Local Government, Mrs. Linda Link on County Image, Mr. Ben Hill on Economic Development, Mr. Charlie Floyd on Workforce Development and Education, Mr. Phil Wallace and Mr. Raymond Johnson on Quality of Life and Mayor Jeff Lewis on the Steering Committee.

Comm. Gaddy asked Comm. Jackson to explain the CDBG process. Comm. Jackson went through the process but some citizens still had questions. Mayor Lewis asked them to stay after the board meeting to get the answers.

Comm. John Jackson asked the council to name an alternate for him on the LRCOG board. Mayor Lewis volunteered to be his alternate.

Mr. Hill informed the board that he wants to hold a special council retreat on Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. at Pat Floyd's clubhouse to discuss planning next year's budget, the new sewer plant and industry.

Announcements

Fairmont is hosting the Robeson County Municipal Association Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at Williamson's Barbecue. Mr. Greg Cummings, Robeson County Economic Director, is the guest speaker.

The town will hold a public auction of surplus vehicles on Saturday, March 18, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. at Public Works.

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Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss industry and personnel - G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4&6). Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing industry and personnel, Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Special Meeting – March 28, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Nedward Gaddy, and Charles Kemp. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Betty Overturf, Bill Lester, Sharon McDuffie and Billy Hayes.

Mayor Pro Tem Ned Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Administrative Matters

Mr. Bill Lester from Hobbs and Upchurch was present to discuss the proposed annexation of the Golf Course Road and North Fairmont areas. He stated that the purpose of this meeting was to review and approve the annexation report for these areas. However, when preparing the report, they discovered that certain parcels no longer meet the subdivision test for annexation. In 1998, the North Carolina General Statutes for annexation was changed to include tighter restrictions. During the previous annexation attempt, these three parcels of land fit the annexation requirements but now they are too large. The acceptable vacant lot size went from five acres to three acres with the new law. Mr. Lester informed the board that new maps would have to be drawn leaving those tracts of land out. He recommended that the board rescind the Resolution of Intent adopted on March 14th at the next regular board meeting. He suggested adopting a Resolution of Consideration instead to give the engineers and surveyors more time to map out the revised annexation areas. The board took no action on this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Council Retreat
March 28, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special council retreat on Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. at Pat Floyd's clubhouse on Mill Branch Road in Fairmont with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham and J.J. McCree. Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Huggins and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd were also present.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham gave the invocation.

Mayor Lewis stated that the purpose of the meeting was to talk about planning next year's budget, the new sewer plant and industry. There was much discussion by the board on these issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – April 11, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, and John Jackson. Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham was absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Jane Price, Mickey Williamson, Ronnie Seals, Billy Hayes, Lt. Sam Hunt, Freddie Miller, Robert Shaw, Troy Miller, Betty Overturf and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2000 regular meeting and the March 28, 2000 special meeting and council retreat. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$24.45. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Troy Miller, president of the Fairmont Rotary Club, introduced five professionals from Mexico who are participating in the Rotary International Group Exchange Program.

Mr. Sandy Floyd came before the board on behalf of the Fairmont Civitans. It was Premiumwear's wish that the ball field be given to the Civitans. They want the board to give them the land as soon as possible so they can get financing for new lights and other repair work. Comm. Kemp made a motion authorizing Town Manager Ben Hill to instruct Town Attorney Charlie Floyd to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Gail McLean asked the board to check on the curb and gutters on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. They are not level and scrap the bottom of cars.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to set May 9, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a Public Hearing on the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority's request for a Conditional Use Permit. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the sale of the old fire car to the Fairmont Rural Fire Department for \$100. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to rescind the Resolution of Intent to annex Golf Course Road, Marion Stage Road, Eldorado Road and North Main Street areas that was adopted at the March 14th meeting. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hill informed the council that the revised and corrected annexation will be discussed at the May meeting.

Police Officer Danny Parker presented the board with his plans to open a game room in the old Advanced Auto Parts building, next to The Hardware. The purpose of this game room is to provide safe entertainment for area youth. It will be open every day and will be operated by Officer Parker and other off duty police officers. After discussion, Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve Officer Parker's request to open a game room. Comm. J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill brought up the voluntary annexations on Pittman Street, White Pond Road and Morro St. He stated that the engineers contacted local contractors and that the sewer could be extended to the areas for \$7,500. After discussion, Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt a resolution directing the clerk to investigate the petitions received under G.S. 160A-31 and G.S. 160A-58.1. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the petitions and resolutions are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Robert Shaw, President of the Fairmont Chapter of Rosenwald Alumni, spoke in favor of naming the Rosenwald Elementary School Auditorium after Mr. E. R. Gause. Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt the resolution supporting the naming of the Rosenwald Elementary School Auditorium as the E.R. Gause Auditorium. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This resolution will be given to the Robeson County Board of Education to encourage them to name the auditorium after Mr. Gause. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Hill discussed the problem of peddlers and solicitors. He has been contacted by several businesses that complain about peddlers who come in the first of the month and sell merchandise cheaper than they can. The only thing we can do is enforce our ordinances and make sure they have a privilege license and name badge.

Comm. John Jackson read a prepared statement about the last board meeting and the CDBG questions. After reading his statement, Ms. Gail McLean responded to what Comm. Jackson said.

General Business

Mr. Hill announced that the renaming of the park on Marvin Street to Rudolph Currie Park would take place on Saturday, April 15, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. He stated that it would be a short thirty-minute ceremony and encouraged the council to attend.

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The next Town Issue Forum will be Thursday, May 4, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom. Some of the topics to be discussed include revitalization of Fairmont, the new sewer plant and the budget.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to set May 4, 2000 as the date for the Tax Collector to advertise delinquent taxes for 1999-2000. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to proclaim Thursday, May 4, 2000 as a National Day of Prayer in Fairmont. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis said there would be a short ceremony in the Memorial Park that day. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Announcements

The Town of Pembroke will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. The day and speaker will be announced.

Special thanks to County Commissioners Dick Britt and Berlester Campbell for helping the town get \$5,000 to help replace air conditioning and heating system at library.

The Town Offices will be closed Friday, April 21, 2000 for the Easter Holiday.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – May 9, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Pro Tempore Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Mayor Jeffery G. Lewis was absent for the majority of the meeting. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Mickey Williamson, Ronnie Seals, Billy Hayes, Lt. Sam Hunt, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Earline Currie, Tina Rhodes, Annie Cooper, Kimbla Gilliard, Chris Ozment, David McGirt, D.C. Ratley, Huel Faulk, and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Pro Tempore Nedward Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham gave the invocation.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2000 regular meeting. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Pro Tempore Gaddy presented Mrs. Earline Currie with a plaque from the town honoring her late husband, Mr. Rudolph Currie, in renaming the park on Marvin Street to the Rudolph Currie Park.

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Ms. Katrina Tatum, the town's new Code Enforcement Officer. Ms. Tatum previously worked with the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Police Chief Terry Hunt presented Investigator Tina Rhodes with an Advanced Certificate from the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. This is the highest-level educational certificate that a police officer can obtain.

Communications Director Annie Cooper introduced our newest police dispatcher, Ms. Kimbla Gilliard.

Mrs. Johnny Johnson, outreach person for the Robeson County Enterprise Committee encouraged citizens to attend their monthly meetings in Fairmont on the second Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Comm. Jackson added that the enterprise community's goal is to apply for grant money from the federal government for programs that benefit the entire community.

Public Hearing

Comm. Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority's request for a conditional use permit for a group development. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Katrina Tatum introduced Mr. Chris Ozment and Mr. David McGirt with the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority. They are requesting a conditional use permit for a senior citizen residential development of ten single story duplex buildings (twenty one and two bedroom units), and one community building on a twenty-three acre site located on Marion Stage Road (SR 2433) next to the Howard and Haggins plant. Mr. Ozment exhibited a blue print of Phase I of the project, which will take up 10 acres of the total site. There will be one entrance road with three different style houses built on cul-de-sacs to make it look more like a neighborhood rather than a housing project. The property deed has a restriction that allows only people age 55 and older to live in the development. Native Americans will be given preference but the housing is open to all races. Some citizens questioned whether the development would cause drainage problems for surrounding property owners. Mr. Ozment stated that a topographical map has not been completed but felt that there should be no drainage concerns for Phase I of the project. The planning board will meet in June to go over all the completed plans and will give their recommendation to the board at the June meeting.

After discussion, Comm. Grantham made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Kemp made a motion giving permission to the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority to proceed with their plans for the group development and to present them to the Planning Board in June. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Attorney Charlie Floyd informed the board that they could donate land to charitable organizations with the restriction that the land be used for a public purpose like recreation. Comm. J.J. McCree made a motion that the town donate the Little League Ball Park to the Fairmont Civitan Club with the restriction that the property be used for recreational purposes only. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Attorney Floyd also recommended that the board enter into an agreement with the Fairmont Civitan Club regarding premises liability insurance on the ballpark, parking lot and grounds. Comm. Jackson made a motion to accept the agreement between the Town of Fairmont, the In7 Company, and the Fairmont Civitan Club, Inc., which states that the Fairmont Civitan Club will maintain premise liability, insurance on the ballpark, parking lot and grounds. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill stated that the engineers would have all the information ready for the board to pass a resolution of intent to annex and approve the annexation report for the Golf Course area at the June board meeting.

Mr. Hill informed the board that Worley Mortuary was the only bidder on the Center Street lot. The bid was for \$2,500. Comm. Grantham made a motion to sell the Center Street lot to Worley Mortuary for \$2,500. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Officer Danny Parker requested to change the location of D's Gameroom from the old Advance Auto Parts building to the old "Pa Bill's Restaurant" on South Walnut Street. Advance Auto Parts wanted \$3,000 a month in rent and that is out of his price range. Officer Parker will receive an answer from Mr. Bill Prevatte in the next couple of weeks as to whether the property will be available. Otherwise, he will not be able to have the game room at all. Comm. Kemp made a motion to approve Officer Parker's request to move the game room location to the old "Pa Bill's Restaurant." Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Charlie Floyd presented the board with a resolution to lease the Premiumwear Building to the In7 Company for one year. Mr. Hill said he was still in negotiations with the In7 Company and hoped to make an official announcement in a couple of weeks. Comm. Jackson made a motion to negotiate the lease with the In7 Company. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that North Carolina G.S. 160A-424 requires the town to adopt a fire inspection ordinance that includes a periodic inspection schedule for the purpose of identifying activities and conditions in buildings, structures, and premises that pose dangers of fire, explosion, or related hazards. Mr. Hill announced that he wanted Ronnie Seals, Freddie Miller and Katrina Tatum to take classes to become certified fire inspectors. Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt the Fire Inspection Ordinance. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that two "in town" positions on the Planning Board needed to be filled. Mr. Fitzhugh Sealey and Ms. Dorothy McCormick's terms expired May 1, 2000. They both expressed a desire to be reappointed to the board. Ms. Rita Rogers is currently serving on the Planning Board as an "out of town" member but she is now inside the city limits. She would also like to be appointed as an "in town" member. The County Board of Commissioners will name two "out of town/ETJ" members to replace Ms. Rogers and Mr. Richard Pridgen who does not want to serve anymore. Comm. Jackson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Fitzhugh Sealey and Ms. Dorothy McCormick to the Planning Board and to consider Ms. Rita Rogers for the next available "in town" position. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Hill announced that the Lumber River Council of Governments has received a Youth Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$5 million, with a potential for four additional years and total funding of \$20 million. There will be a meeting on May 11 at the L.R.C.O.G. to

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discuss how the money can be spent. Ms. Tatum stressed the importance of the grant, adding that it will create 22 jobs.

Mr. Hill discussed the problem of peddlers and solicitors. Several businesses have complained about peddlers who sell merchandise cheaper than they can. The town can only charge \$25 for a privilege license and issue a name badge to the peddlers. Our police department will strictly enforce the ordinance on peddlers and ask anyone without a license or badge to leave town.

Comm. Kemp is the Chairman of the Community Building Fundraising Committee. He has created a Finance Sub-Committee consisting of John Jackson, Leroy Freeman, Becky Greene, Wade Sealey, Roger Oxendine, Gosnold Floyd, Jr. and Lisa Schaffer. They are going to meet next week to generate ideas on raising additional funds for the community building.

Mr. Hill passed out copies of the proposed 2000-2001 line item budget. He assured the citizens that there will be no property tax or utility increases. He set May 16, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers to have a budget workshop.

Announcements

The City of Lumberton will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. Day and speaker will be announced.

The Town offices will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is made privileged or confidential by G.S. 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as allowed in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis arrived in time for closed session.

After discussing personnel, Comm. Frank McCree made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – June 13, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, John Jackson, Nedward Gaddy and Mary Bruce Grantham. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Mickey Williamson, Ronnie Seals, Billy Hayes, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Ray Johnson, Anthony Pittman, Tina Mayer, Shirley Eaton, Annie Jackson, Huel Faulk, Bill Lester, Richard David Miller and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2000 regular meeting. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Police Chief Terry Hunt introduced a new police officer, Richard David Miller.

Shirley Eaton led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of Flag Day.

Public Hearing on 2000-2001 Budget

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the 2000-2001 Proposed Budget. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

As discussed at the budget workshop, there are no proposed increases in taxes or utility fees. Mr. Hill proposed a 2 ½% cost of living increase and a 2 ½% 401K for general employees plus a 5% cost of living increase for the police department.

After discussion, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing on Community Building

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the proposed Community Building. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that they needed to set a budget for the Community Building Project. He is currently talking to different architects and hopes to have ground breaking in about six months. Comm. Grantham was upset that the Community Building Finance Subcommittee changed the name of the building to the Fairmont Regional Community Center without the permission of the board. Comm. Jackson, a member of the finance

subcommittee, admitted that they were wrong to change the name and suggested that all future decisions on the community building get final approval from the board of commissioners. Mr. Huel Faulk suggested printing a list of the different community building committees and their members in the local paper. Mr. Hill also advocated using the paper to get citizens input on name ideas for the building.

After discussion, Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing on Economic Development Grant

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the proposed Economic Development Grant for a possible industry. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs & Upchurch, explained that the town is requesting grant assistance of up to \$1,000,000 from the N.C. Department of Commerce to serve an industry locating to the Town of Fairmont. If funded, the industry will provide 100 new jobs in the area, of which 60% will be filled by low and moderate-income persons. Grant funds would assist the Town of Fairmont in providing the necessary water and sewer service to serve the industry, enabling then to locate to the Town of Fairmont.

After discussion, Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Gaddy made a motion to set June 29, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. as the date to adopt the new budget with a .69 per \$100 tax rate for physical year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to set a goal of \$650,000 to budget for the construction of the Fairmont Community Building realizing it may exceed this amount, to build on the original site of Highway 41 and Highway 130 Bypass and to accept the grant and loan agreement from USDA. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to apply for an Economic Development Grant and set June 29, 2000 for the second public hearing. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Intent to consider annexation of the Golf Course Road area according to G.S. 160A, Article 4A, Part 2 with a public informational meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall and a public hearing on Tuesday, August 15, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall.

Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Lester presented the annexation report on the Golf Course Road area to the board. The area being considered has a total area of 245.86 acres, an estimated property valuation of \$3,762,271 and a population of 89 people. There are 56 tracts of land, 36 residences and one commercial lot (golf course). The area is contiguous to the existing town limits. There is adequate police and fire protection for the new area. The town will repay the Fairmont Rural Fire Department \$14,938 over the next five years to reimburse them for lost revenues (\$2,988 annually). The town will also provide street maintenance, lighting, water and sewer service plus Waste Management, Inc. will handle solid waste collection. The total cost of sewer improvements is \$361,100. Projected annual costs from the annexation are \$22,027. Projected annual revenues are \$49,231, with a net annual gain of \$27,204.

After examination and discussion of the report of plans for extending services to the area to be considered for annexation under the Resolution of Intent, adopted the 13th day of June, 2000, Comm. Jackson moved approval of the report, seconded by Comm. Gaddy, and the motion passed, 6 votes to 0. A copy of the annexation report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Hill was pleased to announce that the town will receive a \$60,000 grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for the Fairmont Community Park project. The Town must match the \$60,000 using in kind services. The new park will include a picnic shelter and restroom, parking lot with 36 spaces, walkway, benches, water fountain, signs, gazebo, 1,320 foot walking trail, playground with safe fall area and four horseshoe pits. Mr. Hill said it would take six months to a year to fill in where the warehouse burned down. Comm. Kemp made a motion to accept the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Grant in the amount of \$60,000. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill disclosed that Mr. Thomas L. Hill was the only bidder on the Old Callahan's TV building. His bid was for \$875 but the board had asked for bids starting at \$1,000. Comm. Jackson made a motion to sell the building to Mr. Thomas L. Hill for \$875 with the guidelines that he begin work on the building in 90 days, that it be completed in a year and that if he was to lease the building that a reasonable rent be charged. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Mr. Anthony Pittman, High Risk Outreach Coordinator for the Palmer Drug Prevention Program, presented a report on the services they provide for Fairmont and Robeson County. In 1999, Palmer Drug Prevention served 539 youth, of which 61 one of these children were from Fairmont. The program is requesting \$1,500 from the Town of

Fairmont to help continue these services. The program will receive \$522,112 in State and Federal funds and needs matching funds of \$118,400. These funds will be used to serve 700 K-4th grade children displaying anti-social behavior, 100 juveniles suspended from school for behavior problems, 250 children and their parents referred by schools for drug problems, 300 children for alternative weekend activities, 30 children for pre-school knowledge and substance abuse assessments 70 hours per week. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Pittman for coming and advised him that the board will make a decision about giving funds in July.

Mr. Hill conveyed that several citizens in the Church Street area feel the 35 mph speed limit is too high and would like to see it lowered to 20-25 mph. Chief Hunt investigated by doing radar speed checks on two different days. The average speeds for day one was 34.2 and day two was 34.3. Chief Hunt recommended that the speed limit stay the same and that lowering it would only cause a speed trap. Comm. Jackson made a motion to leave the Church Street speed limit at 35 mph and that any further considerations of dropping the speed limit have a justified reason. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The board decided to have a retreat following the June 29th special meeting to discuss plans for the community building.

Announcements

The Town of Proctorville will host the R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and speaker to be announced.

Town Hall Day is June 21, 2000 at the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center. Mr. Ben Hill, Ms. Katrina Tatum and Comm. Mary Bruce Grantham are going to attend.

Town Manager Ben Hill will be on vacation from June 30 through July 5.

Mayor Lewis is going to appoint Linda Hicks, Grace Hill, Any Ray, Jay Capps, Brenda Deese, Mary Jacobs and Harold Wilson to the Downtown Revitalization Committee.

Closed Session

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is made privileged or confidential by G.S. 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as allowed in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussing personnel, Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of closed session. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting - June 29, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Nedward Gaddy, Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, Jeffery McCree, Mary Bruce Grantham and John Jackson. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Sharon McDuffie, Bill Lester, Shirley Eaton, Mary Baker Grantham and Betty Overturf.

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Public Hearing on Economic Development Grant

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the proposed Economic Development Grant for a possible industry. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs & Upchurch, explained that the town is requesting a \$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development from the N.C. Department of Commerce and a \$500,000 Industrial Development Fund grant to serve the In 7 Company, an industry locating to the Town of Fairmont in the old Premiumwear Building. If funded, the industry will provide 100 new jobs in the area, of which 60% will be filled by low and moderate-income persons. Grant funds would assist the Town of Fairmont in providing the necessary water and sewer service to serve the industry, enabling then to locate to the Town of Fairmont. Mr. Lester feels certain that the application for grant funds will be approved.

After discussion, Comm. Gaddy made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt a resolution of support for the submission of an application for a Community Development Block grant for Economic Development. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt a resolution giving the mayor and town manager authority to execute Community Development Block Grant related documentation. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to write off the 1999-2000 uncollected water bills in the amount of \$988.14. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these water accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to write off delinquent 1989 taxes in the amount of \$4,720.98 and to authorize the tax collector to collect taxes by any legal means. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these taxes and the order to collect taxes is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Town Manager Ben Hill discussed the 1999-2000 Amended Budget. He stated that we came within budget for the past year. Comm. Kemp made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Amended Budget. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the Amended Budget is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Town Manager Ben Hill discussed the 2000-2001 Budget. It includes a 2 1/2 % 401K plan and a 2 1/2 % cost of living increase for general employees and a 5% cost of living increase for the police department. Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 Budget and set the 2000 tax rate at .69 per hundred-dollar valuation. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this budget is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Announcements

The Town Offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

The board will hold a retreat immediately following this meeting at Pat Floyd's clubhouse on Mill Branch Road.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Council Retreat
June 29, 2000

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special council retreat on Thursday, June 29, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at Pat Floyd's clubhouse on Mill Branch Road in Fairmont with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner J.J. McCree was absent. Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Huggins, Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd were also present.

Mayor Lewis stated that the purpose of the meeting was to talk about the community building project, and the upcoming Community Development Block Grant for housing rehab. There was much discussion by the board on these issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk