

## **Regular Meeting – July 11, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Nedward Gaddy and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner J.J. McCree was absent due to his service in the National Guard. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Nina Johnson, Shirley Eaton, Shirley Price, Heather Seibles, Laura Kemp, Robin Floyd, Scott Floyd, Shane Outlaw and David Little.

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 June 13, 2000 regular meeting and the special meeting and council retreat on June 29, 2000. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Comm. Kemp introduced three members of Boy Scout Troop 320: Scott Floyd, Shane Outlaw and David Little. They are in the processing of earning a merit badge for citizenship.

### **Administrative Matters**

Comm. Grantham made a motion to give Palmer Drug Prevention \$1,000 and at the end of June 2001 see if we can contribute more. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to set August 1, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Quarterly Forum discussing the topic of Downtown Revitalization. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to set August 15, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. for the August Regular Board meeting with the option to recess at 7:00 p.m. and reconvene after the public hearing on annexation if need be. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution declaring intent to close the part of Elizabeth Street exiting onto Walnut Street for the new Dialysis Clinic. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to set August 15, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. for a Public Hearing on the proposed closing of part of Elizabeth Street. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to set August 15, 2000 at 600 p.m. for a Public Hearing on a local bill to be introduced by House Representative Donald Bonner allowing the town to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with a proposed industry in the old Premiumwear building. Comm. Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill explained that it was necessary to reject all the bids for Contract #1 on the Wastewater Pumping System because Goodyear Construction's bid increased from \$809,338.41 to \$1,253,928.56 during price negotiations after permits were received. Comm. Kemp made a motion to reject all bids on Contract #1 for the Wastewater Pumping System and open re-bids on July 25, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill discussed an ordinance that would authorize him to dispose of any surplus property owned by the town that is valued less than \$500, is no longer needed and would serve the interest of the town by disposing of the property. The manager may dispose of any such surplus personal property by any means to attain the highest sale price, either public or private sale and with or without notice and minimum waiting period. Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt an ordinance prescribing procedures for disposing of personal property valued at less than \$500. Comm. Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced that he had received four bids for the engineering and design of the community building. The bidders were Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, The Wooten Company, Thomas Goetz Architects, P.A. and Pierce Goodrich Architects, P.C. After thoroughly reviewing each bid, Mr. Hill and Ms. Katrina Tatum recommended that the board award the project to Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates. After discussion, the board decided that a more specific set of plans for the building is needed before choosing an engineer. They suggested contacting the Building Committee and have them draw up more specific plans before the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Comm. Grantham made a motion to table the awarding the contract for engineering and design of the community building until the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting when we have more detailed plans. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion. Ms. Tatum informed the board that it would be better to reject all bids rather than tabling the issue. Comm. Grantham and Comm. Jackson rescinded their motion and second. Comm. Grantham made a motion to reject all bids for the engineering and design of the community. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board unanimously gave their support for naming October 20, 2000 as "E.R. Gause Day." They will pass an official proclamation at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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**Announcements**

There is no R.C.M.A. meeting this month.

Town Manager Ben Hill will be in school July 27 and 28 in Wilmington, NC.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities 2000 Annual Conference is October 15, 16, and 17 in Fayetteville.

The National League of Cities 2000 Congress of Cities is December 5-9 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. Hill announced that Senator David Weinstein has committed to be the Grand Marshall for the 2000 Fairmont Farmers Festival.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

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

The Town of Fairmont held its third Issue Forum on Tuesday, August 1, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall with Mayor Jeff Lewis presiding. Those in attendance included Commissioners Mary Bruce Grantham, Charles Kemp, and John Jackson, Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Ronnie Seals, Betty Overturf, Shirley Eaton, Linda Hicks, Ann Ray, Andy Grimsley, Anthony Sealey and several other concerned citizens. The topic for this quarter's forum was revitalization of Fairmont.

Mayor Lewis introduced Ann Ray and Linda Hicks, members of the Fairmont Revitalization Committee.

Comm. Kemp compared the condition of downtown to a house that needs repairs but cannot be fixed because of major, unexpected expenses.

Mr. Jays Capps, a member of the committee who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, told the mayor earlier that his first recommendation was to remove the trees downtown. Ms. Betty Overturf, editor of the Times Messenger added that the trees have grown too big because they were not pruned properly and that they need to be taken up before the roots cause damage to the sidewalks. Ms. Shirley Eaton would like a landscape architect to remove the trees and try to save them.

Comm. Grantham suggested that the town apply for a \$60,000 grant for downtown revitalization. It was discussed that part of the problem is absentee property owners who charge outrageous rents and do not help with repairs and remodeling. Mr. Andy Grimsley suggested that the Fairmont Development Corporation should approach Mr. Dick Taylor, who owns several buildings downtown, and buy the properties from him. Mr. Anthony Sealey, from Centura Bank, said that the Red Springs Development Corporation did this and it has worked really well.

Comm. Jackson said the other problem is that storeowners need to get involved in making their stores look better. Mr. Hill suggested that the committee go downtown and talk to the storeowners and ask them how the town can help them. Comm. Grantham suggested advertising Fairmont as an "antique" town.

Comm. Kemp suggested that Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum meet with the Revitalization Committee as an advisor. Ms. Tatum added that she would look into stricter guidelines on appearance and conditions of commercial buildings.

Several citizens complained that there are no good businesses in Fairmont. Most people have to go to Lumberton or Fayetteville to complete all their shopping needs. Comm. Kemp suggested taking an inventory of businesses that draw consumers and see how that could be implemented in Fairmont.

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Some citizens also had concerns about areas other than downtown that looks bad. Comm. Kemp suggested taking a map of town and dividing it into districts and get ideas from the citizens and business owners in those districts for improving their section of town.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Jenny Huggins, Town Clerk

**Special Meeting – August 1, 2000**  
**Public Informational Meeting**  
**Golf Course Road Area Annexation**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall with Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioners Jeffery McCree and Nedward Gaddy were absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Billy Hayes, Betty Overturf, Tina Mayer, Shirley Eaton, Bill Lester, Sharon McDuffie, Casper Ivey, Mitch Stevens, W.B. Webster, Scott Witten, Robbie Smith, Earlene Ashley, Carl Scott, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Stubbs, Mr. & Mrs. L.B. Brice, Bridget Bass, Daniel Bass, Mike Schaffer, Steve Humbert, Richard Pridgen and several other concerned citizens.

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

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing for the public informational meeting on the question of annexation of the Golf Course Road area. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis explained that the purpose of the meeting is to give all persons residing or owning property in said territory and all residents of the Town of Fairmont an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers regarding the proposed annexation.

Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs and Upchurch, summarized the plans for extending municipal services to the Golf Course area. The territory 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). 21.59% of the area is contiguous to the existing town limits. No part of the territory is in another municipality and 66% of the tracts are developed for residential, commercial, industrial or governmental purposes. 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, and sewer service plus Waste Management, Inc. will handle solid waste collection. Robeson County will continue to provide water service since the lines running to the area are part of their main lines and they cannot turn them over to the town. The total cost of sewer improvements is \$361,100. Projected annual operating costs from the annexation are \$22,027. Projected annual revenues from Property Tax, Sales and Use Tax, Water and Sewer, Powell Bill, Beer and Wine Tax, Utilities Franchise Tax and Intangibles Tax total \$49,231. The town will see a net annual gain of \$27,204 from the annexation.

After Mr. Lester finished giving his report, Mayor Lewis opened the floor for questions. Mr. Billy Hayes asked several questions including the following:

- How much taxpayer money has been spent on the new sewer plant?

Mr. Hill said that he thought the figure was close to one million dollars but he would have to check the records to make sure.

- How much did the town spend on legal fees on the annexation lawsuit?

Mr. Hill thought it was around \$25,000 but he would have to look up the exact figure.

- When was the current sewer plant built?

Mr. Hill said it was build in the early 1960's.

- Why isn't the current sewer plant sufficient?

Mr. Hill explained that the current plant was designed to support growth for 40 to 50 years and is now reaching its limits. Currently, there is a flow of 350,000 gallons a day and the plant is designed to carry a maximum of 500,000 gallons a day. The state of North Carolina also has new, stricter guidelines when it comes to toxicity tests and the current plant does not meet those tests. Right now the plant is operating under an S.O.C. (Special Order of Consent) until the new plant can be built. Mr. Hill stated that they looked at expanding the current plant but the state recommended building a regional plant instead. The new regional plant will be able to handle up to 15 million gallons a day and will be ideal for growth for Fairmont and the surrounding area. Ms. Katrina Tatum added that water and sewer is the largest incentive for new businesses.

- Will the new sewer plant handle a 500-year flood?

Mr. Bill Lester stated that a 100-year flood elevation is mandated by the state. He was not aware that a 500-year flood elevation was even looked at.

- What will be the power source for the new sewer plant?

Mr. Hill said that power will be supplied by Brunswick Electric and that it will have a large generator during power failures.

- Will the new sewer plant have live in quarters for emergencies?

There are no plans to build quarters for the plant operator. They will follow an emergency plan in case of disaster.

- Will the new plant have adequate insurance in case of lawsuits?

Mr. Hill assured everyone that the town has more than adequate liability insurance. Mr. Lester added that the town is more liable for the current plant than the one we are going to build.

- Has the board studied the U.S. Constitution, annexation laws, a book about the harm of involuntary annexation and scientific magazines regarding water quality?

Comm. Kemp replied that he has taught the U.S. Constitution for 32 years and knew it very well. Ms. Bridget Bass added that most of the people in the room learned the Constitution from Comm. Kemp. The board acknowledged that they knew the annexation laws but had not read the book Mr. Hayes mentioned or read the magazines either.

After Mr. Hayes finished his round of questions, Mrs. Rebecca Stubbs told the board she was upset because her house is on Old Stage Road, not Golf Course Road. She and her husband moved out of the city limits years ago so they would not have to be in town. She stated that they could not afford to pay extra property taxes and that the town had absolutely nothing to offer them. Mr. Hayes stated that Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs have a computer and can't even afford the \$20 a month to go online. He also said that if the area was annexed several people would move and take their houses with them. He argued that the town is doing this only to help Hobbs and Upchurch make money. He added that Fairmont is dying and that the only reason people come to Fairmont is to play golf and get their eyes checked. Mayor Lewis was upset over this remark and replied that he did not see Food Lion, Hardee's, McDonalds or the area churches closing their doors any time soon.

Ms. Bridget Bass asked about water and sewer services. Mr. Hill explained that the water would continue to be provided by the county since it is one of their main lines and they will not sell them to the town. A few years down the road the town may run their own water lines but the general statutes state that we do not have to duplicate services. Ms. Bass stated that the county water was more expensive and not as good. As far as the sewer is concerned, Mr. Hill hopes to have a pre-construction meeting with Rural Development on August 22 for the wastewater treatment plant. We will have 13 months or 400 days to complete the work after that. Mr. Hill added that sewer lines will be run to the Golf Course area whether the annexation goes through or not. All residents will have one year to hook on after the lines have been run. He hopes the board will give the residents a \$300 credit to hook on to the sewer system. If for some reason the annexation does not go through, any resident that wants to hook onto sewer will have to pay double rates.

A gentleman asked what the average utility bill was for the town. Mr. Hill replied that the rates are \$9.90 for the first two thousand gallons and \$1.76 per thousand gallons after that for water and sewer. There are 1200 water customers in the town and 35% to 40% have the minimum bill of \$29.90, which includes water, sewer and garbage pickup. Mr. Hill explained that there are a large number of single and retired people in Fairmont and therefore are not big consumers of water. Mr. Hill added that the town's rates are good compared to other towns. Some towns have a minimum bill of over \$40.

Another gentleman asked if the sewer plant project was dependent on annexing the Golf Course area. Mr. Hill said no. He remarked that the regional wastewater treatment plant was key to the growth and future of Fairmont. He said the town is only trying to make a future for our children and grandchildren.

One resident asked what the tax rate would be if they were annexed. Mr. Hill replied that it will be .69 per \$100 and that the town uses the same property valuations as the county does. Comm. Jackson asked Mr. Hill if it was possible to reduce the tax rate in the future after the new plant is completed. Mr. Hill said that with other communities and schools hooking on to the regional plant that the income generated from the services provided could lead to a substantial tax decrease for Fairmont residents in the future.

Ms. Stubbs complained that Fairmont was growing more in the past than it is now. Mr. Hill feels that the results of Census 2000 will show an increase in the town's population. Ms. Katrina Tatum discussed a study done by Economic Development on towns similar to Fairmont that are suffering because they did not diversify. Fairmont past growth was due in part to only one industry, tobacco. Now that tobacco is being eliminated, Fairmont has to learn to diversify and find new industries if they are to survive. The regional sewer plant will help bring this about. Mr. Hill reiterated that the North Carolina Department of Environmental Resources gave the town but one choice, build a new facility or pay \$10,000 a day in fines. Mr. Billy Hayes stated that he does not believe what he hears about the reason why the town needs a new facility. He wants an official from the state to tell him that the plant has to be built. Mr. Hill and Mr. Lester said they would show him official documents and give him the names and numbers of people to contact for more information.

Mr. Hayes accused the board of not discussing the annexation during past board meetings. He stated that the board made decisions without talking about it except when being wined and dined at a retreat.

Ms. Bass asked if the subdivision of her parents lot into 3 separate lots would cause a problem for the annexation. Mr. Lester said no, that the town staff notified him of the change and that the subdivision only makes the annexation better in the town's favor. Ms. Bass informed the board that she was proud to be back in Fairmont and was glad that her son would have the advantage of growing up in Fairmont.

Mr. Mike Schaffer asked about street maintenance. He mentioned that the ditches flood when there is a lot of rain. Mr. Hill apologized and said that the Golf Course and Old Stage roads belong to the N.C. Department of Transportation since it is the Highway 130 Bypass and that they will have to make any complaints about flooding and drainage to them. The town however will maintain Ames Acres and Chevy roads.

Mr. Schaffer also asked if Orrum, Proctorville and half of Columbus County will hook onto to the new regional sewer plant. Mr. Hill responded that yes they would but they will have to pay double the rates that Fairmont citizens pay. Mayor Lewis feels that the state will require Orrum Middle School to hook onto the system.

Mayor Lewis asked the citizens if they had any more questions. They did not so Comm. Jackson made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis called for a five-minute recess and announced that the meeting would be continued in the Council Chambers. After the recess, Mayor Lewis regretfully tendered his resignation as Mayor of the Town of Fairmont. He read his resignation letter, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. For personal and family reasons, the Mayor and his wife are moving outside the city limits of Fairmont. Because he will no longer be able to vote in municipal elections, he is therefore unable to continue holding the elected office of Mayor. The council was sad to hear this news. They all told the Mayor how much they admire him and that it was a pleasure to work with him. Until a new Mayor can be appointed, Mayor Pro-Tem Ned Gaddy will act as Mayor of the town.

With no further business, Senior Commissioner Kemp called that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Jenny Huggins, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – August 15, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Raymond Johnson, Shirley Eaton, Jeff Lewis, Greg Davis, Bill Lester, Sharon McDuffie, Robert Floyd, E.R. Gause, Dick Britt, Raven Taylor and several other concerned citizens.

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

Comm. Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2000 regular meeting and the special meeting on August 1, 2000 for the first public informational meeting on annexation. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Mayoral Appointment and Commissioner Replacement**

Mayor Pro-Tem Gaddy read the written resignation of Mayor Jeffrey G. Lewis. Comm. Jackson made a motion to accept the resignation of Mayor Lewis. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hill and the Board thanked Mr. Lewis for his seven years of service to the Town of Fairmont. They told him it had been a pleasure to work with him and wished him the best.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to nominate Commissioner Nedward Gaddy as Mayor. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the vote and it passed unanimously. Comm. Grantham made a motion to accept the nomination of Commissioner Nedward Gaddy by acclamation. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Gaddy asked to resign from his position as Commissioner. Comm. Jackson made a motion to accept the resignation of Commissioner Nedward Gaddy. Comm. J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Gaddy accepted the appointment as Mayor of the Town of Fairmont and was given a standing round of applause by everyone in the room. Superior Court Judge Robert Frank Floyd, Jr. swore in Nedward Gaddy as Mayor. His signed official oath of office is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Mayor Gaddy stated that it is a pleasure and honor to accept the position of Mayor. He said he plans to serve all of Fairmont and treat everyone fairly. There will be “no big I’s and little U’s.” He told the citizens that when they see him he will “have the whole town on his shoulders.” The Board told Mayor Gaddy that they look forward to working with him.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to take some time and wait until the October board meeting before appointing a replacement for Mayor Gaddy's commissioner seat. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comm. Frank McCree made a motion to name Comm. Charles Kemp Mayor Pro Tempore. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Former Mayor Jeff Lewis presented a proclamation to Mr. E. R. Gause naming Friday, October 21, 2000 as "E.R. Gause Day." A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Everyone in the room stood and gave Mr. Gause a round of applause. Mr. Gause thanked everyone involved for giving him this great honor.

County Commissioner Dick Britt, on behalf of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, thanked former Mayor Jeff Lewis for his dedication to the Town of Fairmont and stated that they look forward to working with him.

Miss Raven Taylor, of Murphy Street, had several concerns including the numerous buildings that are decaying around town, the community building, the sewer plant and natural gas. Mr. Hill assured her that the problems with decaying buildings including the old movie theater and warehouses were being addressed by the town staff. He informed her that the town had raised \$125,000 in private funds and received \$425,000 in grants and loans for the Community Building for a total of \$550,000 with a goal of \$650,000. Mr. Hill told her the new sewer plant would have preconstruction hearings the end of the month with work beginning soon after. He emphasized that the town wants and needs Natural Gas but the N.C. Utilities Commission has turned us down. The town is still actively pursuing Natural Gas and hopefully we will eventually get it. Comm. Jackson asked her if she would participate in the Revitalization Committee and she agreed.

### **Public Hearing on Closing of Elizabeth Street**

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss closing the eastern portion of Elizabeth Street for a new medical clinic. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill explained that the eastern portion of Elizabeth Street from the warehouse to Walnut Street needed to be closed so the new Dialysis Clinic can be built. Ms. Katrina Tatum stated that she sent a copy of the resolution to all owners of property adjoining the street by certified mail, that the resolution was advertised in the paper for four consecutive weeks and that the notice of public hearing and street closing was prominently posted in four places along the street. The street closing is not contrary to

public purpose and no individual owning property in the vicinity of Elizabeth Street will be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property.

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

### **Public Hearing on Rezoning of land for recreation**

Comm. Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss rezoning of land (burned-out Warehouse) for proposed park. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to invite public comment concerning a proposed zoning amendment under the G-M/General Manufacturing District. The G-M category is established for those areas of the community where the principal use of land is for manufacturing, industrial and warehousing uses. While commercial recreational activities are allowed by right under the G-M District, Public recreational uses are not. This amendment is recommended to allow public entities, such as the Town, to use G-M zoned areas to develop recreational sites and is required to construct the recreational park on South Main Street.

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. Grantham made a motion to adopt an Order to permanently close the eastern portion of Elizabeth Street. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this order is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Comm. Grantham made a motion to adopt a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to amend Section 132, "G-M General Manufacturing District," Subsection 132.1 to now read "the following uses are permitted: public parks, playgrounds, community centers, swimming pools, and similar recreational uses." Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this zoning ordinance amendment is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, informed the board that bids for Contract I, Wastewater Pumping System, were received on July 25, 2000 at Town Hall. The bid opening was necessary due to the inability to successfully negotiate an acceptable price with the previous low bidder. Four bids were received, ranging from a low of \$990,404.78 to a high of \$1,344,802.76. McArthur Construction of Lumberton, NC submitted the low bid. Mr. Lester recommended that the Town award and enter

contracts with adjustments to the low bidders of all contracts associated with the Rural Development project as follows:

Contract I – Wastewater Pumping System, McArthur Construction, \$990,404.78  
Contract II – Annexation Sewer Improvements, McArthur Construction, \$1,092,844.15  
Contract III – WWTP General Construction, Turner Murphy Company, \$3,829,414.00  
Contract IV – WWTP Electrical, Townsend Electric, \$640,323.00

Mr. Lester added that the contracts needed to be awarded so the town can schedule a preconstruction conference for the project with Rural Development. The total project budget is \$7,815,700. Comm. Jackson questioned the contingencies line item of \$338,214.07. Mr. Lester replied that it is necessary to budget 5% of the total cost for unforeseen items that might come up during the project. He added that any money left over after the project is completed could be used for additional services and improvements. Comm. Kemp made a motion to award Contract I, Wastewater Pumping System, to McArthur Construction for \$990,404.78, Contract II, Annexation Sewer Improvements, to McArthur Construction for \$1,092,844.15, Contract III, WWTP General Construction, to Turner Murphy Company for \$3,829,414.00 and Contract IV, WWTP Electrical, to Townsend Electric for \$640,323.00. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 6:50 p.m., Comm. Kemp made a motion to recess until after the Public Hearing on Annexation. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting back to order at 7:50 p.m.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the Planning Board has met and voted unanimously for approval of the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority's application for issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to build five duplex apartment units and a recreation/administrative/on site manager unit on Marion Stage Road (SR2433) for senior citizens. Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit for the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority with the provisions that the grounds and building maintenance of the project be held to an above average level in keeping with the existing neighborhood maintenance characteristics and that the owner be required to enter into a 50/50 arrangement with the Town of Fairmont to ensure that no drainage problems will occur as a result of this development. The sum of \$8,000 will be required by both entities to ensure adequate site drainage preventing future flooding of sites on both sides of Marion Stage Road. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that the town is in serious talks with the In7 Company on the old Premium Wear facility. The company is planning to invest \$1.2 million dollars and they want a long-term commitment. The town is applying for a \$1.5 million grant for a new well and elevated tank for the company as well. Attorney Charlie Floyd explained that the town would repair the heating, cooling, electrical and plumbing systems for the

first two years and In7 will take over any repairs after that. Robeson County will most likely give the In7 Company a tax abatement so the town will not have to pay taxes on the property. Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the terms of the lease with the In7 Company for a term of two years at a rental of \$4,750 per month with the option to extend the lease for 3, 4 and 5 years with a 5% rental increase with each year lease extension and give authorization for public notice to adopt a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to lease the former Premium Wear facility (not including the part known as the Fairmont Civitan Ball Field) to the In7 Company on September 12, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. Comm. J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced that the bid opening for the Community Building Architectural/Engineering Consultants was opened on August 8, 2000. Four bids were received from Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, Pearce Goodrich Architects, P.C., The Wooten Company, and Thomas Goetz, Architect. The rating criteria for the bids consisted of competence and reputation of the firm, previous experience, ability to meet time and financial restraints of the program, availability to the Town for questions, complaints, coordination, etc., hourly rate schedule of the firm and familiarity of the Town's program. Mr. Hill and Ms. Tatum reviewed and rated each proposal. Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates received the highest rating. Mr. Jimmy Byrne also reviewed the proposals and agreed that Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates had the best proposal. Comm. Kemp made a motion to award the consultant engineer agreement for the Community Building to Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates for a bid proposal of 7.53% or \$47,500. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that he has received an offer from Ninikva & Chili Industries to purchase town property located on Highway 41 North/Walnut Street. This property consists of 5 acres of land, zoned General Manufacturing. The property, an old burned down warehouse, was acquired at no cost to the town in 1996 and is currently assessed at \$52,550. Ninikva & Chili Industries is proposing to purchase this property for \$30,000 with \$15,000 down and \$15,000 at closing. This company would like to purchase the land to create an indoor flea market. Although the zoning of this property does not specifically mention flea markets, it is consistent with the intent of the current zoning and may be approached as a conditional use. Mr. Hill recommended that the town consider the offer of purchase with a condition that the flea market be operational within 6-12 months. Comm. Jackson made a motion to publish a notice of the negotiated offer and ask for upset bids and if no upset bids are made to sell the property on Highway 41 North/Walnut Street to Ninikva & Chili Industries for \$30,000. Comm. Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Comm. J.J. McCree abstained from voting because he is part owner of Ninikva & Chili Industries.

Mr. Hill explained that during times of Declared Disaster, the regular staff of the Town is eligible to receive overtime which is repayable to the Town by the Federal Government under the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Public Assistance Program, as authorized by FEMA. The Town Manager and Department Heads are

ineligible simply because the present ordinances do not allow overtime pay in these two categories. The federal government (FEMA) has made overtime for these categories eligible for municipality repayment of cost as long as there is an ordinance in place allowing for the staff in these categories to be paid overtime during Declared Disasters. FEMA acknowledges that disaster related tasks are not normal work tasks in any category of employment and should be eligible for payment of hours worked rather than being reimbursed as compensatory time. Comm. Grantham made a motion to adopt an ordinance amending Section 16-34, “Salary of Department Heads” and an ordinance amending Section 5.1, “Town Manager” to allow for disaster related overtime for these employees. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these ordinances are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Hill stated that an amendment needed to be made to the existing Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of North Carolina Interlocal Agreement, which is the town’s insurance company. The fund was formed pursuant to G.S. Chapter 58, Article 23 that required the Fund to provide a modified annual statutory statement to the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The Department of Insurance has changed it so they can no longer send modified statements increasing annual costs to \$58,000. They want to reform the fund under the “Interlocal Cooperation” statutes found within Chapter 160A-460 through 464 in order to avoid these additional, unnecessary costs. Comm. Jackson made a motion to amend the IRFFNC Interlocal Agreement as follows: striking the words “Chapter 58, Article 23 of the N.C. General Statutes, as amended” and inserting the words “Chapter 160A (G.S. 160A-460 through 464).” Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. On a separate issue, the board complained about the town’s liability insurance paying one claim for flooding during the heavy rains last year and not another.

### **Announcements**

The North Carolina Initiative on Race Conference will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2000 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the North Raleigh Hilton.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities 2000 Annual Conference is October 15, 16, and 17 in Fayetteville.

The National League of Cities 2000 Congress of Cities is December 5-9 in Boston, Massachusetts.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jennifer Huggins, Town Clerk

**Special Meeting – August 15, 2000**  
**Public Hearing**  
**Golf Course Road Area Annexation**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham and Jeffrey McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Huggins, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Billy Hayes, Betty Overturf, Bill Lester, Sharon McDuffie, Greg Davis Casper Ivey, Robbie Smith, Earlene Ashley, Mike Schaffer, Connie Brooks, Raymond Johnson, Jimmy Smith, Beverly Capps, Fran Coleman, Mickey Williamson, Gaines Grantham, Freddie Miller and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order.

Comm. Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing for the public hearing on the question of annexation of the Golf Course Road area. Comm. Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Ben Hill explained that the purpose of the meeting is to give all persons residing or owning property in the Golf Course Road area and all residents of the Town of Fairmont an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers regarding the proposed annexation.

Mr. Charles Kemp read a letter from Scott Floyd, a local boy scout who does not live in the annexation area. The letter, dated August 3, 2000 read as follows:

“Mr. Charles Kemp, I am writing this letter regarding the annexation of the Golf Course Road area in Fairmont. I have been reading articles in the paper about this issue and heard some discussion about this issue at the town council meeting that I attended. To me, I would like to see the annexation go through. I would like to see the Town of Fairmont grow and frankly, I don't believe the town can grow without having this section of Fairmont being annexed. I want the town to grow and be a place I would want to live in when I grow up. Sincerely yours, Scott Floyd”

Ms. Connie Brooks asked why she had to be annexed. She wanted to know why the town could not annex only the people who wanted to be in town instead of a package deal. Mr. Hill explained that the Town choose the Golf Course area because it is contiguous to the town limits and because the area shows potential for growth. She was also upset because she has a septic tank and does not want to pay for sewer. She already pays \$35 a month for county water and does not want to pay more for sewer. Mr. Hill informed her that the town's water and sewer rates were much cheaper than the county's. He added that the town may run its own water lines to the Golf Course area in a couple of years so the residents can have cheaper and better water.

Mr. Billy Hayes wanted to know how much the town spent on the annexation lawsuit. He accused the town of spending up to \$200,000 on the lawsuit. He admitted that his side had spent close to \$50,000. Attorney Charlie Floyd said that the town had spent closer to \$25,000. Mr. Hayes did not believe him. Mr. Hayes added that this annexation is just as flawed as the last one in 1996 and that we will lose again in court if residents decide to fight. Mr. Hayes wanted to know when the board would vote on the annexation ordinance. Mr. Hill replied that the town would notify all the residents by certified mail when the date of the vote will be.

Comm. Jackson asked Mr. Hayes what his home address is. Mr. Hayes replied 1000 Dogwood Drive, which happens to be a town maintained street. Comm. Jackson stated that he has seen a resident of the Golf Course Area throw thrash into the town dumpster next to the fire station. He asked Chief Terry Hunt if the Fairmont Police Department backs up the county. Chief Hunt replied that they would respond to any calls from the Golf Course area when a deputy cannot get there fast enough.

Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs and Upchurch, summarized the plans for extending municipal services to the Golf Course area. The territory 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). 21.59% of the area is contiguous to the existing town limits. No part of the territory is in another municipality and 66% of the tracts are developed for residential, commercial, industrial or governmental purposes. 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, and sewer service plus Waste Management, Inc. will handle solid waste collection. Robeson County will continue to provide water service since the lines running to the area are part of their main lines and they cannot turn them over to the town. The total cost of sewer improvements is \$361,100. Projected annual operating costs from the annexation are \$22,027. Projected annual revenues from Property Tax, Sales and Use Tax, Water and Sewer, Powell Bill, Beer and Wine Tax, Utilities Franchise Tax and Intangibles Tax total \$49,231. The town will see a net annual gain of \$27,204 from the annexation.

Mr. Robbie Smith asked why we did not annex Highway 130. Mr. Hill replied that the town picked the four best areas to annex including Happy Hill, Franklin/Rosewood, Golf Course Road and eventually North Fairmont. Happy Hill and Franklin/Rosewood are already legally in the city limits of town.

Mr. Hayes insisted that this annexation is driving people who do business in Fairmont out of town. He said that several people are going to sale their property and move because of the annexation. Mr. Hayes encouraged the board to read "Cities without Suburbs," a book about towns ruined by annexation. He feels that Fairmont is an elastic town that can grow as it is. He does not believe it is the town's job to tell them what to do. Mr.

Hayes even accused former Mayor Jeff Lewis of leaving town for financial reasons. Comm. Grantham responded that was not true and that the people who were selling their houses were not doing it because of the annexation. Ms. Brooks disagreed and said that the people she had talked to were selling their homes because of the annexation. Comm. Grantham responded by saying it will be wonderful because new people will buy those houses because they want to live in Fairmont. Mayor Gaddy had to call for order because the discussion was getting out of hand. Comm. Kemp declared to Mr. Hayes that the only reason Mayor Lewis left town was because his father-in-law is very ill and his wife wanted to be closer to him. Mr. Hill maintained that the purpose of this hearing is to answer questions that the citizens might have about the annexation and encouraged everyone to avoid making statements they might regret later on.

Mr. Mike Schaeffer made a comment regarding the Robesonian editorial that made it appear that the town could not build the sewer plant without the annexation of Golf Course Road. Mr. Hill reiterated that the sewer plant will be built regardless of the annexation and that the town has no control over what the newspaper prints. Comm. Jackson agreed that the press sometimes prints the wrong information.

Mr. Schaeffer indicated that the most of the Golf Course residents were upset over having to pay more property taxes. He also asked what the real benefits were to their area since Highway 130 Bypass is a state maintained road and you have to pay for sewer and sanitation. Comm. Jackson feels the quick response from the fire and police department is an excellent benefit. Comm. Grantham added that streetlights were also a good benefit. Mr. Schaeffer suggested that the town use the income generated from the annexation toward recreation and a community center. He felt that would be a real benefit. Comm. Kemp supported the idea of putting the added revenue from the annexation toward recreation.

Mr. Hayes still thinks the sewer plant is a bad idea even though it is not an issue in the annexation. He emphasized that he has always been a “good neighbor” to Fairmont and want it to stay that way. Mr. Hayes accused the town of not giving a “damn” about what the residents think and that the annexation is going to take place without the residents saying a “damn thing” about it. He complained that involuntary annexation is a bad thing and that is why no other states use it. Attorney Charlie Floyd disagreed and said that almost every state is moving toward involuntary annexation. Mr. Hayes brought up his great, great, great, great grandfather who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Mayor Gaddy asked him to hold his conversation to the annexation only. Mr. Hayes does not like the town telling him what to do and claimed it was not the “American Way.” Mayor Gaddy accused Mr. Hayes of wanting the town to grow but not at his expense. Comm. Grantham wished that we could all work things out and be happy about it.

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Mrs. Beverly Capps does not understand why there is a gap in the annexation that forces her to go out of town to go back into town. Mr. Schaeffer implied that it would affect the annexation ratio if those lots were included. Comm. Grantham acknowledged that annexation is not an easy thing and that everyone has gone through bad times with annexation.

Mayor Gaddy asked the citizens if they had any more questions. They did not so Comm. Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. Comm. Jackson 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 – September 12, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Scott Witten, Danny Nobles, Shirley Eaton, Dana Powell, Linda Vause, Rebecca Andrews, Jeff Berman, Billy Hayes and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2000 regular meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Billy Hayes prefaced his comments by saying that it would be the last time he would come before the board on this issue. He then spoke of his contributions to the Town of Fairmont and ended his five- minute dissertation with a statement that the Town should review the Regional Waste Water Study before proceeding with the new Waste Water Plant.

### **Administrative Matters**

#### **Lease Agreement with The In 7 Company**

Jeff Berman, Executive Vice President of The In 7 Company thanked the Town Manager, town staff, and town residents for welcoming his business to the Town. He briefly discussed the lease arrangement with the Town, and his development and expansion plans. Mr. Berman said his company planned a long-term relationship with the Town and expected to grow well beyond the 100 employees committed to under the Economic Development Grant. He also stated that when his company first came to Fairmont, they had only one business interest, now they have started a second business, which is already at a payroll expenditure of approximately \$50,000/wk. Commissioner Jackson thanked Mr. Berman for his willingness to do business with the Town and asked if his company would consider allowing employees time with pay to volunteer at our schools in light of the low performance scores that our students have been getting. Mr. Jackson thought that if the local businesses would volunteer to assist the schools, it might go a long way to helping our students improve performance. Mr. Berman commented that he would be glad to follow Mr. Jackson's suggestion and indicated that his company was already attempting to temper the two worlds of business and education. Commissioner Kemp asked how many employees The In 7 Company anticipated hiring over the next two years. Mr. Berman commented that they were committed to 100 employees under the

Economic Development Grant but that his company is planning on hiring as many as 200 employees over the next two years. Shirley Eaton thanked the company as well. Mayor Gaddy asked if the company would consider starting an outlet store. Mr. Berman responded that they did not want to get into the retail end of the business, but they would have periodic sales, one such sale being scheduled for next month. He indicated that the company wanted to remain on the industrial end of things. Mr. Berman then recognized Danny Nobles, a local company employee, who helped put everything together to make The In 7 Company a reality. Commissioner Jeffery McCree wanted to know if the company ever did consider starting a retail store if it would be in the Town of Fairmont. Mr. Berman responded affirmatively. He then mentioned that the company had just bought a new score board for the

Civitans. Commissioner Grantham commented that she appreciated the company's educational efforts.

Commissioner Jeffery McCree made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the lease of the Premiumwear Property to The In 7 Corporation. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### **Sale of Real Property on N. Walnut Street**

Town Manager Ben Hill requested that the item, "sale of Real Property on North Walnut Street" be removed from the agenda in order to address some outstanding issues

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to remove item I-B, "sale of real property on North Walnut Street" from the agenda and table it until next month. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### **Resolution to Condemn Madison St. Property**

Mr. Hill briefly discussed the resolution to condemn Madison Street property, pointing out the need to aggressively approach this type of situation. He stated that the board needs to direct the Town Attorney to petition the Superior Court for an order requiring the owner of 612-614 Madison Street to comply with the Housing Code and the Order of the Code Enforcement Officer requiring the demolition of the structure. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the resolution to direct the Town Attorney to proceed with condemnation procedures for 612-614 Madison Street. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### **Pay Study**

Mr. Hill briefly discussed the need for all employees to be paid at the appropriate level and asked the board to approve the development of a Pay and Classification Study through the League of Municipalities. The study will take approximately four (4) months

and will begin in December 2000 and end in March 2001. The total cost of the study is \$6,679 and will be conducted by Mr. Robert H. Crowder, Membership Services Consultant with the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to proceed with the Pay and Classification Study for town employees using the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Proclamation for Town of Fairmont Clean Up Week**

Mr. Hill spoke about the Governor's two-week initiative to clean up the State of North Carolina and indicated that the residents needed some type of assistance at least twice a year to help keep the Town clean. Commissioner Jackson indicated that he agreed with the clean up week but wanted to include the removal of any unwanted vehicles since we now have the capability with the new roll back and tow truck to remove them. Chief Hunt indicated that the Town could use the vehicles for such a purpose.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the proclamation proclaiming September 25 – 29 as Town of Fairmont Clean Up Week for the year 2000. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Industrial Development Fund Grant application for White House Packing Company**

Mr. Hill explained the Industrial Development Fund Grant and indicated that Steve Davis, owner of the White House Packing Company, approached the Town with an interest to hook up to the new Waste Water Plant. He then specified that the grant would require no monetary commitment from the Town but that the finance office would administer the funds. Mr. Hill informed the board that Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates were writing the application as requested by Steve Davis of White House Packing Company. Mr. Davis requested Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates because his son, Greg Davis, works for them. Mr. Hill went further to say that this would bring the sewer system further south to open up the southern portion of the county for greater development potential. Commissioner Jackson appreciated the company's willingness to tap on to open up the southern end of the county for future development. However, he questioned whether a conflict of interest existed using the company that Mr. Davis' son works for to write the application. Mr. Hill replied that town staff would look into the situation but that the grant administration would be competitive as required under Federal Statutes.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to submit an application for an Industrial Development Fund Grant for White House Packing. Commissioner Jeffery McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**General Business**

**Youth Opportunity Grant**

Ms Dana Powell, Youth Opportunity Grant Director, appeared to discuss the Youth Opportunity Grant and efforts to find and open a Center for the program. Ms. Powell informed the Board of services being offered to the youth and the basic format being proposed for the operation of the program. Mayor Gaddy asked what locations were currently being explored. Ms. Powell responded that LRCOG had surveyed many, many residents of the Town and all had indicated a preference for the Old Post Office building. Mayor Gaddy asked if the program pays a high rent, approximately \$100,000 over the next five years, would it not result in less money to the program. Ms. Powell responded in the affirmative. Commissioner Jackson discussed the former Floyd dental office building and what he considered to be the benefits to using it as opposed to the Old Post Office building, parking, proximity to the proposed park area, proximity to the high school, palatable wiring, etc. Commissioner Grantham remarked that the dental office was already broken up into small rooms. Ms. Powell insisted that the building wasn't what the program had in mind. Ms. Powell said there would have to be compromise somewhere; either in individual classrooms or in large meeting space and the program really needed a resource center and training room with at least ten computers. Mayor Gaddy commented that he didn't understand, he thought that the program staff was supposed to be getting input from the jurisdictions. Ms. Powell insisted that they did want the input. Commissioner Jackson disagreed, he felt that the LRCOG staff had already sent the message of what was desired to the HUD office and the Town's input would not make a difference. Ms. Powell protested, reiterating that the LRCOG did want input from the jurisdictions. Mayor Gaddy then asked how the positions were to be filled. Ms. Powell stated that a panel was in place to make hiring decisions. Commissioner Jackson commented that the Town has a local paper. Ms. Powell responded that all jobs were advertised in our local paper.

**Date for annexation of Golf Course Road Area**

Mr. Hill recommended Tuesday, October 10, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. as the date to consider adopting the Golf Course Road Area annexation ordinance.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Tuesday, October 10, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. as the date to consider adopting the Golf Course Road Area annexation ordinance. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Disaster Management Plan**

Mr. Hill discussed the town's Disaster Management Plan. The Fairmont Emergency Response Team is composed of Ben Hill, Ronnie Seals and Katrina Tatum. This team has the responsibility of preparing a Damage Assessment Report that will be used to

obtain funding and assistance from the State, Federal Government and Utilities. They will also be responsible for the coordination of activities during and following a disaster and the preparation and maintenance of documents to justify all disaster assistance requests. The Emergency Operations Center will be the Courtroom in Town Hall and will be used for a base operations point for the Response Team and a contact base for the state and local emergency personnel. The center will have access to fax, phone and Internet for quick response and communication.

### **Announcements**

Mayor Gaddy announced his office hours would be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m., no office hours on Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The R.C.M.A. meeting will be held Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. It will be hosted by the Town of St. Pauls at the St. Pauls Community Center.

The Palmer Drug Prevention Program's Third Annual Red Ribbon Luncheon date will be announced at a later date.

The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Southeastern Regional Medical Center/Fairmont Medical Clinic is scheduled to take place Thursday, September 14, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. The Mayor and Town Manager will speak on behalf of the Town. Luckey Welsh, Randy Rust and Al Lewis will speak on behalf of Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Commissioner Kemp remarked that he had served the Town for 24 years and felt that Mayor Gaddy deserved a personal thank you for making sure that events were being scheduled in recognition of all the commissioners' schedules and availability as was done with this ground breaking ceremony and other events that are being arranged.

Mr. Hill announced that The In 7 Company would be having their Grand Opening on Tuesday, October 17, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. He made the announcement out of great pride that they had come this far in the development of the business.

### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 7:10 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, J. McCree, F. McCree, Kemp, and Grantham, Ben Hill, Katrina Tatum and Attorney Charles Floyd were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel matters, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Katrina Tatum, Acting Secretary

## **Regular Meeting – October 10, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Scott Witten, Bill Lester, Buddy Taylor, Betty Edwards, Mickey Williamson, Sylvia Pate and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2000 regular meeting. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

No citizens had any comments.

### **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Bill Lester, of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, was present to discuss the annexation ordinance for the Golf Course Road Area. Commissioner Kemp asked Mr. Lester and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd if the town has done everything it was supposed to do legally regarding this annexation. They both replied in the affirmative that all the requirements for annexation have been met. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt an ordinance to extend the corporate limits of the Town of Fairmont, under the authority granted by Chapter 160A, Article 4A, Part 2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, to include the Golf Course Road area to be effective October 31, 2001. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 6:05 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss land acquisition and industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,5). Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, J. McCree, F. McCree, Kemp, and Grantham, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Sylvia Pate and Attorney Charles Floyd were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, land acquisition and industry, Commissioner J.J. McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Hill asked for an item to be added to the agenda. The In 7 Company is interested in applying for a Gold Leaf Foundation Grant to finish the Shell Building. They want to buy the building from the town and the county. The Robeson County Board of Commissioners has already given their support for this grant application. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to apply for a Gold Leaf Foundation Grant in the amount of \$850,000 for the In 7 Company to finish the shell building. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. Hill discussed the sale of bonds for the new sewer plant construction. The bonds will be sold on October 24 and we should have the money by November 7. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation waste water bond anticipation notes in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$3,000,000 for the purpose of financing, in part, the acquisition, construction, renovation, installation and equipping of waste water treatment facilities in the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Hill announced Ninikva & Chili Industries has withdrawn their offer to purchase the property referred to as the “Old Liberty Warehouse Site” on North Walnut Street. The town has received another offer to purchase the property from Tri-Renia Industries. They are proposing to purchase this property for \$30,000 and have rendered 10% (\$3,000) down as a good faith deposit. The remaining \$27,000 is to be paid at closing. This company would like to purchase the land to open a flea market with a covered metal structure. Although the zoning of General Manufacturing does not specifically mention flea market use, a flea market operation is consistent with the intent of current zoning and as such may be approached as a conditional use. Ms. Gerina McCree, sister of J.J. McCree and daughter of Frank McCree, is the sole business owner of Tri-Renia Industries. Mr. Hill asked Commissioners J.J. and Frank McCree if they had any involvement or interest in Tri-Renia Industries. They replied that they did not. Mr. Hill recommended that the board set a date for a public hearing to entertain any comments or concerns from the public and to notify adjoining property owners. Commissioner Grantham wants to sell the property but is concerned about how it will look to the public. Last month, Commissioner J.J. McCree wanted to purchase the property but cannot because it is a conflict of interest. Commissioner Grantham wants to protect Commissioner J.J. McCree and the town and does not want any legal action taken against him. For that reason, Commissioner Grantham opposes the sale of the property to Tri-Renia Industries. Commissioner Jackson felt that favoritism will be shown by selling the

property and also opposes it. He does not want to jeopardize the town or the McCrees. Commissioner Kemp was worried that Ms. McCree might get into financial trouble and ask her father and brother for help. He does not want two people he cares greatly for to get in trouble later on. Commissioner Frank McCree admitted that he has very little knowledge of Tri-Renia Industries but understands the feelings of the other board members. Commissioner J.J. McCree was disappointed in the board's reaction. He felt that it was a simple business deal to help improve the town. He stated that his sister could take her money and go elsewhere. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to reject Tri-Renia Industries' bid to purchase the "Old Liberty Warehouse Site" on North Walnut Street. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Commissioners J.J. McCree and Frank McCree abstained from voting.

Mr. Hill discussed setting a date for a council retreat to discuss all the town's current projects. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set a council retreat for Saturday, November 4, 2000 following the Issue Forum at Pat Floyd's Clubhouse on Mill Branch Road. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Gaddy spoke on the issue of replacing his vacant commissioner seat. He recommended the issue be tabled so it can be studied further. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to table the commissioner replacement issue until a later date. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hill announced the Town of Fairmont has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to assist in providing public water and sewer service to the former Premiumwear plant being renovated by the In 7 Company for a finishing and dyeing facility. The grant award is \$1,000,000 and will be used to construct 7,500 linear feet of twelve-inch sewer line, a 300,000 gallon elevated water storage tank and 600 linear feet of twelve-inch water main. The In 7 Company will create 100 new full time jobs and invest \$1.2 million dollars as a result of this project. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the Community Development Block Grant Agreement in the amount of \$1,000,000 to provide water and sewer service to the In 7 Company. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hill also announced the Town of Fairmont has been awarded a \$500,000 Clean Water Bond/IDF grant to help make sewer improvements to the In 7 Company's facilities. Commissioner J.J. McCree made a motion to accept the Clean Water Bond/IDF Grant Agreement in the amount of \$500,000 to provide sewer improvements to the In 7 Company. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**General Business**

Mr. Hill announced the Fairmont Revitalization Committee held their first meeting on September 19. They recommended that the trees downtown be removed before they start to damage sidewalks or property. They suggested replacing the trees with brick planters built from leftover school brick and keeping flowers in them year round. Commissioner J.J. McCree made a motion to table the issue of removing the trees downtown until the December meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Katrina Tatum discussed the proposal from Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland Housing LLC to construct 36 apartment units (25 two bedroom units and 10 three bedroom units) on a 2.8 acre parcel of land located on Pittman Street. This property is owned by Butch Lennon and is a part of a previous subdivision. In order to construct this project as planned, another subdivision plan will need to be developed.

Commissioner Kemp asked the board to set a date for the Fourth Quarter Issue Forum. Mayor Gaddy suggested having a breakfast at the Fire Hall on Saturday, November 4, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. The board unanimously approved this date.

**Announcements**

The Grand Opening for the In 7 Company will be Tuesday, October 17, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

The Palmer Drug Prevention Banquet will be Tuesday, October 24, 2000 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Lumberton. There is a table reserved for the council.

The Lumber River Council of Governments Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet will be Thursday, October 19, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. at the Southeastern NC Agriculture Center in Lumberton. Ben Hill, John Jackson, and Mayor Ned Gaddy will attend this event.

A reception for Mayor Nedward Gaddy will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. at Star of Bethlehem Church in Fairmont.

The R.C.M.A will be hosted by Robeson County on October 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Robeson Housing Authority in Lumberton.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference is October 16-17 in Fayetteville.

The Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant is Saturday, October 14, 2000 at Rosenwald Auditorium. Mr. Kemp invited the council on behalf of pageant coordinator, Janice Faulk.

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E.R. Gause Day is Friday, October 20, 2000. There will be an Auditorium Dedication Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. followed by a catered dinner at Bradshaw Gymnasium at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$5.

The Fairmont Farmers Festival is Saturday, October 21, 2000. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by entertainment all afternoon and ending with a dance at Hi-Dollar Warehouse with the Coastline Band from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Town of Fairmont  
Issue Forum  
November 4, 2000**

The Town of Fairmont held its fourth quarter Issue Forum on Saturday, November 4, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Those in attendance included Commissioners Mary Bruce Grantham, Charles Kemp, Frank McCree and John Jackson, Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Shirley Eaton, Mickey Williamson, Viola Roberts, Shirley Thompson, Ila Grainger, Al Greenwood, Maitland Hunt, Fay Sellers and Charlie Floyd.

Mayor Gaddy welcomed everyone and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation. Hardees and McDonalds provided breakfast biscuits for the citizens to enjoy.

Mayor Gaddy was disappointed more citizens did not come for the forum. He explained the forum's purpose is to gather information from the citizens. He reminded everyone that no action would be taken on any matters brought before the council today.

Town Manager Ben Hill updated everyone on current town projects. The North Carolina Indian Housing Authority has started construction on their senior housing. The groundbreaking for this facility will be Thursday, November 9, at 3:00 p.m.

Reuse Technologies has started to bring in some coal fill for the Community Park. Mr. Fay Sellers asked when the old Holliday Warehouse would be filled in. Mr. Hill said it should be filled in by January or February. The fill will be covered by grass and dirt. Mr. Sellers also asked if there would be a fence or trees on Fisher Street. Mr. Hill replied that had not been decided yet.

The engineers are developing plans for an 18,000 square foot community building. We hope to build it for \$650,000 and are getting estimates from several contractors.

The town is working out the final details of a mitigation plan before the sewer plant construction can begin. The purpose of a mitigation plan is to replace the wetlands disturbed because of the plant construction. The town plans to purchase and plant trees on 10 acres of land in cooperation with the State Parks and Recreation Department.

Three warehouses are being torn down in the city limits. People's Warehouse will be pushed down in the next couple of weeks. This demolition will leave a big empty space in our central business district. Commissioner Jackson feels a small shopping mall would be ideal in the site. We could rezone the property from General Manufacturing to business and include it in the Central Business District.

Some of the citizens were concerned about downtown revitalization. Mr. Hill explained that the money for downtown revitalization is currently tied up in our Shell Building. Once we sell the building, we can loan money to business owners at a low interest rate. Mayor Gaddy was concerned about the large amount of empty stores downtown. He

would like the town to consult the absentee landowners and try to convince them to lower their rent prices.

Ms. Shirley Thompson complained that her neighbor's tree had limbs hanging dangerously over her property. Neither her nor her neighbor can afford to remove the tree and asked if the town can force the tree owner to do something about the tree. Mr. Hill recommended she come to the office and see Katrina Tatum.

Ms. Maitland Hunt asked that the ditch beside her property be cleaned out. Mr. Hill said he would get Ronnie Seals to take a look at it.

Ms. Ila Grainger lives on Phillips Street and complained that the woods behind her house are a problem. She is scared of snakes coming out of them. Mr. Hill also recommended that she come to the office to see Katrina Tatum. Commissioner Jackson added that the town does not have the authority to go on anyone's property without permission.

Ms. Grainger also asked if the town would be getting another CDBG grant to remodel houses. Mr. Hill replied that the grant would be applied for in February. The board will make the final decision on which area will be targeted next. Mayor Gaddy hopes the property owners will come to the board meetings to learn how the CDBG program works.

Shirley Eaton asked if we could get the Department of Transportation to do another traffic study because the traffic is so bad at Stephens and Walnut Street.

Mayor Gaddy hopes more citizens will come to these issue forums in the future instead of asking the commissioners questions on the street and at church. He suggested advertising the meetings in church bulletins.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Jenny Larson, Town Clerk

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

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special council retreat on Saturday, November 4, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. at Pat Floyd's clubhouse on Mill Branch Road in Fairmont with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner J.J. McCree was absent. Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd were also present.

Mayor Gaddy stated that the purpose of the meeting was to talk about current town projects including the sewer plant, community building and community park. There was much discussion by the board on these issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting - November 14, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2000 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner Frank McCree was absent due to illness. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Betty Overturf, Mickey Williamson, Steve Britt, Jimmy Byrne, Frank McCormick, Shirley Eaton, Scott Witten, Mark Ogburn, and Bill Lester.

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

Mayor Gaddy stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the community building.

Building Committee Chairman Frank McCormick began by thanking all the members of the building committee, including: Lib Haywood, Jenny Larson, Louise Grier, Mickey Williamson, Victoria Byerly, Rose Johnson, P.C. Purvis, Tommy Purvis, Ben Hill, Steve Britt, Steve Howie, Nina Johnson and especially Fairmont Community Building Chairman, Jimmy Byrne.

Mr. Jimmy Byrne discussed the plans designed by Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates. He really likes the plans because it makes the building look good, similar to the Farmer's Market on Highway 74. The floor plan of the community building will accommodate everything but the Farmers Festival dance. It will seat 800 people for graduation or pageant. There is a Dining/Meeting Room that accommodates 78 people with tables and chairs. There are two separate heating and air systems so the bigger part of the building only has to be heated and cooled when it is occupied. The front part of the building will be used more frequently with two offices, one of which can be used as a meeting room. Mr. Byrne's biggest concern is whether we can afford the building as designed. We have a budget of \$650,000 but Hobbs and Upchurch estimates the cost of the building to be \$725,000 without paving. Five anonymous estimates from local contractors came close to the \$725,000 price tag. The estimate for paving is an additional \$150,000. Mr. Byrne asked the council for instructions on what to do next.

Mr. Steve Britt, with Adams and Britt Construction, gave the board some cost saving suggestions regarding the community building. One suggestion was to lower the slope of the roof one foot. The problem with lowering the roof is it will alter the appearance of the building. The other suggestion was to replace the split face block on the Highway 130 side with stucco, for a savings of \$50,000 or colored metal panels, for a savings of \$100,000.

The council instructed Mr. Byrne and Mr. McCormick to meet with the building committee to discuss these cost saving changes and report back in the near future.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – November 14, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Frank McCree was absent due to illness. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Betty Overturf, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, Shirley Eaton, Scott Witten, Mark Ogburn, Bill Lester, Annie Jackson and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 10, 2000 and the Council Retreat on November 4, 2000. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to release improper and double listed taxes in the amount of \$195.83. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Ms. Annie Jackson thanked the town for taking cars off of Martin Luther King Drive. It has improved the traffic situation.

### **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Hill advised the board to select Engineering and Administrative Services for the CDBG and CWB/IDF grants, which the town received for Utility Improvements at the In 7 Company. Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates and Koonce, Noble and Associates sent in proposals for engineering. Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates and The Wooten Company sent in proposals for administrative services. Ben Hill and Katrina Tatum reviewed the proposals. Mr. Hill recommended Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates to perform both administrative and engineering services for the grants since they have worked with CDBG grants and are familiar with this project and the In 7 Company. Mr. Hill was disappointed Koonce, Noble and Associates and the Wooten Company did not apply for both engineering and administrative services. The council had concerns about Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates working on all the town projects and was worried they are getting preferential treatment. Mr. Bill Lester responded on behalf of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates. He explained they want to be an extension of our town staff and added most municipalities stick to one engineering firm because it is more cost effective. After long discussion, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to award Engineering and Administrative Services on the CDBG and CWB/IDF grants for the In 7 Company's

water and sewer improvements to Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill requested the board adopt a Resolution for Requisitions, Check Signatures and Administration on the CDBG and CWB/IDF grants for the In 7 Company's water and sewer improvements. He explained the Community Development Block Grant Program requires the governing board of an awarded jurisdiction authorize certain individuals to handle the financial and administrative matters of a funded project by adopting a resolution. Mayor Nedward Gaddy, Mayor Pro Tem Charles Kemp, Finance Officer Helen Lockley and Accounts Supervisor Linda Vause are recommended to handle the Financial Management and Mayor Nedward Gaddy, Town Manager Ben Hill and Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum are recommended to handle the Administrative Management of these grants. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution for requisitions, check signatures and administration on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Clean Water Bond/Industrial Development Fund (CWB/IDF) projects with Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, Helen Lockley and Linda Vause authorized to execute the signature requirements for requisitions and checks for disbursement and Nedward Gaddy, Ben Hill and Katrina Tatum authorized to administer the programs and execute all applicable documents. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board that he requested paving bids on four streets in town: Dogwood Drive, Magnolia, Woodhue and Pine Streets. Dogwood Drive and Pine Street are in worse condition than the other two streets. The money to do the paving is coming out of the Powell Bill Fund. We are also using Powell Bill funds to improve drainage on Church Street, curb and gutter on Morro Street and sidewalks on Martin Luther King Drive. With all these projects, there is only enough money to do two streets. Mr. Hill received three bids from B & B Asphalt, Columbus Utilities and Horne and Son Construction, Inc. B & B Asphalt, of Fair Bluff, NC, had the lowest bid with \$4.80 per square yard or \$20,937.60 for Dogwood Drive and \$23,114.40 for Pine Street. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to award the paving bid for Dogwood Drive and Pine Street to B & B Asphalt for \$4.80 per square yard. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Announcements**

Red Springs will host the next R.C.M.A. on November 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Flora McDonald Academy. Mayor Gaddy encouraged the commissioners to make an effort to attend as many of these events as possible. It looks good for the town when all the commissioners attend an event together instead of just the mayor and manager.

The Town Offices will be closed November 23 and 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

The Fairmont Christmas Festival will be Sunday, December 3 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the Ervin R. Gause Auditorium, Rosenwald Elementary School. Come listen to your favorite Christmas music performed by bands, soloists and choruses. Mayor Ned Gaddy will light the Community Christmas Tree at the Fairmont Memorial Park across from Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. All citizens are encouraged to attend. Commissioner Kemp explained the Christmas Festival was being held indoors because of the unknown weather conditions. He encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the music.

Congratulations to our Town Clerk, Jenny Larson. She recently completed the Institute of Government's IIMC Clerks Certification Institute.

Maxton Mayor Lillie McKoy invites everyone to attend the Maxton Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 9, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Grantham contacted the landscaper who planted the trees on Main Street. He told her they are worth about \$3,000 a piece and just planted 10 in Raleigh at a cost of \$30,000. He informed her the trees were planted with a heavy plastic around the roots to prevent them from getting very big or tearing up the sidewalks. He promised her that he would come prune them in January or February.

### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 6:45 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, J. McCree, F. McCree, Kemp, and Grantham, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, and Attorney Charles Floyd were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

### **Special Meeting – November 29, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, and Chief Terry Hunt.

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

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 7:05 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:10 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – December 12, 2000**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Billy Hayes, Linda Vause, Helen Lockley, Freddie Miller, Ronnie Seals, John Masters, Al Greenwood, Betty Overturf, Shirley Eaton, Scott Witten, and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 14, 2000 and the Special Meeting on November 29, 2000. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to release improperly listed taxes in the amount of \$866.77. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Ms. Betty Overturf, editor of the Times Messenger and a schoolteacher at Fairmont Middle School, thanked the town on behalf of the school for supporting the Nickelodeon Big Help Mobile. Thirty-eight students collected the most pledge cards to keep North Carolina clean. They were treated to a trip to the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh. Fairmont Middle School had the most pledges for the state and Justin Sealey collected the most individual pledge cards in the state. Nickelodeon's Big Help Mobile traveled to Fairmont from San Diego, California to honor the school for winning the statewide Clean N.C. Pledge Contest. It was the first time the Help Mobile has visited a small town. The representatives from Nickelodeon praised the town and our well-behaved student body. Mayor Gaddy presented Nickelodeon with a key to the city and it was the first time they had ever received one in all the places they have visited. Commissioner Grantham thanked Ms. Overturf for her efforts with the school and children. Chief Terry Hunt added that we need to support our schools anyway we can.

Ms. Overturf also commended Commissioner Kemp on the Fairmont Christmas Festival and all the local talent that participated. Commissioner Kemp added he was fortunate we have such good talent in Fairmont. Less people attended the festival this year because of having to postpone it a week because of the weather delay.

Commissioner Frank McCree thanked the community for allowing the council to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Boston last week. He stated it was a valuable experience and they learned a lot of things to benefit Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson commented that a lot of youth attended the conference in Boston and feels it is important to get more of our youth involved in local government. Mayor Gaddy added

he learned a lot about youth. We need to act rather than talk. He wants the community to rally around our youth because they are our future. He asked those present to search their hearts and minds to find ways to get our youth involved in the community. Commissioner Grantham mentioned that the Mayor and Council, not a school board, run the schools in Boston. She added alternative schools are important in providing a safety net for at risk students. Mr. Hill said they brought back lots of new ideas for the town and will get copies of the information gathered to Commissioners Kemp and J.J. McCree at the next meeting.

### **Public Hearing**

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss entering into a lease/purchase arrangement with the In 7 Company for the property located on 804 East White Pond Road. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ben Hill explained the purpose of this public hearing is to inform the public and receive comments regarding the Town's intention to request Representative Donald Boner to introduce a Bill at the January 2001 Session of the General Assembly. This Bill is being introduced to allow the Town of Fairmont to enter into a direct lease/purchase arrangement with the In 7 Company for the property located on 804 East White Pond Road, formerly known as the Premium Wear facility. The In 7 Company is presently leasing the facility under a two-year lease with an option to extend the lease for three additional years at 5% rental increases per option year. In order to allow the Town to amend the lease to include an option to purchase, rather than advertising the property for sell, it must be introduced as a Bill before the General Assembly. The In 7 Company proposes to purchase this building for \$750,000. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd and Katrina Tatum are working on the details of the bill.

After discussion on the lease/purchase option, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Administrative Matters**

Mr. John Masters, of S. Preston Douglas and Associates, presented the audit report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2000. He commended the town for a very good report and praised the town's accounting staff. Mr. Masters reviewed some charts with the board illustrating the town's revenues over the past 10 years. The town's fund balance has decreased over the past few years due to internal spending on the sewer plant project. Now that we have the money for the project in hand, this fund should start increasing again. Mr. Masters informed the council of GASB Pronouncement 34. This pronouncement will change the nature of municipal financial statements to make them more understandable. This pronouncement will take effect on either June 30, 2002 or 2003. One change will be that secondary roadways will be figured as an asset of the

town. Mr. Masters ended his comments by thanking the town for letting S. Preston Douglas and Associates handle the town's audit. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the 1999-2000 audit. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to request Representative Donald Bonner to introduce a Bill at the January 2001 Session of the General Assembly to allow the town to enter into a lease/purchase arrangement with the In 7 Company for the property on 804 East White Pond Road. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced the Industrial Development Fund (IDF) has approved a Clean Water Bond Utility Grant in the amount of \$287,250 for the Whitehouse Packing/Industrial Corridor Project. The IDF program requires the governing board of an awarded jurisdiction to authorize specific individuals to handle the financial and administrative matters of a funded project by adopting a resolution. Mayor Nedward Gaddy, Mayor Pro Tem Charles Kemp, Finance Officer Helen Lockley and Accounts Supervisor Linda Vause are recommended to handle the Financial Management and Mayor Nedward Gaddy, Town Manager Ben Hill and Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum are recommended to handle the Administrative Management of these grants. Commissioner Jackson asked if an engineering company had been chosen for this project. Mr. Hill replied that bids for engineers had not been advertised yet. Commissioner Jackson was concerned about a conflict of interest with Mr. Steve Davis, owner of Whitehouse Packing and Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, where Mr. Davis' son works. Attorney Floyd assured the board that Mr. Davis would have no input on the engineering decision. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution for requisitions, check signatures and administration on the Industrial Development Fund Clean Water Bond Utility Grant for the Whitehouse Packing/Industrial Corridor Project with Nedward Gaddy, Charles Kemp, Helen Lockley and Linda Vause authorized to execute the signature requirements for requisitions and checks for disbursement and Nedward Gaddy, Ben Hill and Katrina Tatum authorized to administer the program and execute all applicable documents. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board Robeson County has given notice they will no longer perform State required fire inspections. In order to comply with state laws requiring regularly scheduled fire inspections of structures that fall into the Level I, II and III categories, such as warehouses, churches and nursing homes, it is necessary for the town to hire a Fire Inspector certified to perform such inspections. Mr. Jimmy Jackson, an independent contractor from Rowland certified by the State of North Carolina, has agreed to perform the Level I and II inspections. He is available to begin inspections immediately upon approval by the Board. In order for the town to recapture the expense of hiring Mr. Jackson, it is necessary to set fees for such inspections. At the present time our ordinances do not provide for such fees. Mr. Hill recommended \$50.00 for Level I

and II Fire Inspections and \$75.00 for Level III Fire Inspections. Mr. Hill asked the board to grant permission to contract with Mr. Jackson to perform Level I and II inspections at a rate of 75% of the approved fees and contract with a Level III Certified Inspector at the same rate as soon as one can be located to perform these inspections. Commissioner Jackson stated for the record that he is not related to Jimmy Jackson and does not know him. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt a resolution adopting a fee schedule for fire inspections with \$50.00 per inspection for Level I and II and \$75.00 per inspection for Level III. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to enter into a one-year agreement with Jimmy Jackson to perform the town's Level I and II Fire Inspections at a rate of 75% of the fee charged per inspection, or \$37.50. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Announcements**

There is no R.C.M.A. meeting this month.

The Town Offices will be closed December 25 and 26 in observance of Christmas and January 1 for New Years Day.

The Annual Christmas Luncheon for town employees and their families will be Friday, December 22 at 12 noon in the Fire Hall.

Town Manager Ben Hill will be on vacation December 27, 28, and 29

### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 6:45 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss the annexation lawsuit "William A. Hayes et al. vs. Town of Fairmont" and property acquisition as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,5). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, J. McCree, F. McCree, Kemp, and Grantham, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, and Attorney Charles Floyd were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, legal matters and property acquisition, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – January 9, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 09, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Billy Hayes, Ronnie Seals, Betty Overturf, Shirley Eaton, Rusty Perry, William Townsend, Tom Taylor, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, Perry Ashley and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 12, 2000. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Mr. Tom Taylor, the newly elected County Commissioner for the Fairmont district, introduced himself to the council and said he is looking forward to working with the board.

Mr. William Townsend, with the Robeson County Recreation Department, informed the council about an adult basketball program at Rosenwald Gym. The basketball program is for adults 18 and up. There are four teams that will play 12 regular season games and will end the season with a tournament of twenty games and trophies. The program began last night and the hours are from 8 to 10 p.m. Mr. Townsend requested the use of a police officer during the games for extra security. Chief Terry Hunt stated the county paid off duty police officers in the past. Commissioners Kemp and Jackson suggested talking to County Recreation Director, Rudy Paul, to see if there is money in the budget to pay for off duty police officers. Mr. Huel Faulk explained private individuals and businesses sponsor the basketball program and the county is only setting up the program and providing the guidelines by which to play. Commissioner J.J. McCree asked how long the program would last. Mr. Townsend hopes to keep it going through summer. Mr. Ben Hill acknowledged that Fairmont Recreation Director, Mickey Williamson, was not aware of this basketball program. Commissioner Grantham encouraged more open communication between the town and county recreation departments. She would like the two departments to work together to keep recreation programs going in Fairmont all year long. Commissioner Jackson asked Mr. Townsend to thank Rudy Paul for the children's playground equipment installed at Calvin Haggins Park.

**Administrative Matters**

The Town of Fairmont needs to release its share of state funds, \$586.72, to the Lumber River Council of Governments or the money will revert back to the state's general funds. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the resolution releasing \$586.72 of state funds to the Lumber River Council of Governments. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**General Business**

The council discussed Commissioner Kemp's proposal for a youth council and setting dates for the next Issue Forum and Council Retreat.

Mayor Gaddy stated that no decision would be made on the youth council proposal because it requires more broad study. Commissioner Kemp explained his proposal for a youth council. The purpose of the council is to offer the youth in Fairmont an opportunity to engage in leadership roles and help plan positive activities, which will enhance and enrich their lives. The suggested membership of the council includes the president and vice president of the high school student council, a representative of the middle school student council, a representative from each youth group in the town churches, Mayor Gaddy or his designee, Town Manager Ben Hill, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, representatives from the local boy and girl scout troops and an adult to serve as the youth council's counselor/advisor. Some suggested activities for the youth council include regular meetings, monthly chaperoned dances at the community building as a fundraiser and a Youth Day Rally, where youth from neighboring communities can come and brainstorm ideas. Commissioner Kemp realizes this proposal is just a start to get the youth of Fairmont more involved in their community. He suggested refining the plan between now and July so it will be ready by the start of the next school year.

Commissioner Grantham suggested involving student representatives from the different clubs at the high school as well. Commissioner Jackson agreed involving diverse student organizations will make a more rounded youth council than just including the student council. Mayor Gaddy added the need to get grown ups involved too. He suggested putting together a town calendar of events to run from July to June.

Mr. Hill suggested holding the next Issue Forum on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. and the next Council Retreat on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Gaddy asked the board if these dates were acceptable and they unanimously agreed the dates were fine. Town Clerk Jenny Larson stated she would be unable to attend the Council Retreat due to attending a Clerk's School in Chapel Hill.

Mayor Gaddy asked all the commissioners to stop by town hall at least once every week to two weeks to check their mail and get updates on what is happening in the town.

**Announcements**

The Robeson County Black Caucus will hold a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the First Baptist Church, North Main Street on Monday, January 15 at 12 Noon.

The Town Offices will be closed January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

There will be a Blood Drive on Thursday, January 25 from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Special Meeting – January 17, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Al Greenwood, Brenda Bullock and Jim Caulder.

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

Mayor Gaddy explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a newspaper article published in The Robesonian on Saturday, January 13, 2001 titled “City Council Retreat, Powell suggests regional plant,” written by Scott Witten.

Town Manager Ben Hill stated that Lumberton City Manager, Todd Powell, made incorrect statements in the article concerning Fairmont’s regional sewer plant. Mr. Hill received a lot of phone calls from citizens in Fairmont and the southern part of the county concerning the statements made that Fairmont does not have qualified operators. Commissioner Grantham was especially upset by Mr. Powell’s statement “they’re going to have to get someone to operate it, which takes training; you can’t just grab someone off the street.” Mr. Hill reassured the board that Fairmont already has two state certified operators for the new plant, Johnny Britt and himself. The town is going to build a lab at the plant but it is not mandatory to staff the lab. The town can still sub out the lab work like it currently does.

Another statement by Mr. Powell called Fairmont’s plant a “baby.” Mr. Hill said it may be a “baby” but it has the potential to bring growth to the southern part of Robeson County. He added that the plant should be operational by December 2001 or January 2002.

Commissioner Jackson called Powell’s statements divisive, offensive and incorrect. He feels Mr. Powell wants Lumberton to control all the sewer and growth in Robeson County. He said it was not fair to Fairmont to say such derogatory things. Comm. Jackson mentioned Lumberton’s rumored plans to annex the exits along I-95 down to South of the Border. Comm. Jackson would rather see McDonald and Raynham annex Exit 10 and let Fairmont provide the sewer to them. Comm. Jackson stated it was unfair to our council and staff because Mr. Powell did not contact us to get the correct information before making such erroneous statements. Every municipality in this county has the right to enlarge and grow.

Mayor Gaddy declared that we have not forgotten our neighbors in building this regional sewer plant. The town plans to serve all the communities in the southern part of Robeson County including Orrum and Proctorville and possibly Marietta, McDonald and Raynham.

Commissioner Kemp referred to Mr. Powell's statement "we're the only ones who have a real chance to capture that regional market," and asked who makes that determination. Commissioner Kemp added Fairmont's plant would cost \$7 million and involved untold hours of planning to make it a reality. Our current plant can treat a half million gallons of sewer a day and the new one will have the capacity to treat 1.75 million gallons a day with the possibility of being expanded to treat up to 10 million gallons a day. Comm. Kemp said the simple, courteous thing would have been for Mr. Powell to check with our staff first. Commissioner Grantham remarked we have already begun work on our plant and Lumberton is just discussing the possibility of building one.

Mr. Hill remarked that the town looked at several alternatives before deciding on building a regional wastewater plant. In fact, Fairmont asked to be hooked on to Lumberton's plant but they refused. Regionalization of our sewer plant was the best solution after many studies made by engineers and the Lumber River Council of Governments. He added that any time more than one municipality hooks onto a sewer plant it becomes a regional system.

Commissioner J. J. McCree felt the article was a little negative but does not think Mr. Powell meant anything by it. Comm. J.J. McCree stated we are working on the future and should concentrate on promoting what we are capable of. We are getting ready to get our plant online and we have the upper hand. Lumberton is in the past talking about building one.

Mayor Gaddy wants Mr. Powell to know we have qualified people to run our plant and that his comments greatly hurt our board. Attorney Charlie Floyd read the paper on Saturday and he felt Lumberton was slamming us. He agreed we should respond to Mr. Powell's statements and make the truth known to the public.

Commissioner Frank McCree was concerned about the lack of respect it seemed Mr. Powell had for Mr. Hill and Fairmont. He appreciated the fact the Mayor called this special meeting to set the facts straight about the qualifications of our operators.

Commissioner Grantham hoped Mr. Al Greenwood, with the Fayetteville Observer, would print the truth. She felt it was a shame there was no representative from the Robesonian present at tonight's meeting and complained about how they misquote us all the time. Mrs. Brenda Bullock spoke up that the Robesonian has ignored Fairmont for years and has only printed the bad things about our town and never the good.

Mr. Jim Caulder, a citizen of Lumberton, spoke on Fairmont's behalf. He thinks we are doing the right thing by informing our citizens of the truth. He said most people read the paper and take it for the truth. He called Mr. Powell arrogant and feels his attitude is if it does not happen in Lumberton it will not happen at all. Mr. Caulder believes the Highway 74 corridor is very advantageous for Fairmont and wished us luck with our plans.

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Mayor Gaddy reminded the council that the Council Retreat is January 30 at 6:00 p.m., the Issue Forum is February 6 at 7:00 p.m. and the next regular board meeting is February 13.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners  
Council Retreat  
January 30, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special council retreat on Tuesday, January 30, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at Pat Floyd's clubhouse on Mill Branch Road in Fairmont with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Town Manager Ben Hill, Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd were also present. Commissioner J.J. McCree and Town Clerk Jenny Larson were absent.

Mayor Gaddy stated that the purpose of the meeting was to talk about the progress on the new wastewater treatment plant and plans for the community building. There was much discussion by the board on these issues.

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

Katrina Tatum, Acting Secretary

**Town of Fairmont  
Issue Forum  
February 6, 2001**

The Town of Fairmont held an Issue Forum on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Rusty Perry, Tom Taylor, Berlester Campbell, Tommy Stevens, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Webster, Rev. Debra Watson, Rev. McCall, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Johnson, Dr. P.C. Purvis, Maitland Hunt, Bill Lewis, Betty Mitchell, Donna Rose Monroe, Jim Caulder, Delores Augustine, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the Issue Forum to order and Rev. McCall gave the invocation.

Mayor Gaddy thanked everyone for coming and making this the biggest turnout for an Issue Forum so far. He explained the purpose of the forum is to discuss and listen to citizens' concerns about Fairmont's operation, direction and future. No decisions will be made at this meeting.

Town Manager Ben Hill introduced Mr. Tommy Stevens, with the South Robeson Rescue Unit. Mr. Stevens explained the rescue squad has applied for a federal grant of \$116,000 to use to purchase a new ambulance and expand the department's space. South Robeson Rescue has to provide a match of \$29,000 and is looking for support to help raise that money. Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Stevens for coming and said the town will discuss giving more than the usual \$3,500 during budget preparation.

Mr. Hill introduced County Commissioners Tom Taylor and Berlester Campbell and thanked them for attending the forum.

Mr. Hill gave the citizens an update on current town projects. The Fairmont Community Building Plans are almost finalized. The building will be 18,500 square feet with a split face block front with metal sides and roof. Mr. Hill plans to hold a town hall meeting at the E.R. Gause Auditorium to show off the plans to the citizens in the next month or so. He hopes construction will begin in April. Work has begun on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant and construction should be completed by December or January. Reuse Technologies is filling in the foundation of the old Holliday Warehouse and once that is complete the rest of the Community Park construction will begin.

Mr. Huel Faulk asked for updates on Recreation and Downtown Revitalization. Comm. Jackson addressed the issue of Downtown Revitalization. He expressed the need for the town, Chamber of Commerce and downtown merchants to work together and form a coalition to improve the appearance of downtown. Mr. Hill added that Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum is an expert on applying for grants and encouraged anyone who is interested to come see her and see if they are eligible for funds. Mr. Hill

also mentioned UDAG money that could be used for downtown improvement is currently tied up in the Shell Building. He hopes the Robeson County Committee of 100 will help get the inside of the building completed so we can sell it faster.

Mrs. Betty Mitchell had some concerns about all the dilapidated houses around town and wanted to know what could be done to get them removed. She feels they are an eyesore and a health hazard. Mr. Hill explained several properties are in the process of being foreclosed or condemned. A major problem is several of them are heir properties and it takes a long time to track everyone down to get permission for it to be removed. It is also expensive to demolish these houses plus the town has to take the debris to the county landfill in St. Pauls, which is 70 miles roundtrip. She also wanted to know how much longer it would be before the remains of the warehouse are removed. Mr. Hill said it may take as long as a year before the People's Warehouse remains are completely removed because the workers are trying to salvage as much material as possible.

Mrs. Betty Mitchell, Mrs. Donna Rose Monroe and Ms. Delores Augustine all volunteered to serve on any committees that the town chooses to form. Mayor Gaddy thanked them for volunteering and said the town needs more volunteers to help Fairmont move forward.

Mr. Faulk again asked about recreation and whether the town and county are working together on an "open play" policy. He feels that open play would attract more volunteers and players than structured teams. Recreation Director Mickey Williamson responded that the town mostly handles youth activities while the county organizes adult leagues. He added he is a one-person department whereas the county has a much bigger department with more resources, which makes it easier for them to sponsor more events. Commissioner Jackson mentioned that he coached 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade football and would like to have a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade softball team but would need more volunteers to do it.

Commissioner Kemp brought up the possibility of urging Southeastern Regional Medical Center to put in a satellite recreation center in Fairmont like they are building in Red Springs. Mr. Hill stated he had heard rumors about a possible fitness center. He has talked to several hospital board members and the manager of Red Springs. A Red Springs citizen donated the land and gave a large donation for that facility. The hospital also required a commitment of 1,200 to 1,400 people to use the facility before agreeing to build it. Ms. Delores Augustine mentioned the facility in Elizabethtown is going to be put into an old store and will have mostly exercise equipment. She added that she is really interested in this project and would serve on a committee to gather support for the fitness center. She has already talked to 50 or 60 people who are interested. Dr. P.C. Purvis said it would take a lot of money and commitment from hundreds of people to get a fitness center in Fairmont. The old Jones store could be converted into a nice center but we still need an indoor pool.

Mr. Bill Lewis said he was excited about living in Fairmont right now. He stated the new sewer plant project is going well and that our new welcome signs look great. He stressed the importance of removing all the old tobacco warehouses to help improve Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson agreed that Fairmont is really moving along. He said the current council is building on the work done by past councils and that is our turn to keep the town moving forward.

Mr. Huel Faulk asked what the board's intention was regarding the vacant seat on the council. Mayor Gaddy responded he would prefer the board to have a unanimous choice for a replacement and that is difficult when there are 10 or 11 people interested in the seat. Commissioner Grantham added the council is divided over the different candidates. Commissioner J.J. McCree feels there will never be a unanimous vote. Commissioner Grantham also stated the seat is up for election in November anyway and that whoever filled the seat would have to run to keep it. Mr. Huel Faulk would like the council to fill the seat but Mrs. Betty Mitchell feels it should be filled only by a unanimous vote. Commissioner Jackson said it was up to the council to bring the issue of the vacant seat up on the agenda.

Mrs. Donna Rose Monroe asked if the town could do anything about getting people to clean up their yards. Mr. Hill asked her to call him tomorrow and give him the name and address of the person she had a concern about and he would see what the town could do. Mrs. Monroe added that she moved to Fairmont from Charlotte and likes it because everything is small and accessible.

Mrs. Rose Johnson asked if Magnolia Street was still on the top of the list to get paved next.

Ms. Maitland Hunt asked if anything could be done about all the cigarette butts thrown on the ground around the post office. Mr. Bill Lewis asked if the town could convince the post office to put Fairmont in bigger letters on the building so it could be seen better.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Jenny Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – February 13, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Betty Overturf, Shirley Eaton, Tommy Stevens, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, Jim Caulder, Charles Townsend, Andy Grimsley, Billy Hayes, Freddie Miller and several concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Rev. Charles Townsend gave the invocation.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 9, 2001, the special meeting on January 17, 2001, the council retreat on January 30, 2001 and the Issue Forum on February 6, 2001. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to release improperly listed taxes in the amount of \$499.88. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

No citizens appeared before the board.

### **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Hill informed the board Dr. J.C. Humphrey of the Robeson County Board of Education has approached the Town with a request that town owned property, located at the southeast corner of Linden and Maple Streets, across from the gym, be transferred to the Board of Education for a price of \$1,000. They intend to pave the lot for use as a parking lot. The town acquired this property on December 31, 1947 for use as a water tower site. That use was later abandoned and the site was turned over to the Robeson County Board of Education for use as an unimproved parking lot for the teachers and staff of Rosenwald Elementary School. According to the school system, no education funds can be used to improve the lot unless the county owns the land. This parking lot is subject to extreme flooding conditions that would be eliminated with proper paving and drainage work. The property contains approximately .5 acres of land area and is valued at \$6,697.00. After discussion, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution to give the half acre of land on the southeast corner of Linden and Maple Streets to the Robeson County Board of Education for a sum of \$1,000 with the stipulation that the lot be paved and drainage work completed. Commissioner Kemp 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. Hill explained the problem of peddlers stealing business away from downtown merchants by undercutting their prices. Ms. Katrina Tatum informed the board that we could not prevent itinerant merchants from coming into town. The town can tax them at a higher rate than peddlers and require them to show sales receipts from where they purchased their merchandise. The present ordinance regulating these categories is dated and does not allow the Town staff to properly monitor the individuals entering our town to conduct business. As a result, these individuals purchase a license at the very minimum of fees and severely undercut the Downtown Business merchants in price. This is causing a drastic reduction in revenue for our Downtown Business District and is consequently threatening the Town's revenue base. It is also a possibility that these itinerant merchants could be selling stolen merchandise. The board discussed the draft ordinance at length but made no decisions.

Mr. Hill discussed the draft Sewer Use Ordinance. He stated Town Attorney Charlie Floyd had reviewed the ordinance and it meets General Statutes and EPA requirements. Mr. Hill is going to forward the ordinance to the state for their approval. Once the state gives it's approval, the council can adopt the sewer use ordinance.

Ms. Katrina Tatum announced that Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates has prepared the administrative policies and ordinances required by federal, state and local regulation for the effective management of the In 7 Company CDBG ED sewer improvement project. She asked the board to adopt the following documents: Residential Anti-displacement & Relocation Assistance Plan, Plan to Further Fair Housing, Procurement Policy, Resolution of Commitment to Fair Housing, Citizen Participation Plan, Project Area Committee, and Project Budget Ordinance. These documents have to be adopted as a safety precaution in case something happens. Ms. Tatum added the Project Area Committee needs to be chosen as soon as possible. The Committee consists of at least six citizens and one board member. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to appoint Commissioner John Jackson to the Project Area Committee. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Administrative Package for the In 7 Company CDBG ED Project. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced that Robeson County is going to apply for a Revitalization Strategies Program. The Revitalization Strategies Program is a new program developed by the Division of Community Assistance with a maximum award of \$1,750,000 available for each site awarded over a five-year period. \$350,000 will be available for draw by the recipient each year. The money will be used in the enterprise communities for sewer improvements, housing rehabilitation and economic development. There are over 100 applicants so far for this program and only 10 will get money so it is doubtful whether the county will be approved or not.

Ms. Tatum said the Concentrated Needs Program is the same CDBG program the Town has benefited by in previous years. It is a community revitalization program intended to improve the physical characteristic of the housing stock in a concentrated area. The maximum grant award will be \$700,000. Eligible activities include Housing Rehabilitation, Acquisition and Relocation, Demolition, Street Improvements and Water-Sewer Improvements. It will be based on a two-year funding cycle, meaning that some awards will be made for the 2001 funding period and some for the 2002 funding period. 2002 awards will be made in accordance with the availability of funds. All grant activities must be completed within 30 months and funds obligated within 27 months of funding approval. Stick built structures are limited to a rehab cost of \$29,999 and mobile homes to \$15,000. No mobile homes constructed prior to 1978 will be eligible for rehab. These mobile homes must be replaced. Applications are due by May 4, 2001. Two Public Hearings are required in compliance with Citizen Participation requirements. The first Public Hearing will be on March 13 and the second hearing will be on April 10. All activities must benefit fifty-one percent (51%) of low to moderate-income persons. Selection of grantee will be based on a 1,000 point grading system: 300-Severity of Needs, 300-Meeting a National Objective (low-moderate income benefit), 200-Local Commitment, 100-Treatment of Needs, and 100-Appropriateness and Feasibility. The two areas recommended for this grant are in North Fairmont; a continuation down Martin Luther King Drive or Benjamin and Phillips Streets, southwest of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad right-of-way (Webster Street). Mr. Hill recommended the board meet on Tuesday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m. to take a walking tour of these two areas to help decide which area needs more work. Ms. Tatum emphasized the area chosen should be blighted with more houses in bad condition than good in order to gain points. Commissioner Jackson asked about the omission of McKoy Street in the last application. Ms. Tatum said we could add McKoy Street as a sub area in our application as long as it does not exceed 15% of the total area. Two Consultants have expressed an interest in preparing the application for this grant: Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates and The Wooten Company. Commissioner Jackson recommended The Wooten Company because they have secured five CDBG grants in the past. He feels Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates made mistakes on the last CDBG grant. After discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to select The Wooten Company as the consultant to write the CDBG grant application. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Tommy Stevens came before the board on behalf of South Robeson Rescue. The South Robeson Rescue Unit is applying for a federal grant of \$210,000 to fund a Heavy Rescue Crash Truck. Mr. Stevens thanked the town for providing a site for the rescue unit and fuel for their vehicles. Mr. Stevens asked the board to write a letter of support for their grant application. By 2004, the South Robeson Rescue Unit plans to be classified as a Medium Rescue unit. In order to do this, they will have to purchase more equipment and move to a larger facility. They have outgrown their current site. The board unanimously agreed to write a letter in support of South Robeson Rescue and their grant application.

Mr. Hill announced the Building Committee of the Fairmont Community Center met yesterday to go over the plans for the building. They decided to build the front portion of the building out of old warehouse brick instead of split face block. The metal roof will be forest green and the metal siding will be pearl gray. The committee will meet again on March 5 to finalize the plans for the Community Center. Mr. Hill and the engineers plan to present these plans to the board at the March 13 meeting. He also wants to have a Town Hall meeting in the E.R. Gause Auditorium at Rosenwald Elementary School on March 26 at 7:00 p.m. to show the community slides of the plans and get their input. This meeting will be advertised by sending flyers out with the water bills and sending letters to all the contributors. Commissioner Jackson asked about revising the different committees of the Community Building project to make them more diverse. Mr. Hill suggested calling a special board meeting for Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. to make recommendations for the different committees. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to meet on Tuesday, March 6, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King Drive and Madison Street to tour the proposed areas for the CDBG grant and to hold a special board meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for the purpose of choosing committee members for the Community Building Project and the Project Area Committee for the In 7 CDBG ED project. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **General Business**

Mayor Gaddy read a proclamation naming February “Black History Month.” Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adoption the proclamation naming February “Black History Month.” Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Hill announced he received a letter from Randall F. Graham of the Office of Juvenile Justice about conducting Teen Court in our courtroom one evening a month. This program involves student volunteers from government and civic classes in the schools, who conduct hearings for selected first offender misdemeanants. Students from the Public Schools of Robeson County are trained to fill the roles of District Attorney, Public Defender, Jurors, Clerks and Bailiffs. This is an excellent tool to teach the youth in our communities the need for making good, moral decisions, as well as spurring an interest in seeking a career in law or criminal justice. Teen Court staff and Court personnel will supervise all hearings. The Robeson Teen Court is funded through grants with the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and Youth Opportunity Grants from the Lumber River Council of Governments.

### **Announcements**

Lumber Bridge and Parkton will host the February R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and time to be announced.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Special Meeting – March 6, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, Jim Caulder, Ray Johnson, Scott Witten, Charlie Floyd and several concerned citizens.

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

Mr. Raymond Johnson asked if special meetings could be advertised better in the papers. Commissioner Jackson asked the clerk to advertise any special meetings in the Robesonian and the Times Messenger as soon as the special meeting is called.

Mayor Gaddy stated the purpose of this special meeting is to choose additional committee members for the Community Building Project and choose members for the Project Area Committee for the In 7 CDBG ED project.

Mr. Ben Hill discussed the Community Building Project first. Town Clerk Jenny Larson wrote letters to the members of the Grounds, Finance and Rules Committees established two years ago. Of the fifty-three (53) letters sent out, only twenty-one (21) responded. Mr. Hill asked the council if they had any additional names they would like to add to these committees. For the Rules Committee, Commissioner Kemp named Janice Thompson and Patricia Sealey, Commissioner Jackson named Nancy Griffin and Mayor Gaddy suggested making Melvin Rogers chairman of the committee in place of Gosnold Floyd, Jr. For the Grounds Committee, Commissioner Kemp named Betty Mitchell and Commissioner Grantham named Vardell Williams and Sandra and Jack Mitchell and suggested Betty Grimsley and Mrs. Bobby Herring. For the Finance Committee, Commissioner Grantham suggested Jim Monroe. The council was disappointed that more people did not respond to the letter they were sent. Mr. Hill said he would get his staff to contact those persons who did not respond. Commissioner Jackson asked that Donna Rose Monroe and Delores Augustine be contacted to see which committee they might want to serve on. Commissioner Jackson also asked the press to advertise the town is accepting volunteers for committees.

Next, Mr. Hill and Ms. Katrina Tatum discussed the Project Area Committee for the In 7 CDBG ED project. This committee is required by federal law and is composed of one board member and at least six citizens. The council appointed Commissioner Jackson at the last board meeting. Ms. Tatum contacted seven people who live or own property near the In 7 Company who have agreed to serve on the PAC Committee. She emphasized that this committee will probably never meet unless a major problem arises. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to appoint Tina Mayer, James Lawson, Wayland Lennon, Teresa Hunt, Maitland Hunt, Barbara Townsend Small and Hilton Deese to the Project Area Committee for the In 7 CDBG ED project with the option of adding

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additional members. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp brought up the Downtown Revitalization Committee and the need to add more members. Commissioner Kemp named Bobby Walters; Commissioner Jackson named Keezer Grainger; Commissioner Grantham named Angie Lovin and Mr. Hill named Denita Lynn Foy. Mr. Jim Caulder volunteered to be on this committee as well.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – March 13, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Frank McCree was late and arrived at 7:30 p.m. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Mark Ogburn, Erin Yelverton, Dan Wilt, Bill Lester, Nancy Griffin, Tina Mayer, Jim Caulder, Leroy Freeman, Billy Hayes, Linda Wall, Andy Grimsley, Nina Johnson, Margaret Thrasher, Yvonne Rowell, Jimmy Byrne, Betty Overturf, Shirley Eaton, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, Freddie Miller and several concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Chief Terry Hunt gave the invocation.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 13, 2001 and the special meeting on March 6, 2001 with the correction to add Angie Lovin as Commissioner Grantham's nominee for the Fairmont Revitalization Committee in the March 6, 2001 minutes. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to release property taxes in the amount of \$185.70. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Mayor Gaddy presented Recreation Director Mickey Williamson with a plaque naming him Employee of the Year for 2000.

Commissioner Jackson asked for more citizens to volunteer on town committees.

### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 6:05 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss the annexation lawsuit "William A. Hayes et al. vs. Town of Fairmont" and land acquisition as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,5). Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, J. McCree, Kemp, and Grantham, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, and Attorney Charles Floyd were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, legal matters and land acquisition, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

**Public Hearing - Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland Housing, LLC**

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland Housing, LLC's application for a Conditional Use Permit for an East White Pond Road/Pittman Street Housing Development. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Katrina Tatum explained that Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland Housing, LLC has applied for a conditional use permit for a group development to be located in the 800 Block of East White Pond Road/Pittman Street (south side of road), diagonally across from the Premium Wear/In 7 Building. This development, named "Fairwoods," will consist of 24 two story rental-housing units, 20 two-bedroom units and 4 three-bedroom units, for low to moderate-income families. Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland is the same company that built Woodfield and Woodfield II apartments for the elderly on Walnut Street. On April 3, 2001 at 6:00 p.m., there will be a review of the application by the Fairmont Planning Board. The Planning Board will review the plans with the developer and interested parties and make a recommendation to the Town Board. On April 10, 2001, the Town Board will then take all comments, concerns and recommendations into consideration in making a decision regarding the conditional use application.

This public hearing was advertised on March 1, 2001 in the Robesonian and March 4, 2001 in the Times Messenger. As a result of the advertisement, Ms. Tatum received two telephone calls and one inquiry. The individuals who inquired were two adjacent property owners and one area resident. The area resident, Mrs. Tina Mayer, questioned whether or not the project would be a subsidized facility, mentioned the crime element and made other general comments concerning safety. She alluded to Robeson Manor, another facility located within close proximity of the proposed project. The adjacent property owners are Samuel and Teresa Hunt and the Bodenstein Heirs. Their questions were primarily concerning the type of facility, who would qualify for the units, would there be any children, and the use and type of construction. Both property owners indicated that they did not have any problem with the proposed development. The Bodenstein Heirs' representative asked that the following comments be read for the record:

"I have seen and am quite familiar with this type of facility. I think that projects such as these are an asset to any community and beneficial to working families who are attempting to make a better life for themselves. I fully support the efforts of Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland to improve the lives of town residents."

Since crime seemed to be a major concern, Ms. Tatum researched the crime associated with Robeson Manor. Police Chief Terry Hunt responded that crime associated with individuals residing in Robeson Manor has been average and is no more or less than any other area of Fairmont. The other concern was children living in the facility. The federal government prohibits discrimination against families with children in any housing project other than those specifically designated for elderly or special occupancy such as Independent Living Facilities or Half-way Houses, etc. This project is a general occupancy apartment complex and if approved will allow children as required by law.

Ms. Margaret Thrasher does not want any apartment complex next to her. Ms. Yvonne Rowell was concerned about the appearance of the apartment complex. Ms. Tatum passed out pictures of a similar complex located in Lumberton called “Longleaf.” The brick buildings are two-story with some vinyl siding. Mrs. Tina Mayer asked what the occupancy limit was on a single-family dwelling. Mrs. Linda Wall, Vice President of Project Development for Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland in Greensboro responded that no more than four people could live in a two-bedroom apartment and no more than 6 people in a three-bedroom apartment. Ms. Wall said the recently completed Longleaf apartment complex in Lumberton is located off Wesley Pines Road in an area with many high-end homes and houses low to moderate-income families just like the one in Fairmont will.

Commissioner Kemp asked how much it would cost to build the complex. Ms. Wall responded the building cost would be around \$2.3 million dollars. The funding sources for the complex include USDA Rural Development and the NC Housing Finance Agency. The law states that no tenant can pay more than 30% of his or her income for rent. The tenants will be made up of both working families and some on welfare.

Commissioner Jackson asked if Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland had a plan of action if residents are found to be dealing drugs. Ms. Wall answered that Harris Brown Management would be managing the apartment complex. They will do extensive criminal and background checks before allowing tenants to move in. If a problem develops, they will be evicted, following the rules and regulations of the federal government. Mrs. Tina Mayer was concerned if the company would use Section 8 and HUD. Ms. Wall replied this project has nothing to do with HUD and Section 8. Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland is a private developer that uses government funding to help subsidize the rent. Mr. Leroy Freeman asked how the management company was going to find out if drugs are being sold or if too many people are living in an apartment. Ms. Wall responded management routinely inspects properties as part of the lease agreement.

Mrs. Mayer asked if the complex would increase traffic problems on Pittman Street/White Pond Road. Chief Terry Hunt does not foresee a lot of traffic problems with 24 units. Mrs. Mayer also inquired if Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland had plans to build more apartments in the future. Ms. Wall responded the company only bought two and a half acres of land, just enough for this project. There are no immediate plans for future units.

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

### **Public Hearing - CDBG Concentrated Needs Application**

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the CDBG Concentrated Needs Application. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum explained the purpose of this public hearing is to entertain comments from the public regarding the Town's intention to apply for CDBG funds in the concentrated needs category. The Concentrated Needs Program is the same CDBG program the Town has benefited by in previous years. It is a community revitalization program intended to improve the physical characteristics of the housing stock in a concentrated area. She stated that she did not receive any comments on this hearing except from a lady who does not live in a concentrated needs area. Commissioner Jackson was concerned because no residents from the two areas under consideration, Martin Luther King Drive and Benjamin and Phillips Streets, were present at the meeting. Ms. Tatum replied that the next public hearing is on April 10, 2001. By that time, the board will have decided which site to apply for funds and those residents will be notified to attend the meeting.

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

### **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Hill discussed S. Preston Douglas and Associates, LLP's Audit Contract. The fee for audit services for the next three fiscal years, June 30, 2001, 2002, and 2003, will be \$8,400 per year. The fee has increased due to a number of factors but primarily because of enhanced reporting requirements to be encountered during the aforementioned time period. The Town will be subject to additional Single Audits because of our many grants and GASB 34 requirements. Moreover, higher personnel, peer review, and support service costs dictate the need for higher fees. Mr. Hill said S. Preston Douglas and Associates, LLP have done the town's audits for the last decade and a half. He contacted other local CPA's but they are not certified to do municipal audits.

After discussion, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to enter into an audit contract with S. Preston Douglas and Associates, LLP for three years, 2001, 2002, and 2003 at a fee of \$8,400 per year. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mark Ogburn, with Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates and Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Chairman of the Fairmont Community Center Project, presented the building plans and specifications for the Community Building. Mr. Jimmy Byrne thanked the building committee, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Mickey Williamson and Katrina Tatum for devoting many hours to the community-building project. He also thanked Mark Ogburn, Bill Lester, Erin Yelverton, Dan Wilt and the staff of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates for their hard work on developing the plans for the town. Mr. Byrne presented a slide show of the plans. The Community Center is a 17,865 square foot building with a large assembly room of 9,100 square feet. There will be 191 parking spaces. The large Convention Room has a 30-inch high stage. In an auditorium style arrangement, the room will seat 672 people for seminars, concerts and plays. In a banquet style arrangement, the room will seat 224 people for banquets, dances and wedding receptions. In convention style arrangement, the room will seat 420 for conventions, buffets and lectures. Finally, in an arena style arrangement, the room will seat 470 for wrestling and boxing events. The smaller, front section of the building contains a 72 seat-dining hall for buffets and meetings. It also has a large caterer's kitchen, an office and conference room. Mr. Andy Grimsley asked what the monthly upkeep for the building would be. Mr. Byrne replied we do not have a projected figure yet because the cost will be based on usage. Commissioner J.J. McCree asked if all the entrances were handicapped accessible and Mr. Byrne said they were. There will be a Town Hall meeting on Monday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the E. R. Gause Auditorium at Rosenwald Elementary School to present the plans and gather comments from the community.

Mr. Hill discussed the bids received on the Sanitary Sewer Improvements and 300,000 Gallon Elevated Storage Tank for the In 7 Company. Bids for the above referenced projects were received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2001, at which time they were opened and publicly read aloud. Four (4) bids were received for the Sanitary Sewer Improvements project ranging from a low of \$265,266.80 to a high of \$454,061.50. Two (2) bids were received for the 300,000 Gallon Elevated Storage Tank project ranging from a low of \$415,000.00 to a high of \$451,833.00. As the tank project was previously bid with an unsuccessful number of bidders, this was the second advertised opening. Therefore, we were able to open bids with only two submissions. For this type tank, there are only two manufacturers in the United States at this time. The low bid for the Sanitary Sewer Improvements project was McArthur Construction Company of Lumberton, North Carolina. McArthur Construction Company has satisfactorily completed numerous similar projects for Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates and the Town. Mr. Hill recommended the Town award the Sanitary Sewer Improvements project to McArthur Construction Company for their low bid amount of \$265,266.80. The low bid for the 300,000 Gallon Elevated Storage Tank project was Caldwell Tanks, Inc. of Louisville, Kentucky. Caldwell Tanks, Inc has satisfactorily completed similar projects for Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates. Mr. Hill recommended the Town award the 300,000 Gallon Elevated Storage Tank project to Caldwell Tanks, Inc. for their low bid amount of \$415,000.00. The low bid for both projects is within the budgeted amount as established in the CDBG / IDF grant applications. Both companies have also worked with the

CDBG program before. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to award the Sanitary Sewer Improvements project to McArthur Construction Company for their low bid amount of \$265,266.80 and to award the 300,000 Gallon Elevated Storage Tank project to Caldwell Tanks, Inc. for their low bid amount of \$415,000.00. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill discussed a resolution designating the weeks of April 17, 2001 thru April 30, 2001 as “Keep Robeson County Clean and Green 2001.” The public works department will pick up old furniture, appliances, tires and other old junk for free during these weeks. On behalf of Mr. Wilton Wilkerson, Mayor Gaddy reminded the citizens of Fairmont to recycle aluminum cans and bring them to the trailer parked in the Town Hall parking lot. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution designating the weeks of April 17, 2001 thru April 30, 2001 as “Keep Robeson County Clean and Green 2001.” Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Ms. Katrina Tatum asked the board to approve a rate increase in Planning and Zoning Permit Fees. At the present time, the Town’s fees and charges are fixed at rates that, in most cases, do not cover the cost of administration and advertisement. Ms. Tatum researched the fees being charged locally and by comparable sized locations in an effort to arrive at a reasonable increase recommendation. She recommended the following rates be approved:

Basic Zoning Permit:	\$30.00
Conditional Permit:	\$100.00
Special Use Permit:	\$100.00
Rezone:	\$125.00
Sign Permit:	\$25.00 <50 sq. ft., \$50.00 >50 sq. ft.
Septic Tank Permit:	\$25.00
Voluntary Annexation:	\$125.00
Subdivision (in combination with above):	\$50.00
Subdivision (independent):	\$20.00 per lot unimproved \$50.00 per lot improved
Variance/Appeal:	\$100.00

After discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the rate increase in Planning and Zoning Fees. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill asked the board to submit a formal request to Southeastern Regional Medical Center to place a satellite physical fitness center in Fairmont. The hospital has asked the town to submit a formal request so they can conduct a study of Southeastern Robeson County to determine whether there will be enough participants to make it feasible to open

a fitness center in Fairmont. Commissioner Kemp added that the Lumberton fitness center has made a difference in his life. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to write a letter to Southeastern Regional Medical Center to formally request a satellite physical fitness center in Fairmont. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the board North Carolina General Statutes 143-344(1) requires each municipality that provides public water services to prepare and submit a local water supply plan to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources. The plan details the town's water and wastewater use, water supply sources, water conservation, water demand projections and future water supply needs. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the resolution approving Fairmont's Local Water Supply Plan. Commissioner Kemp 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. Hill discussed the second reading of the town's Sewer Use Ordinance. He stated Town Attorney Charlie Floyd has reviewed the ordinance and made needed changes. Mr. Hill is going to forward the ordinance to the state for their approval. Once the state gives it's approval, the council can adopt the sewer use ordinance.

Mr. Hill discussed the town's Sewer Performance Annual Report. It is mandated by the state to inform citizens of the annual performance of our sewer plant. The report was advertised in the Times Messenger and copies are available to citizens in the Water Department.

### **Announcements**

Maxton will host the March R.C.M.A. meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hill would like all board members to attend. Mr. Hill also announced that Fairmont would host the April R.C. M.A. on Tuesday, April 24, 2001. The guest speaker will be Mr. Fred Williams, President of Robeson Community College.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Special Town Hall Meeting March 26, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special Town Hall meeting on Monday, March 26, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the E.R. Gause Auditorium at Rosenwald Elementary School with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Frank McCree was absent. There were close to 70 citizens present including Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Jimmy Byrne, Mark Ogburn, Erin Yelverton, Dan Wilt, Dr. P.C. Purvis, Louise Grier, Ann Marks, Huel Faulk, Lib Haywood, Shirley Price, Bill Lewis, Jack Johnson, Rose Johnson, Shirley Eaton, Bill Prevatte, Terry Evans, Scott Witten, Helen Lockley, Linda Vause, Tim Larson, Rebecca Andrews, Beth McDowell, Dick Britt, Nina Johnson, Nancy Griffin, William Marks, James Monroe, Dona Rose Monroe, Delois Killens, and David Brown. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the plans for the Fairmont Community Center.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Mr. Bill Lewis gave the invocation.

Mayor Gaddy turned the meeting over to Mr. Jimmy Byrne, who gave the presentation on the Fairmont Community Center with the assistance of Mark Ogburn and staff of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates. Mr. Byrne began by explaining the need for a community center. Fairmont needs a nice facility to hold entertainment events, family reunions and the like. Mr. Byrne thanked the building committee, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Mickey Williamson and Katrina Tatum for devoting many hours to designing a versatile community building. He also thanked Mark Ogburn, Erin Yelverton, Dan Wilt and the staff of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates for their hard work on developing the plans for the town. Mr. Byrne presented a slide show of the plans. The Community Center is a 17,865 square foot building with a large assembly room of 9,100 square feet. There will be 191 parking spaces. The front of the building will be built out of old warehouse bricks. Mr. Byrne thanked Mrs. Peggy Purvis for coming up with this nostalgic idea. There will be a six-foot bronze town seal located at the top of the building that will be lit at night by spotlights. The sides of the building will be built out of a pearl gray metal to save money. The roof will also be metal, a deep forest green color. Every entrance to the building is handicapped accessible.

Mr. Byrne went over the floor plans next. The large Convention Room has a 30-inch high stage and tiered ceiling. In an auditorium style arrangement, the room will seat 672 people for seminars, concerts and plays. In a banquet style arrangement, the room will seat 224 people for banquets, dances and wedding receptions. In a convention style arrangement, the room will seat 420 for conventions, buffets and lectures. Finally, in an arena style arrangement, the room will seat 470 for wrestling and boxing events. There are two big storage areas in this room to hold all the tables and chairs. The lighting plan allows for the complete lighting system to be controlled in one panel box so the lights can be adjusted as needed for different events. The smaller, front section of the building contains a 72 seat-dining hall for buffets and meetings. It also has a large caterer's kitchen, an office and conference room. Recreation Director Mickey Williamson will use

the office. The Conference Room will have a big table that will seat 16. Mr. Byrne finished the slide show presentation by reminding citizens they can view the plans again at Hobbs and Upchurch's website, [www.hobbsupchurch.com](http://www.hobbsupchurch.com) and then click on links and Fairmont.

Mr. Byrne opened the floor for questions on the building plans. Mr. Dick Britt asked what kind of security the building would have. Mr. Byrne replied that it would be manned during the day and monitored by the police at night. Mr. Mark Ogburn said the town was going to bid separately for a security system to be installed as well.

A lady was concerned about the appearance of the metal sides. Mr. Byrne said it was too expensive to brick the entire building and the project has to stay close to its \$650,000 budget. She asked if the metal sides could be bricked later on if money was available. Mr. Byrne replied affirmatively.

There were a couple of questions regarding the building's sound system. Mr. Byrne said the vaulted ceiling panels would absorb echoes. The town is going to bid separately for the lighting and sound system since the \$650,000 budget is for the construction of the building only.

Mr. Bill Prevatte was concerned about there being only one entrance on Highway 41. Mr. Byrne explained that the Department of Transportation would only allow one entrance since it is so close to an intersection. Mr. Prevatte also asked how much it would cost to rent the building. Mr. Byrne stated the Rules Committee would determine rental costs at a later date. The town only wants to charge enough rent to cover the expenses of lighting, heating, etc. The Rules Committee will also be responsible for devising guidelines for renting the center.

Mr. Terry Evans asked why the town was not using the Shell Building for the community center. Ms. Katrina Tatum explained the building would not meet the community's needs, plus it is easier to get financing for new construction than for finishing an existing building.

Mr. Byrne discussed the finances for the project. Fairmont has received a \$125,000 grant and a \$300,000 low interest loan from the federal government. He added the Finance Committee has raised over \$125,000 so far in donations and pledges. We need to raise at least \$125,000 more to meet the construction budget of \$650,000. This figure does not include the lighting and sound system, security system or furnishings. Mr. Byrne pleaded with the citizens present to try and pledge \$100 a year for the next five years. He mentioned plans to talk to big tobacco companies like Phillip Morris and R.J. Reynolds and ask for a donation of \$100,000 to furnish the building. Pledge cards were passed out to the citizens and \$6,300 in pledges was turned back in. Ms. Nancy Griffin with the Fairmont Chapter of Rosenwald Alumni presented Mr. Byrne with a check for \$500 as part of their \$3,000 pledge to the Community Center project.

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Mr. Byrne thanked everyone for coming and concluded that the project plans would now be sent to the N.C. Department of Insurance and the federal government for final approval. He hopes to have groundbreaking before the end of the year.

There being no further business, the town hall meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – April 10, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Billy Hayes, Linda Wall, Steve Player, Betty Overturf, Shirley Eaton, Mickey Williamson, Huel Faulk, Freddie Miller and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 13, 2001 and the special Town Hall meeting on March 26, 2001 with the correction to remove Commissioner Frank McCree's name from attending closed session in the March 13 minutes. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Ms. Betty Overturf informed the council that Fairmont Middle School is undergoing a "SACS" evaluation next Tuesday in the hopes of becoming an accredited school. She appreciates the town's support in this endeavor.

Recreation Director Mickey Williamson invited the council and town staff to attend the Opening Ceremonies for Little League at the Civitan Ball Field on Friday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. This year there are 17 teams with over 200 children participating.

### **Public Hearing - CDBG Concentrated Needs Application**

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss the CDBG Concentrated Needs Application. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Ben Hill explained the purpose of this second public hearing is to discuss the Town's application for a \$700,000 CDBG grant in the Concentrated Needs category. This grant is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance and will be used to provide street, water and drainage improvements and rehabilitation, acquisition, demolition and relocation assistance to citizens in the North Fairmont area on the west side of Benjamin, Phillips and Archie Streets. The public hearing was advertised according to statutory requirements. No comments were received during the ten-day comment period.

Ms. Katrina Tatum handed out copies of the preliminary budget for the project and maps of the area. Mr. Steve Player, with the Wooten Company gave a progress report on how the application process is going. The housing portion of the project has a proposed cost of \$592,500 with 17 houses scheduled for rehabilitation, and 4 homes scheduled for acquisition, demolition and relocation. Two homes in the area need no improvement. The Town will remove the four homes that need to be demolished as part of “in kind” services. The proposed cost for public facilities improvements is \$100,000 to replace water lines, curb and gutter and make drainage improvements. The administration cost of the project by the Town and engineers is \$87,500. The total program cost is \$780,000 with the Town contributing \$80,000. The Wooten Company is submitting an application for CDBG funds in the amount of \$700,000. Mr. Player said the competition for funds is great with three times as many communities applying for funds than what is available. Fairmont has a strong application because we have a high severity of need and the majority of families are low to moderate income. Commissioner Kemp asked how the Town plans to relocate the four families whose homes need to be demolished. Mr. Player replied that two of the families are tenants and all that needs to be done is find a place for them to rent. The other two families are homeowners. The Town will assist them in purchasing a new home, hopefully to be placed on the same lot as their current house.

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

### **Administrative Matters**

Ms. Katrina Tatum informed the council that the Planning Board met on April 3, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Municipal Building to discuss the conditional use permit application submitted by Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland Housing LLC to construct multi-family units classified as a Group Development Facility in the 800 Block of East White Pond Road, diagonally across from the In 7 Company. The Planning Board reviewed the specifics of the project and decided that the project has merit. The Board voted unanimously in favor of granting the Conditional Use Permit with the following conditions:

1. The property is to be used for residential use only, except for administrative offices needed in conjunction with the residential use.
2. The owner is to maintain the grounds, buildings, and improvements at an above average level in keeping with the existing neighborhood maintenance characteristics.
3. The owner is to maintain security measures as stipulated in sample lease provided by the contractor.

After discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland Housing LLC's Conditional Use Permit application to construct multi-family units classified as a Group Development Facility in the 800 Block of East White Pond Road, diagonally across from the In 7 Company. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Attorney Charlie Floyd recommended the board repeal the annexation ordinances adopted on June 27, 1996 for the areas known as the Marion Stage Road and Main Street area and the Golf Course Road area because the effective date of said annexations has been and is now stayed pursuant to court order. He emphasized the importance of fighting the lawsuit on the second annexation rather than continuing with the lawsuit on the first annexation. After discussion, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution to repeal the annexation ordinances adopted on June 27, 1996 for the areas known as the Marion Stage Road and Main Street area and the Golf Course Road area. Commissioner Kemp 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. Hill discussed the Voluntary Annexation of the Lennon and Rich properties located on East White Pond Road across from the In 7 Company. Town Clerk Jenny Larson has certified that the petition requesting annexation, dated March 10, 2000, has been signed by all the owners of real property in accordance with G.S. 160A-31. Mr. Hill asked the council to set a Public Hearing on the question of annexation for Tuesday, May 8, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to accept the Clerk's Certificate of Sufficiency and adopt a resolution fixing Tuesday, May 8, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers as the date for a public hearing on the question of annexation pursuant to G.S. 160A-31. Commissioner 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. Hill asked the board to set Wednesday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a special meeting on the NCLM Salary and Classification Study and to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a Concentrated Needs CDBG application for \$700,000. Mr. Hill passed out copies of the study to the board and stated Mr. Bob Crowder with the NCLM will be present on the 18<sup>th</sup> to explain the study to the board. Commissioner J.J. McCree said he would be unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Hill added that the council would just discuss the study on the 18<sup>th</sup> but no decisions will be made. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to set Wednesday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a special meeting on the NCLM Salary and Classification Study and to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a Concentrated Needs CDBG application for \$700,000. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill asked the council to set either Tuesday, May 1 or Tuesday, May 15 as the date for the next Town Issue Forum. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to set Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom as the date for the next Town Issue Forum. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **General Business**

Mr. Hill stressed the need for someone on the council to attend the Economic Task Force meetings and the Robeson County Board Meetings. The Task Force is responsible for recruiting new industries and they meet at various times throughout the month. The County Board meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. Commissioner Jackson made a motion that Mayor Gaddy send a letter to the County Board of Commissioners requesting a copy of their meeting schedule and agendas for both the board meetings and Task Force meetings. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill discussed the Fairmont Community Center Committees and Downtown Revitalization Committee. Mr. Hill suggested setting up a joint meeting with the Downtown Revitalization Committee, the Fairmont Development Corporation and the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce in order to set unified goals and accomplish more than working individually. Commissioner Grantham suggested organizing a meeting before the next town board meeting in May. Commissioner Kemp asked for a time schedule on the Community Center progress. Mr. Hill replied that it would take 60 to 90 days for the Department of Insurance to approve the building plans. It will take another 60 to 90 days to bid out the building for construction. He hopes to start construction in December with a completion date by July 2002.

Mayor Gaddy read a proclamation designating Thursday, May 3, 2001 as a National Day of Prayer in Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the proclamation designating Thursday, May 3, 2001 as a National Day of Prayer in Fairmont. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Gaddy read a proclamation designating April 29 through May 5, 2001 as Municipal Clerks Week. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Announcements**

Commissioner Jackson read a letter from the Fairmont Chapter of Rosenwald Alumni inviting the council to attend the plaque mounting for the E.R. Gause Auditorium on Friday, May 4, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

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Mr. Hill announced that the LRCOG is planning a trip to Raleigh on April 17 to meet with the General Assembly and let them know how important the Inventory Tax is to our municipalities.

The Town Offices will be closed Friday, April 13 in observance of Good Friday and Easter.

Robeson County Clean and Green weeks are April 16 through April 30.

Fairmont will host the R.C.M.A. meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church on South Main Street. Mr. Fred Williams, President of Robeson Community College, will be the speaker.

There was no reason to go into closed session and with no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Special Board Meeting – April 18, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, and Frank McCree. Commissioner J.J. McCree was absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Linda Vause, Betty Overturf, Mickey Williamson, Rebecca Andrews, Helen Lockley, Annie Cooper, Rusty Perry, Thomas Lark, Bob Crowder and Rob Sheppard.

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

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a Concentrated Needs CDBG application for \$700,000. Commissioner Kemp 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. Bob Crowder, with the North Carolina League of Municipalities, presented the Salary and Classification Study to the council. Mr. Crowder began by recommending that the town's current personnel policy be abolished and the revised policy be adopted by resolution. Mr. Crowder went over the revised personnel policy in detail. He also reviewed the employee classification and salary survey.

After discussion, Mayor Gaddy called for a special board meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers to discuss the study in further detail. The Town Issue Forum will follow this meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## Special Board Meeting – May 1, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, J.J. McCree and Frank McCree. Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham was absent due to illness. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, and Linda Vause.

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

Mr. Ben Hill stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss any changes to be made to the North Carolina League of Municipalities revised personnel policy and pay study. After extensive discussion, the council decided to make the following revisions:

- Continue to use current drug policy because it is tougher than NCLM's revised drug policy.
- Combine sections on confidentiality into one section instead of two separate areas of the policy.
- Keep current 2 ½% salary increase at end of probation instead of League's recommended 5%.
- Remove section on transfer of 240 hours sick leave from another governmental jurisdiction.
- Approved three (3) day funeral leave.

Mr. Hill discussed the NCLM's proposed salary increases for certain job classifications. He would like to bring all employees that are currently below the recommended minimum salary up to where they should be in July 2001. Mr. Hill passed out copies of the proposed 2001-2002 budget for the board to review later. He emphasized that this is a tight budget year due to cuts in allocations from the state. In order to pay for the much-needed salary increases, the town will have to raise utility fees. Mr. Hill said the worst-case scenario is a \$15 increase. The council was disappointed to hear this news because it will cause a financial burden on the citizens, especially those on fixed incomes.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Town of Fairmont**  
**Issue Forum - May 1, 2001**

The Town of Fairmont held an Issue Forum on Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, J.J. McCree and Frank McCree. Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham was absent due to illness. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Linda Vause, Elmer Nichols, Annie Jackson and another gentleman.

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

Mr. Elmer Nichols of 501 Jackson Street complained about the drainage on his street. He also complained that people blocked the streets on weekends by standing in the road drinking and carrying on. Mr. Hill reassured Mr. Nichols that he would talk to Chief Hunt about increasing police patrol on the weekends and that he would mention the drainage problem to the public works director.

Mr. Hill gave the citizens and council an update on current town projects:

- **Sewer Plant** – Construction is ahead of schedule should be completed by December 2001/January 2002. McArthur Construction is currently laying sewer line on Golf Course Road and replacing old sewer lines along canal.
- **Community Park** – Old Holliday Warehouse foundation is being filled in. Mr. Hill does not know time frame for completion.
- **Community Building** – The NC Department of Insurance is currently reviewing the building plans. Mr. Hill hopes to advertise for bids in August, award bids in September and complete construction by April/May 2002.
- **Spring Clean Weeks** – Spring Clean was held April 16 – 30 and was a big success.
- **CDBG Grant** – We have applied for a grant for the Phillips/Benjamin Streets area.
- **Shell Building** – We are currently talking to prospective buyers.
- **Dialysis Clinic** – They have completed the clinic in Red Springs and will begin construction on the 8,500 sq. ft. Fairmont clinic in the near future.
- **Fairwood Gardens** – Weaver Construction's permit to build the apartment complex on Pittman St. has been approved.
- **Old People's Warehouse** – Work has stopped on the removal of debris because the contractor's insurance lapsed.
- **Backyard Composting Bins Grant** – Mr. Hill feels the state is going to approve our grant for backyard composting bins, which will teach citizens how to make mulch.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Jenny Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – May 8, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Pro-Tem Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Mayor Nedward Gaddy was absent due to illness. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Chief Terry Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Betty Overturf, Knight Chamberlain, Mickey Williamson, Rusty Perry, Billy Hayes, Gaines Grantham and Jim Caulder.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kemp called the meeting to order and Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kemp announced that an item needed to be added to tonight's agenda regarding the Crisis Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) Infrastructure application for a twenty-three (23) unit development project on South Main Street. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to add the CHAF Infrastructure application to the agenda under administrative matters, Item F. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 10, 2001 and special meetings on April 18 and May 1, 2001 and the Issue Forum on May 1, 2001. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Ms. Betty Overturf thanked the town council and staff for supporting Fairmont Middle School during the recent SACS visit. The SACS team was very impressed with our town and school and is recommending Fairmont Middle School for accreditation.

### **Public Hearing - CDBG Concentrated Needs Application**

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the Voluntary Annexation of the Lennon/Rich properties on Pittman Street/White Pond Road. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill informed the council that Mr. Butch Lennon and Ms. Ellen Rich have signed a petition stating they want their property to be inside the city limits of Fairmont. A portion of Mr. Lennon's property is going to be purchased by Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland, LLC for the new Fairwood Gardens Apartment Complex.

There were no comments by the public or the board, so Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Administrative Matters**

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt an ordinance to extend the corporate limits of the Town of Fairmont, under the authority granted by Chapter 160A-31 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, to include the Lennon/Rich properties on Pittman Street/White Pond Road to be effective June 30, 2001. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Hill said Mr. Knight Chamberlain, with the Robeson County Partnership for Children, has requested \$10,000 in financial support for the Robeson County Center for Child and Family Health. Mr. Hill recommended the board take no action on this issue until we see what the budget will be like. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to table the request when Mr. Chamberlain came in. She withdrew her motion to give Mr. Chamberlain a chance to explain his request for funds. Mr. Chamberlain stated the purpose of the Robeson County Partnership for Children is to help victims of child abuse and neglect. They are looking for seed money to purchase a house on 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Lumberton. Commissioner Jackson agreed that there is a great need for this program but was concerned about the town's finances. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to make the Robeson County Partnership for Children's request for funds a top priority to consider if funds are available in next year's budget. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The council agreed to set Tuesday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a budget workshop.

The council agreed to set a Public Hearing on the 2001-2002 budget for Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The council agreed to set Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. as the date to adopt the North Carolina League of Municipalities Salary and Classification Study and Personnel Policies revisions.

Ms. Katrina Tatum informed the council about Bonaventure, a proposed 23-lot subdivision of new single-family homes to be built on South Main Street, to replace homes lost or bought out in Robeson County as a result of Hurricane Floyd. Each townhouse unit will sell in the \$65,000 - \$75,000 price range. The Durham Regional Financial Center (DRFC) will be the developer. The town is requesting \$10,000 per lot for a total of \$230,000 to pay for water and sewer service to the homes, drainage and streets through a Crisis Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF) Infrastructure application, which is funded through the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance (DCA). The funding for the rest of the project is already in place. After discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to proceed with a \$230,000

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infrastructure application through the Crisis Housing Assistance Fund (CHAF). Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

There will be an Open House for the new Fairmont Medical Clinic on June 14, 2001 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

The City of Lumberton will host the May R.C.M.A. meeting. Date and time to be announced.

Town Hall Day is Wednesday, May 23, 2001 in Raleigh.

**Closed Session**

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 6:40 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,6). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kemp, Commissioners Jackson, J. McCree, F. McCree, and Grantham, Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, and Attorney Charlie Floyd were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, personnel and industry, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Special Board Meeting – June 5, 2001**  
**Budget Workshop**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham and Frank McCree. Commissioner J.J. McCree and Attorney Charlie Floyd were absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Linda Vause, Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Scott Witten and James Pittman.

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

Mayor Gaddy stated the purpose of the meeting was to hold an informal workshop on the Fiscal Year 2001-2002 budget. Town Manager Ben Hill went over the draft budget line by line. He began with the General Fund. Expected revenues are \$1,480,195.00. This figure is about \$120,000 lower than last year due to the state overestimating Fairmont's population. The state had estimated Fairmont's population to be 2,983 but the 2000 Census shows it to be 2,604. A good portion of the revenue for the General Fund and 100% of the Powell Bill fund is based on population. Mr. Hill estimates the Powell Bill Fund revenues to be \$75,800. To boost the revenues for the General Fund, Mr. Hill proposes a \$3.50 increase in sanitation fees on the utility bills per month. The estimated revenue for the Water and Sewer Fund is \$750,682. Mr. Hill is proposing a \$2.00 fee increase for water and a \$2.20 fee increase for sewer on the utility bills per month. This high increase is to help bring Fairmont's utility bills close to the state recommended minimum of \$14.00 for water and \$14.00 for sewer. The total recommended increase is \$7.70 per month on the utility bills and no property tax increase. Mr. Hill and the board realize this is a steep fee but is necessary because the town has not raised rates in almost 10 to 11 years.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – June 12, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Commissioner John Jackson and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd were absent. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Interim Chief Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Betty Overturf, Mickey Williamson, Linda Vause and a lady citizen.

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

Mayor Gaddy announced that an item needed to be added to tonight's agenda regarding the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of wastewater bond anticipation notes in the amount of \$3,000,000. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to add the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of wastewater bond anticipation notes to the agenda under administrative matters, Item F. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 8, 2001 and the special budget workshop on June 5, 2001. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to release property taxes in the amount of \$259.64. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Citizens Appearance**

Ms. Betty Overturf, editor of "The Times Messenger," expressed her displeasure at Town Manager Ben Hill's letter to the editor of "The Robesonian" praising Scott Witten for the article he wrote on the June 5 budget workshop. She feels she has written many accurate articles on the town board meetings and has never been praised for it. Mr. Hill apologized to Ms. Overturf and said the letter to "The Robesonian" was not done to intentionally hurt her or "The Times Messenger."

### **Public Hearing – 2001-2002 Budget**

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:07 p.m. to discuss the 2001-2002 Budget for the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill stated the 2001-2002 budget for the town has been cut as much as possible. The town will receive less money from the State of North Carolina this year due to the state's budget shortfall. To make up for this loss, Mr. Hill proposes a \$3.50 increase in sanitation fees, \$2.00 fee increase for water and a \$2.20 fee increase for sewer on the

utility bills. The total recommended increase is \$7.70 per month on the utility bills and no property tax increase. The property tax will remain at .69 per \$100 valuation. Commissioners Kemp and Grantham emphasized that the fee increase is necessary to balance the budget and the council has no other choice but to raise fees.

There were no comments from the public so Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:12 p.m. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Hill discussed the Voluntary Annexation of the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority property (Lumbee Elderly Housing Site) located on Marion Stage Road. He asked the council to adopt a resolution directing the clerk to investigate the petition received on May 8, 2001 under G.S. 160A-31. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution directing Town Clerk Jenny Larson to investigate the petition for voluntary annexation received on May 8, 2001 under G.S. 160A-31. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Town Clerk Jenny Larson informed the board that the petition requesting annexation, dated May 8, 2001, has been signed by all the owners of real property in accordance with G.S. 160A-31.

Mr. Hill asked the council to set a Public Hearing on the question of annexation of the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority property located on Marion Stage Road for Tuesday, July 10, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the Clerk's Certificate of Sufficiency and adopt a resolution fixing Tuesday, July 10, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers as the date for a public hearing on the question of annexation pursuant to G.S. 160A-31. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Grantham also made a motion that when the annexation becomes effective on August 31, 2001 that Attorney Charlie Floyd be given 30 days to prepare the necessary paperwork for the streets and utilities assignments for the property. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill announced that Mr. Jimmy Byrne would like to organize a Citizen's Task Force to study and evaluate methods of advancing the vitality of the Town of Fairmont. The task force will be composed of representatives from each of the town's 18 fraternal, civic and business organizations. The task force will report its findings to the city council with recommendations. While the various organizations in the community are working for the betterment of Fairmont, Mr. Byrne feels that combining the group talents into a more focused direction will help expedite their efforts. It also gives citizens the opportunity to have input in decisions affecting the future of Fairmont. Additionally, an overall plan for the community will be most beneficial for the council to work with. Commissioner

Kemp made a motion to endorse the proclamation establishing a “Citizen’s Task Force.” Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the North Carolina League of Municipalities Pay and Classification Plan and Recommended Personnel Policy. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the personnel policy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set Tuesday, June 26, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. to adopt the Amended Budget for 2000-2001 and adopt the Budget for 2001-2002. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hill went over the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of wastewater bond anticipation notes in the amount of \$3,000,000. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation wastewater bond anticipation notes of the Town of Fairmont in the aggregate principal amount of \$3,000,000. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Announcements**

The Open House for the new Fairmont Medical Clinic will be Thursday, June 14, 2001 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Retirement Dinner for former Police Chief Terry Hunt will be Tuesday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

The Town of Pembroke will host the June R.C.M.A. meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting - June 26, 2001**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Frank McCree, Charles Kemp, Jeffery McCree, Mary Bruce Grantham and John Jackson. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Jenny Larson, Katrina Tatum, Shirley Eaton, Linda Vause, Helen Lockley, Rusty Perry, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Freddie Miller and Betty Overturf.

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

Commissioner John Jackson wanted to state for the record that he supported the utility fees increase only because it was necessary. He supports reducing fees once the new sewer plant goes online.

**Administrative Matters**

Comm. Kemp made a motion to write off the 2000-2001 uncollected water bills in the amount of \$1,433.02 with instructions to collect any bills possible. 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. Jackson made a motion to write off delinquent 1990 taxes in the amount of \$3,908.96 for nonpayment with the town staff to try and continue to collect the money. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these taxes is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Town Manager Ben Hill discussed the 2000-2001 Amended Budget. Comm. Jackson asked about the \$18,250 in the Cemetery Fund. He feels the town should not have a cemetery fund and suggested splitting the funds between all the cemeteries in town even though this particular fund was set up for the white cemetery on Highway 130. Mr. Hill said he would talk to Paul Thompson who manages the fund and give the board an answer at the August board meeting. Comm. Grantham made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 Amended Budget. Comm. Jackson 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 2001-2002 Budget. The town will receive less money from the State of North Carolina this year due to the state's budget shortfall. To make up for this loss, Mr. Hill proposes a \$3.50 increase in sanitation fees, \$2.00 fee increase for water and a \$2.20 fee increase for sewer on the utility bills. The total recommended increase is \$7.70 per month on the utility bills and no property tax increase. The property tax will remain at .69 per \$100 valuation. Comm. Grantham made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Budget and set the 2001 tax rate at .69 per hundred-dollar valuation and a utility fee increase of \$7.70 per month. Comm. Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this budget is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk