

Regular Meeting – July 10, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Frank McCree and J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Katrina Tatum, Interim Chief Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Betty Overturf, Linda Vause and several concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham gave the invocation. Town Manager Ben Hill announced that Town Clerk Jenny Larson gave birth today at 4:24 p.m. to a boy, Nicholas Stephen, and he weighed 8 pounds, 15 ½ ounces and was 20 ¾ inches long.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 12, 2001 and the special budget meeting on June 26, 2001. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Billy Hayes complained about the dam break at Dogwood Drive and the response from the Town of Fairmont Police Department, stating that the Police took 45 minutes. He commended the Department of Public Works for having staff in place and working on the break within 20 minutes. Mayor Gaddy stated that he went to the dam himself and defended the Police Department explaining that they were responding to another emergency at the time Mr. Hayes called. Commissioner Jackson commented that Mr. Hayes' 911 calls should be going to the County and suggested that he contact the County to find out why he had been placed on the Town's 911 service. Mayor Gaddy asked the Town Manager to investigate.

Public Hearing- Voluntary Annexation North Carolina Indian Housing Authority

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:10 p.m. to discuss the Voluntary Annexation of the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority property on Marion Stage Road. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. There were no comments from the public. However, Commissioner J.J. McCree asked if the drainage problem had been addressed. The Town Manager responded that all drainage concerns had been addressed and the work necessary to complete the drainage efforts had been done.

After discussion, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Adopt Annexation Ordinance North Carolina Indian Housing Authority Site

Commissioner Jackson 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 North Carolina Indian Housing Authority property on Marion Stage Road to be effective August 31, 2001. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Grantham stipulated that the paperwork to annex the property be completed within 30 days.

Grant Applications for North Carolina Housing Finance Authority Site – Marion State Road

Ms. Katrina Tatum stated that Mr. Bob Dunham, Program Director of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency is willing to allow the town to apply for grants for Single-Family Rehabilitation and Urgent Repair Programs without a local contribution. She suggested approaching the Wooten Company to prepare these grant applications. Commissioner Jackson expressed inheritance concerns associated with the Single Family Rehabilitation Program. Mr. Huel Faulk spoke up saying that some Senior Citizens have a dire need for this type program. Commissioner J.J. McCree suggested that the Wooten Company come to the next Town Forum and explain the program. Commissioner Jackson expressed a desire to have a public information meeting to discuss the particulars of the program. Commissioner J.J. McCree made a motion to apply for grants for Single-Family Rehabilitation and Urgent Repair Programs. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Issue order to collect taxes to Tax Collector

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to authorize the tax collector to collect taxes by any legal means. Commissioner F. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the order to collect taxes is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule Amendments

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve amendments to Standard 3 – Budget and Fiscal Records and Standard 13 – Police Department Records of the 1997 Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ashley House Ordinance

Ms. Katrina Tatum presented an ordinance to allow the demolition of the Ashley House on 114 Iona Street. The required hearings on minimum housing were held and all required notices were properly issued. The owner has failed to demolish the property as required by the Code Enforcement Officer. This ordinance will allow the town to demolish the property and place a lien against the property for costs incurred. Commissioner J.J. McCree asked about 606 Red Cross Street because of Ralph Hill's concerns regarding the house. Ms. Tatum responded that the Town was having trouble ascertaining ownership of the property. Ms. Tatum also indicated that new legislature is expected that will allow towns a more expedient way to demolish structures with ownership problems. Mr. Kemp asked how soon after the adoption of the ordinance would the Ashley house be taken down. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt an ordinance directing the building inspector to remove and demolish the Ashley House on 114 Iona Street. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Set date for the next Town Forum

Commissioner Kemp asked that all the churches be notified. Commissioner J.J. McCree wanted to remind everyone that the housing issue is supposed to be discussed at the Forum. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set Tuesday, August 21, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. as the date for the next Town Issue Forum. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Establish committee for Fairmont Community Park

Mr. Hill spoke on trying to involve adjoining property owners and recruiting volunteers. He also recommended 1 or 2 Commissioners to be on the committee. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to establish a Fairmont Community Park committee to discuss design, plans and equipment for the park. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bridge Inspections

The North Carolina Department of Transportation requires that all municipal bridges be inspected and analyzed every two years. There are three bridges in Fairmont that need inspecting: Mitchell, Floyd and Morro Streets. The D.O.T. has three options of inspections for the town to choose from. Option A is the town may inspect their own bridges with qualified bridge inspectors. Option B is the town may employ a qualified private engineering firm to perform the inspections. Option C is the town may request the D.O.T. to employ a qualified private engineering firm to perform the inspection and analysis. After discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go with Option C

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for the town's municipal bridge inspections. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Cemetery

Mayor Gaddy asked for a motion to table until the committee had a chance to look into both sides of the issue. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to table the cemetery issue until further notice and Commissioner F. McCree seconded the motion.

Announcements

The NCLM Annual Conference will be in Asheville, NC on October 14, 15 & 16, 2001.

Commissioner Kemp announced that he had visited the Bladen County Satellite Fitness Center and he brought in a brochure for the other Commissioners to review.

Closed Session

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 6:55 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statue 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.

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

After the discussion of privileged information, personnel, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:34 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting –August 14, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Frank McCree and J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Interim Police Chief Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Betty Overturf, Linda Vause and several concerned citizens. Town Clerk Jenny Larson was absent.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Mayor Gaddy gave the invocation.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 10, 2001. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Dorothy Mitchell made a request that curbs and gutters be installed on Madison Street. She stated that she had spoken to several Commissioners and Ben Hill concerning the water problem on Madison Street and Mr. Hill informed her that if she could get at least 17 signatures from interested parties living on Madison Street, it may be feasible to do the work. She also stated that Mr. Hill had told her that if the Board made a decision to do the work, each resident would have to pay ½ the cost, approximately \$250.00 and they would be allowed to pay in installments. Ms. Mitchell stated that many of the residents could not afford the \$250 and she thought that if the grant on Benjamin Street is approved, some of the money could be used to defray the cost for those who can't afford to pay a ½ share. Mr. Jackson said that perhaps grants could be attained, but nothing is guaranteed. Mr. Otto Ford, Sr. relayed that during excessive rains, there are puddles in front of his door. Mr. Ford also asked that Public Works put some rocks down in front of his house to help the situation at 412 Madison Street. Mr. Hill asked that he be allowed to review the list and come up with some prices to present to the Board in the September Board meeting.

Administrative Matters

Resolution of Support for Southeastern Regional Medical Center Open-Heart Surgery Center

Town Manager Ben Hill spoke on the statistics relative to heart disease and indicated that Southeastern Regional Medical Center has and continues to be very responsive to the needs of the Town and in this spirit, he recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the Southeastern Regional Medical Center Open-Heart Surgery Center. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Moore Store Ordinance

Katrina Tatum reviewed the particulars concerning the Moore Store code violations and the results of the last inspection. Pictures illustrating the current condition of the property as of 8/10/01 were shown to the board. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the ordinance for the demolition of the Moore Store Property. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously

Cemetery

Mr. Hill gave a status report on the cemetery meeting indicating that the committee was in the process of ascertaining ownership to see if they would be willing to transfer the property to a non-profit entity and eventually to the Town for maintenance. The issue of opening fees versus undertaker plot fees came up. Commissioner Frank McCree clarified the differences in fees with Commissioner Grantham explaining the opening fee for one of the cemeteries. Commissioner Grantham pointed out that these cemeteries have a historical significance that the Town should preserve. She also stated that there was certainly interest, if some of the roads could be closed to make more plots. Ben Hill indicated that the committee had discussed this element. Mayor Gaddy asked the manager to go back to the committee with the suggestions discussed in the Board meeting, complete the research needed, and report back to the Board with the result.

Youth Council

Commissioners Grantham and Kemp spoke about the need for the Youth Council, the way Boston's Youth Council is designed and how the plan format came about. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the plan submitted by Commissioners Kemp and Grantham. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Proclamation for Support of Litter Sweep Fall 2001 – Sept. 17 – Sept. 30, 2001 and designation of Town of Fairmont Clean Up Week, Sept 24 – 28, 2001.

Ben Hill reviewed the Governor's Litter Sweep initiative and stated that the Town would honor this initiative by approving the proclamation of support and designating September 24 –28, 2001 as Fairmont's Fall Clean Up Week. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt the proclamation of support for Litter Sweep Fall 2001 – Sept. 17 – Sept. 30, 2001 and designate September 24 – 28, 2001 as the Town of Fairmont Fall Clean Up Week. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Robeson County Center for Child and Family Health - Knight Chamberlain

Mr. Knight Chamberlain spoke concerning the Robeson County Center for Child and Family Health stating that it was greatly needed and would benefit the Town of Fairmont as well as Robeson County as a whole. He understands the financial position of the Town and stated that all he wanted was a token donation just to show the monetary support. He stated that it would look good on the grant applications. There was a lengthy discussion in which Commissioner Grantham stated that she did not think any donation should be given at this time. Commissioner J.J. McCree stated that he thought that the Board should recognize the abused children with at least a token donation. Commissioner Jackson thought a \$50.00 donation would not hurt the Town. Ben Hill recommended that the Town use discretionary funds not to exceed \$250.00. Mayor Gaddy called a recess at 7:06 pm and consulted with Mr. Hill. At 7:07 the meeting resumed. Commissioner J.J. McCree made a motion to approve a \$50.00 donation to the Robeson County Center for Child and Family Health. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Announcements

Town Forum – August 21, 2001

Reminder - NCLM Annual Conference, Asheville, NC, October 14, 15 & 16, 2001

Closed Session

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 7:13 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 J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kemp, Commissioners Jackson, J. McCree, F. McCree, and Grantham, Ben Hill, and Katrina Y. Tatum were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Town of Fairmont
Issue Forum - August 21, 2001**

The Town of Fairmont held an Issue Forum on Tuesday, August 21, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Linda Vause, Mickey Williamson, Freddie Miller, Betty Overturf, Steve Player and approximately 25 concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and called on Reverend Bergman of the Presbyterian Church to give the invocation.

Mr. Ben Hill introduced Steve Player with the Wooten Company. Mr. Player explained the two NCHFA grants the Town is applying for. These are the Single Family Rehabilitation Grant and the Urgent Repair Grant.

Mr. Player explained that the Single Family Rehabilitation Grant is for homes occupied by low-income homeowners. The targeted group for this grant, along with being low income, is for families with special needs; the handicapped; the elderly; single parent families and large families. These houses can receive a maximum of \$30,000 for rehab. The houses almost have to be brought up to new construction standards and energy conservation standards. These will be twenty- year unforgivable loans. In the first 10 years of the loan, the entire loan would have to be repaid before the property can be sold or transferred. This includes to an estate. In the second 10 years of the loan, the repayment will reduce by 10% for each year occupied. After 20 years, the entire loan is forgiven.

The Urgent Repair Program will provide for emergency repairs to low-income homeowners. These repairs cannot exceed \$5,000. Emergency repairs are for items that affect health and safety such as roofs, electrical and plumbing. This money will be grant money that does not have to be repaid.

Mr. Hill asked if this was a scattered site grant or would just involve one neighborhood. Mr. Player answered that it is a scattered site grant.

Mr. John Jackson spoke of his concern with the re-payment of the loans in the event of death of the homeowner. Mr. Jackson also wants to be sure that anyone applying for this grant is fully informed of the 20 year payback provision.

Mr. Charles Kemp agreed with Mr. Jackson, that citizens applying for the Single Family Rehab Grant be fully informed of the provisions of the loan. Mrs. Mary Bruce Grantham wanted everyone to be aware that this did not work like the CDBG program.

Several citizens wanted to know exactly what could be repaired with the Urgent Repair Grant. Mr. Player restated the above requirements.

Ms. Betty Overturf with the Times Messenger wanted to know when the process of applying could begin. Mr. Player stated that the Town's application must be submitted by October 12, 2001. If approved, we would know by January; with funds available March 2002.

After Mr. Player's presentation, Mr. Ben Hill gave an update on current projects of the Town.

- **Sewer Plant** – construction on the sewer plant is ahead of schedule. Hopefully, the plant will be on line in December 2001 or January 2002.
- **Community Park** – Meetings are being set-up with the adjoining property owners. The Town would like their input as to borders, etc. The park will have the original design, which includes a walking trail; rest rooms; play equipment for children; and picnic tables. Mr. Hill stated there would not be any basketball courts or goals at the park.
- **Community Building** – Mr. Hill stated that our engineer had been in touch with him today. We should have approval from the NC Department of Insurance within one week. We plan to take bids on the project with construction hopefully beginning in February 2002.
- **Fall Litter Sweep** – planned for the week of September 24th through the 28th. Mr. Hill stated that if anyone had excess trash to be removed, to please contact Mr. Ronnie Seals at Public Works. The public works department can assist in the removal of the items.
- **Dialysis Clinic** – The new dialysis clinic recently had their ground breaking. They should be in operation in 9 months.

The citizens in attendance were asked to comment or ask about any concerns or problems they had with the Town.

Mrs. Ann Marks asked when Dogwood Street would be repaired. Mr. Hill stated that this should be completed within 3 weeks.

A citizen asked about the status of the Ashley house. Mr. Hill stated that we had tried to work with the family in the demolition of this house. We have been unable to reach the family members. Therefore, the Town will proceed with demolition. The house should be down within the next 30 days. Mr. Hill also reported that the Town has been trying to work with the warehouse owners in the demolition and clean up of these properties. The warehouse owners have always worked well with the Town of Fairmont and we want to give them every chance we can to handle their properties. The Town will take further action if these buildings are not cleaned up soon. At this point Commissioner Grantham reminded everyone that we all need to keep our properties clean. We want Fairmont to look good!

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A citizen complained about water running in her father's yard on Morro Street. This is where the curb and gutter was installed last year. Mr. John Jackson said he had personally observed the flow of water. He thinks a catch basin is needed. Mr. Hill will look into this.

Mr. Hill reported that Mr. James Byrne has been asked by the Board of Commissioners to head up a Revitalization Committee for the downtown area. Mr. Byrnes has asked for representatives from all civic organizations in Town to be on this Committee.

Mayor Ned Gaddy reminded all in attendance that he is in his office at Town Hall five days a week from 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM. He asked that citizens to stop in and share their concerns about the Town with him or just stop by to visit.

The meeting ended with the Board members asking for citizen involvement and participation in the Town of Fairmont. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Linda Vause, Deputy Finance Director

Regular Meeting – September 11, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Interim Police Chief Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Berlester Campbell, Tom Taylor, Shirley Price, Daphne Byrnes, Jimmy Byrnes, Freddie Miller, Mickey Williamson, Janice Faulk, Linda Hicks, Bridget Bass, Mildred Brice, Andy Grimsley, Mitchell Ray, Sam Tedder, Gaines Grantham, Mark Gaskins, Rusty Perry, Charles Townsend, Anthony Sealey, Josh Thrailkill, Betty Overturf, and about 20 other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. There was a moment of silence to commemorate those lost today in the tragic terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington. He announced that there would be a prayer vigil at Trinity United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. this evening.

Commissioner J.J. McCree made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 14, 2001. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Gaddy presented a plaque to Town Clerk Jenny Larson for being awarded the title of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC).

Administrative Matters

Youth Council Monthly Report – Mr. Josh Thrillkill

Mr. Josh Thrailkill, President of the newly formed Fairmont Youth Council, gave a report on the council's first meeting, which was held on September 4. The following representatives will be on the council: Mayor Gaddy, the Town Manager, the Recreation Director, an 8th grade representative from Fairmont Middle, Orrum Middle, and Fairgrove Middle plus several representatives of organizations at Fairmont High School. The Youth Council will meet the first Tuesday of every month and the president will make a report to the town council at each board meeting. The officers of the Youth Council are: President, Josh Thrailkill, Vice President, Brett Graham, and Secretary, Bud Riley. Some of the ideas the council plans to pursue include a mentoring program for the elementary schools, a dance, a talent show, and a recreational facility.

Graveyard Update

Town Manager Ben Hill and Town Attorney Charlie Floyd are looking over the legalities and financial implications of taking over the cemetery on Highway 130 East.

Jimmy Byrne – Report on Committee for Betterment of Fairmont meeting

Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Chairman of the Committee for the Betterment of Fairmont, reported that the first meeting on Saturday, September 8, went really well. Representatives from local civic groups, churches, businesses and schools attended the meeting. He mentioned that Fairmont has a lot of good things going for it but one thing is hindering the town's progress: lack of motivation. The committee has three major priorities. The first is to apply to be an All-American City. The second is to clean up the corridors (junkyards, dilapidated houses) coming into Fairmont. The third is to beautify the town overall. Mr. Byrne asked the council to vote to support the committee's goal to apply to be an All-American City in 2003. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to apply to be an All American City in 2003 and to make an effort to clean up the corridors coming into Fairmont. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Resolution of Support to Rezone Property east and west of I-95 at Exit 10 for Robeson County

Robeson County desires to rezone the property east and west of I-95 at Exit 10 to protect the exit for future economic development. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt a resolution of support to rezone property east and west of I-95 at Exit 10 for Robeson County. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Property wanting to be given to the Town of Fairmont

Town Manager Ben Hill informed the council that he was approached by a property owner about donating a store on Main Street and an acre of land between two houses to the town for a tax deduction. Mr. Hill and the town attorney are working on a plan to dispose of the property quickly if we accept it. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to give the town manager and the town attorney authority to devise a plan to acquire and dispose of all property donated to the town. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Commissioner Jackson voiced his concerns about the effect the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has had on Fairmont and Robeson County. Since January 2000, nine plants have closed in Robeson County and 2,837 workers have lost their jobs.

He suggested preparing a resolution voicing the town's concerns regarding the damaging effects of NAFTA and send it to our local representatives. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt a resolution regarding the damaging effects NAFTA has had on the Town of Fairmont and Robeson County and mail copies to our local representatives. 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.

Update on Madison Street residents desire for curb and gutter

Last month, the residents of Madison Street signed a petition showing their desire for curb and gutter. Currently, Mr. Hill and his staff are verifying the property owners along Madison Street. The money for the project would come from the Powell Bill fund and the owners would split the cost 50/50 with the town. The project may begin in October.

U.S. Cellular Tower Zoning Permit and Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Ms. Katrina Tatum informed the council that U.S. Cellular has applied for a zoning permit to erect a wireless telecommunication tower within the Town's ETJ on property owned by Mr. Robert Lewis, located on the south side of NC Hwy 130 Bypass, .10 miles east of East White Pond Road. The property in question is located in a Residential Agricultural District, which allows by right the erection of public works and public utility facilities. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the zoning permit for the construction of a wireless telecommunication tower by U.S. Cellular on Highway 130 Bypass with the attached Zoning Ordinance Amendment allowing wireless telecommunication towers in residential, agricultural and commercial districts. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Announcements

Ms. Tatum announced that Weaver-Cooke-Kirkland, LLC is ready to begin construction on the 24-unit Fairwoods Apartment complex on Pittman Street/East White Pond Road.

Time Warner Cable is adding additional services with its "Road Runner" program.

The Robeson County Municipal Association meeting will be announced at a later date.

Clean-up Weeks for the Town of Fairmont is September 17-30. Citizens are encouraged to dispose of big bulky items at this time.

The Grand Opening of Farmers Furniture is Thursday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m.

The Miss and Little Miss Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant is Saturday, October 13th at the E.R. Gause Auditorium.

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The Fairmont Farmers Festival is Saturday, October 20th with the parade starting at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Jackson asked about the status of the demolished warehouse. He would like to see the lot cleaned up before the festival. Mr. Hill replied that several people own the property and there are a lot of legalities that need to be addressed before action can be taken to force the removal of the debris.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – October 9, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Interim Police Chief Sam Hunt, Jimmy Byrne, Ronnie Seals, Mickey Williamson, Phil Wallace, Abner Harrington, Terry Evans, Huel Faulk, Josh Thrailkill, Gaines Grantham, Suzanne Perry, Wade Sealey, Fit Sealey, Sam Tedder, Charles Tedder, Mitch Ray, Bill Lewis, Ray Johnson, Rusty Perry, Margaret Leggett, Rick Burnett, Harold Collins, William Edwards, Troy Miller, Eric Thompson, Erica McQueen and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 11, 2001. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

No citizens came forward to speak.

Public Hearing – Bonaventure Development, South Main Street Subdivision

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the proposed Bonaventure Development subdivision on South Main Street. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Katrina Tatum informed the council that the town has received a subdivision application for an 11.38-acre site on South Main Street identified as Robeson County Pin No. 3010-01-015, also referred to as the Bonaventure Development site. The purpose of the subdivision is to divide the site into 22-23 individual lots, approximately 10,000+ square feet each for development of single-family detached housing units, ranging in price from \$75,000 to \$85,000. The construction of single-family homes is allowed by right under the R-10 District.

Mr. Fitzugh Sealey, of Gaston Sealey Company, is against the subdivision because it will cause traffic problems for his business and the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Wade Sealey, also of Gaston Sealey Company, is against the location but not the subdivision because of the number of houses on 11 acres. He feels it would increase traffic and be detrimental to his business and the proposed community building. He stated that he heard of the subdivision “through the grapevine” and was not properly notified by mail.

Ms. Katrina Tatum said that this is the second public hearing and that it was properly advertised in the newspaper. She added that the building of single-family homes is a use by right and does not require notifying neighboring property owners. The council was concerned that the neighboring property owners were not notified. Ms. Margaret Leggett lives next to the proposed subdivision. She wanted to see a copy of the proposed plans and was also concerned about traffic congestion. Mr. Eric Thompson wanted to know if there would be one or two houses on the lot between his house and Ms. Leggett's. Ms. Tatum replied that there would be a street next to Ms. Leggett and a house next to him.

Commissioner Kemp mentioned that two model homes would be built on a one-acre site on the corner of Hwy 130 Bypass and Hwy 41. Interested buyers can look at these homes before purchasing a lot in the development. If there are no interested buyers, no homes will be built. Mr. Rick Burnett of the Durham Regional Financial Center, the developer of the subdivision, saw a need for housing to help out those homeowners whose homes were flooded during Hurricane Floyd. Homeowners can finance the new homes using Rural Development money but 51% of those who apply must have homes that were flood damaged by Hurricane Floyd. The development was awarded with funding based on how many people in Robeson County were affected by Hurricane Floyd. Mr. William Edwards is the technical consultant for the project. He said they went to great lengths to design a subdivision the community can be proud of. Mr. Burnett added they choose this lot over several others in town because it is close to downtown. Mr. Larry Bray is the owner of the property. Most of the homes will be three bedrooms with 1 ½ baths with a price range between \$75,000-\$85,000. Commissioner Jackson was concerned that no one would be able to afford that price.

After discussion, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Planning Board Recommendation – Bonaventure Development on South Main Street.

Mr. Ben Hill informed the council that the Planning Board held a meeting on October 2, 2001 to review the preliminary subdivision plans for the Bonaventure Development. The proposed subdivision is located on the east side of South Main Street just below Elizabeth Street. After careful review of the plans, the Planning Board has determined that they conform to the Town's subdivision requirements and recommend approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the Bonaventure Development subdivision but the motion failed for lack of a second. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to table the subdivision issue until more information can be gathered about the

development. He rescinded his motion after more discussion and felt the board should vote either for or against the subdivision. After more discussion, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to table the subdivision decision until November but to make a definite decision at that time. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to set a special meeting for Monday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. to further discuss the Bonaventure Development subdivision plans. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Youth Council Monthly Report

Mr. Josh Thrailkill gave the board an update on the Youth Council. They had a very productive meeting last week. They discussed establishing a mentor program for elementary school students and appointed a chairman and committee. They are going to sell raffle tickets to raise funds for the youth council. The tickets will be sold at the Farmers Festival and Halloween Carnival and the drawing will be held at the Christmas Festival. There are also plans for a Middle School dance. Other things accomplished were asking Youth Opportunity to send a representative to the youth council meetings and appointed Courtney Elam as treasurer.

Harold Collins – Cultural Fest

Mr. Harold Collins came before the board asking for support of Cultural Fest. He organized Cultural Fest as an effort to bring all races and cultures together and introduce new people to Robeson County. The next Cultural Fest will be in April 2002 at the Southeastern Agricultural Farmer's Market. The event will begin with a beauty pageant for mothers over the age of 30 on Thursday night. On Friday night, there will be an antique car and bike show and a pig cook-off. On Saturday, there will be a grand parade of cultures. Each culture will demonstrate their distinctive heritage during a forty-minute presentation. There will also be a bike show, Guinness Book of World Record events and a concert by Branson. The event will conclude on Sunday with a horse show and barrel race. Mr. Collins hopes to attract 15,000 people from outside Robeson County to the Cultural Fest. He wants all towns in the county to get involved by setting up a booth at the festival and supporting a specific culture. He said Red Springs was sponsoring the Scottish culture, Maxton – African Americans, and Pembroke – Native Americans. Mr. Collins is also selling \$5.00 raffle tickets for a drawing for Lumbee Collector's Edition shoes. He owns all 1,760 pairs.

Water Tank Colors & Lettering

Mr. Hill presented the board with color choices for the new water tank at the In 7 plant. The water tank was originally planned to be black with the town seal in the middle. However, black is a bad color choice because it absorbs heat and the town seal would be too small plus cost a lot of money. Mr. Hill suggested painting the tank white and having Town of Fairmont in 42-inch high black letters trimmed in gold. At a previous meeting,

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Commissioner Grantham had made a motion to put the town seal on the water tank. Therefore, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to retract putting the town seal on the water tank because it would be too small and expensive and instead paint the tank white with “Town of Fairmont” in black letters with gold trim. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reappoint Wade Sealey to ABC Board

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to reappoint Wade Sealey to the ABC Board for a three-year term. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Reappoint Buddy Taylor and Wallace Jones to Town Planning Board

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to reappoint Buddy Taylor and Wallace Jones to the Planning Board for three-year terms. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Resolution in response to the Attack on America

Mayor Gaddy read a resolution entitled “In Response to the Attack on America,” which states Fairmont’s support of our American government as they pursue the terrorists responsible for the attacks on September 11. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution “In Response to the Attack on America. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Lease agreement with Robert Floyd on alley

A lease agreement with Robert Floyd on an alley and parking area behind the old Stevens Cleaners is due to expire on November 12, 2001. The town pays Mr. Floyd’s property taxes, approximately \$87.00 a year, for use of the alley. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to renew the parking lease with Robert Floyd for four years. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Announcements

Robeson County Municipal Association to be hosted by St. Pauls. Date and time to be announced.

Miss and Little Miss Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant, Saturday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at E. R. Gause Auditorium.

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Fairmont Farmers Festival, Saturday, October 20. Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. with food, crafts and entertainment all afternoon. The Déjà vu band will play that evening at Hi-Dollar Warehouse beginning at 9:00 p.m.

Halloween Trick or Treating hours 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The N.C. L. M. annual conference will be held October 14, 15, and 16 in Asheville, NC. Mr. Hill, Mayor Gaddy and Commissioner Jackson will be attending.

Commissioner Jackson announced that the L.R.C.O.G. and the Robeson County Municipal Association also adopted the NAFTA resolution adopted at the last board meeting.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 7:30 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 real estate and personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5,6). Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

After the discussion of privileged information, real estate and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Frank McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept in principal Mr. Jimmy Byrne and the Fairmont Development Corporation's proposal on the Swiss Piedmont Building, a copy of which is attached, subject to legal and financial review. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Special Meeting – November 12, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, November 12, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Mickey Williamson, Gaines Grantham, Suzanne Perry, Wade Sealey, Patricia Sealey, Fit Sealey, Charles Tedder, Mitch Ray, Bill Lewis, Rusty Perry, Margaret Leggett, William Edwards, Eric Thompson, Charles Townsend, Tony Currie, Larry Bray, Huel Faulk, Andy Grimsley, Margaret Thrasher, Aaron Austringer, Jean Andrews, Ida Lewis, Patty Jane Floyd and approximately 25 other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and after a moment of silence, Commissioner Frank McCree gave the invocation.

The purpose of the meeting is to hold a public hearing and invite public comment concerning the proposed Bonaventure Subdivision on South Main St. This property is located on the east side of Main Street just below Elizabeth Street. It is 11.38 acres and is zoned R-10. The purpose of the subdivision is to divide the site into 22-23 10,000 square feet individual lots for development of detached houses ranging in price from \$75,000-\$85,000 and 1,050 to 1,400 square feet in size. This type of development is allowed by right under the R-10 District. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the proposed Bonaventure Development subdivision on South Main Street. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy asked that all questions be directed to Ben Hill, Katrina Tatum and Charlie Floyd. Attorney Charlie Floyd explained that the developer submitted an application to subdivide the property on Main Street to Katrina Tatum, Code Enforcement Officer. The Planning Board met and reviewed the application. The subdivision met all the requirements of the state law and the town ordinances so the Planning Board approved it. The subdivision is now before the town council to approve or disapprove. If the council does not approve the subdivision, they must state in writing why it does not meet criteria set out in the town ordinances.

Mrs. Margaret Leggett asked if the lots were not sold in 5 to 10 years would mobile homes be allowed. Ms. Tatum replied that mobile homes are not allowed in the R-10 zoning district.

Mr. Wade Sealey was concerned about traffic and the parking of cars in the subdivision and asked if the Department of Transportation has looked at the plans. Ms. Tatum replied that the subdivision plans have been submitted to the D.O.T. Any changes that the D.O.T. recommends will be given directly to the developer not the town.

Mr. Andy Grimsley asked what the floor plans of the houses would be. Ms. Tatum emphasized that the subdivision plan has to be approved before the houses can be built. The houses will have 3 to 4 bedrooms and will be frame dwellings similar to those already in the neighborhood.

Mr. Aaron Austringer, with the North Carolina Housing Recovery Center, explained that 51% of the lots would be marketed to victims of Hurricane Floyd. Anyone whose home was flood damaged by Hurricane Floyd and was registered with FEMA can apply for funds to help purchase a house in the subdivision. However, anyone who wants to build a home can purchase one. There will be no free housing in this subdivision; each homeowner will have a mortgage.

Mr. Fitzhugh Sealey wanted to go on record that he is publicly against the Bonaventure Subdivision. He is concerned about traffic problems, real estate value, crime, etc. Ms. Margaret Thrasher also went on record to state her disapproval of the subdivision.

Mr. William Edwards, a representative for the developer, described some of the features the Bonaventure Development will have. They include uniform mailboxes, street trees, a homeowners association, deed restrictions preventing junk cars and front yard fences, underground utilities, paved driveways and walkways and a porch on every house.

After discussion, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Gaddy announced that the council will make a decision on the Bonaventure Subdivision plans at the regular town council meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – November 13, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Frank McCree and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Interim Police Chief Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Freddie Miller, Mickey Williamson, Josh Thrailkill, Gaines Grantham, Wade Sealey, William Edwards, Tony Currie, Delaine Strickland, Gina Lynn Britt, Michelle Renfrow, E.R. Gause, Linda Vause, Sandy Floyd, Erica McQueen, Tammy Walters, Huel Faulk, Debbie Fowler, Lynsey Fowler, Scott Witten, Ray Johnson, Patricia Sealey and several concerned citizens.

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

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 9, 2001. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Fairmont Farmers Festival Co-Chairman Mickey Williamson introduced 2001-2002

Little Miss Farmers Festival Lynsey Fowler and her mother Debbie Fowler.

Administrative Matters

Bonaventure Subdivision on South Main Street.

Town Manager Ben Hill stated that a public hearing on the Bonaventure Subdivision was held last night to gather public comment on the development. The town council has to make a decision to approve the preliminary plans for the subdivision or give a reason why it does not conform to our ordinances. Commissioner Kemp regretted that the subdivision was so controversial. He has not heard one citizen in surrounding area say anything positive about the development. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the Bonaventure Subdivision on South Main Street. Commissioner J.J. McCree seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

New trucks lease with Lumberton Ford.

Mr. Hill informed the council of the bad conditions the town's public works vehicles are in. He obtained three bids from Lumberton Ford, Jerry Johnson Chevrolet and Rowland Motor Company to purchase two two-ton trucks with dump beds, one full size crew cab truck and one small pickup truck. Lumberton Ford had the lowest bid of \$97,307.50 for a 3-year lease/purchase with 4.9% financing. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to enter into a three-year lease/purchase agreement with Lumberton Ford for four new trucks for Public Works at a total cost of \$97,307.50. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Traffic Accidents – Intersection White Pond Road and Hwy 130 Bypass and Intersection Walnut Street and Leesville Road.

Mr. Hill announced that he has been approached by Sandy Floyd about the number of bad accidents at the intersection of White Pond Road and Hwy 130 Bypass. He would like the town to write the Department of Transportation and ask for them to install warning bumps to alert motorists on Hwy 130 Bypass of the stop signs. Mr. Hill would also like the Department of Transportation to investigate traffic accidents at the intersection of Walnut Street and Leesville Road. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to write a letter to the N.C. Department of Transportation asking them to investigate the traffic accidents at the intersections of Hwy 130 Bypass and White Pond Road and Walnut Street and Leesville Road and make them safer. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Resolution on Mosquito Control

Mr. Hill asked the board to consider a resolution designating an official to sign papers on a mosquito control grant. The grant is through the state department and is \$14,000 a year for three years. The grant money will be used to purchase mosquito spray and educate citizens on how to prevent mosquitoes. The grant application has to be submitted by the end of the month. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to designate Town Manager Ben Hill to sign the paperwork for the mosquito control grant. 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.

General Business

Youth Council Monthly Report

Mr. Josh Thrailkill gave a report on the Youth Council's meeting last week. The Youth Council is continuing to sale raffle tickets. The prizes include a TV, VCR, Stereo, and two gift certificates. The drawing will be held in December at Fairmont Department Store. The Council appointed a committee to study the possibility of holding a food drive

to help the needy in December. Timothy Stephens, head of the Mentor Program Committee, is currently talking to the guidance counselors at the elementary and middle schools. They hope to implement the mentor program in January.

Ms. Tammy Walters with the Youth Opportunity Program introduced new employees, Gina Lynn Britt and Michelle Renfrow.

Controlling Development Downtown

Ms. Katrina Tatum mentioned that with the demolition of the warehouses taking place now is the prime time to review the existing zoning along the commercial corridors and begin to plan for Fairmont's future development. She will be examining the zoning and making recommendations for changes that will enhance the general character of the commercial district. Our present zoning is not uniform and allows too wide a variety of uses. Several properties have already been earmarked for change in an effort to control use. She recommended that both sides of Main Street from Railroad Street to Cottage Street and the west side of Walnut Street from McDaniel Street to Cottage be targeted first for rezoning since this area is our Central Business District and has been identified for the Fire District Area. Commissioner Grantham felt the board should address the rezoning as soon as it is feasible to do so.

December Agenda – Audit and Swearing in of New Commissioners and Mayor.

Mr. Hill would like the current board to approve the minutes and the town's audit at the December board meeting. Following that we will swear in the commissioners and the mayor, have a short break and then continue on with new business.

Mr. Hill informed the council that all state offices will be closed December 24, 25 & 26 for Christmas this year. The Town is scheduled for just December 24 & 25. He asked the board to let each town employee, except for the police department, to take December 26 as a vacation or compensation time day. Commissioner Jackson made a motion for the Town of Fairmont to be closed December 24, 25 & 26 with two days as holiday time and one day as vacation/compensation time. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Christmas Music Festival, December 2, 2001.

Commissioner Kemp invited everyone to attend the 7th annual Christmas Festival to be held Sunday, December 2, 2001 at the E.R. Gause Auditorium. Performers scheduled to attend include all the choirs of Trinity United Methodist Church, Fairmont Middle School Chorus, Fairmont High School String Orchestra, Dillon High School Delta Phi Chi Chorus and soloists, Crystal Stone and Aja Locklear from Lumberton High School. Mayor Gaddy will light the Community Christmas Tree at 5:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Memorial Park.

Park Committee Update

The Fairmont Community Park Committee held its first meeting last week. Several of the neighboring property owners attended the meeting and are pleased with the park's design. They only asked for minor changes including splitting the parking between Fisher and Main Street and relocating the bathrooms. Mr. Hill hopes to start construction on the park in January with a completion date of June 2002.

Announcements

Robeson County Municipal Association to be hosted by Robeson County. Date and time to be announced.

National League of Cities Conference, Atlanta, Georgia – December 4-8, 2001. Town Manager Ben Hill, Mayor Gaddy and Commissioners Jackson and Grantham will be attending this conference.

We have been awarded a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Benjamin and Phillips Street in North Fairmont. Ms. Tatum informed the council that some homes will be replaced and others will be rehabbed up to \$29,999. We will start taking applications from the residents in the area now. The administrative and environmental aspects of the grant take up to 4 to 6 months to complete. Construction in the area should begin in August 2002.

Town offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 for Thanksgiving.

Time Warner Cable has announced the addition of new channels.

The North Carolina League of Municipalities is sponsoring training for existing and new council members.

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a cookout for the 5th and 6th football players and cheerleaders tonight at the Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Closed Session

Commissioner J.J. McCree made a motion to go into closed session at 6:42 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.

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

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to increase Town Manager Ben Hill's salary by \$1,800 effective January 1, 2002. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion. Commissioner J.J. McCree voted against the increase because he feels the new board should vote on the increase. The motion passed four to one with the following commissioners voting:

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

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – December 11, 2001

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Frank McCree, Antonio Currie, Charles Townsend and J.J. McCree. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Interim Police Chief Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Freddie Miller, Mickey Williamson, Linda Vause, John Masters, E.R. Gause, Huel Faulk, Marlene Bass, Frank Floyd, Rusty Perry, Abner Harrington, Butch Lennon, Laura Kemp, Jimmy Byrne, Terry Hunt, Scott Witten, Barbara Jean Currie and about 60 citizens.

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

Citizens' Appearance

No citizen spoke during citizens' appearance.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on November 12, 2001 and the regular meeting on November 13, 2001. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of 2000-2001 Audit

Mr. John Masters, with S. Preston Douglas & Associates, presented the 2000-2001 audit. He said the Town has some debt because of the new wastewater treatment plant but is in good overall financial shape with a fund balance of \$607,338. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the 2000-2001 audit. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Resolution for Requisitions, Check Signatures and Administration for CDBG funds

Town Manager Ben Hill presented a Resolution for Requisitions, Check Signatures and Administration for the new CDBG funds for the Benjamin and Phillips Streets Revitalization Project. He recommended that Mayor Nedward Gaddy, Town Manager Ben Hill, Deputy Finance Director Linda Vause and Town Clerk Jennifer Larson be authorized to execute the signature requirements for requisitions and checks for disbursement of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. He also recommended that Town Manager Ben Hill and Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum be authorized to administer the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and execute all applicable documents. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt the Resolution for Requisitions, Check Signatures and Administration for the

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the Benjamin and Phillips Streets Revitalization Project. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Youth Council Monthly Report

Mr. Josh Thraikill gave the Youth Council monthly report. He stated that the council is still selling one-dollar raffle tickets with the drawing to be held on December 15 at Fairmont Department Store. The Food Drive is being done in cooperation with the Fairmont Youth Opportunity (YO!) and everything collected will be donated to the Fairmont Housing Authority. The Youth Council also voted to start meeting more often on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Remarks by Outgoing Commissioner Frank McCree

Outgoing Commissioner Frank McCree commented on his past eight years as a Commissioner for the town of Fairmont. He thanked the “great citizens” of Fairmont for electing him. He said being a commissioner was a learning experience with both good and bad times. He advised the new commissioners to not get angry because “an angry tongue commits many sins.” Mr. Hill and the rest of the council thanked Mr. McCree for his years of service to the town and told him how much they enjoyed working with him. Commissioner J.J. McCree added that it was a special honor to serve on the board alongside his father and he will never forget it.

Swearing in of Mayor and New Commissioners

Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd swore in Mayor Nedward Gaddy with his daughter, Barbara Jean Currie holding the bible. Judge Floyd also swore in Commissioners Charles Kemp, Charles Townsend and Antonio Currie. A copy of their sworn oaths is hereby incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. Mayor Gaddy and the new commissioners thanked the citizens for their support and voting for them. They all promised to be honest and do what is best for the Town of Fairmont. There was a short fifteen-minute break to congratulate the Mayor and new commissioners.

Meeting Time

When the meeting resumed, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. as the regular meeting date. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore

Commissioner Currie nominated Commissioner John Jackson for Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Grantham nominated Commissioner Charles Kemp for Mayor Pro Tempore because of his many years of experience on the board. The vote went as follows:

For Commissioner Kemp: Commissioner Grantham
For Commissioner Jackson: Commissioners Currie, Townsend and McCree

Commissioner Grantham felt that the vote for Mayor Pro Tempore should be unanimous. Mayor Gaddy asked for a second vote and it was unanimous to name Commissioner John Jackson as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Council Retreat

Mr. Hill asked the council to set Thursday, January 3, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a Council Retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to bring Commissioners Currie and Townsend up to date on current town projects and to gather input from them on ideas for Fairmont's future. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to set Thursday, January 3, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a Council Retreat at Pat Floyd's Clubhouse on Mill Branch Road in Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Gaddy stressed the importance for the entire council to come by Town Hall once a week to check their mail and keep abreast of what is happening in town.

Announcements

The Town of Fairmont's annual Christmas luncheon will be held at the Civitan Hut on Friday, December 21, at 12 Noon.

The Town offices will be closed December 24, 25 and 26 in observance of Christmas. The offices will also be closed on Tuesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Council Retreat - January 7, 2002**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special council retreat on Monday, January 7, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. at Pat Floyd's clubhouse on Mill Branch Road in Fairmont with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Charles Townsend, Antonio Currie and Mary Bruce Grantham. Town Manager Ben Hill, Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Water Clerk Joyce Thompson, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Finance Director Linda Vause were also present. Commissioner J.J. McCree, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd and Fire Chief Freddie Miller were absent.

Commissioner Charles Townsend gave the invocation and Commissioner John Jackson blessed the food.

Mayor Gaddy stated that the purpose of the meeting was to introduce Commissioners Currie and Townsend to the town department heads and bring them up to date on current town projects.

New Police Chief Sam Hunt informed the council of his plans to divide Fairmont into four zones, with a sergeant in charge of each zone. Citizens living in a particular zone will then have one sergeant they can call regarding cases, etc. He also plans to hold community watch meetings in each zone. Chief Hunt said the new motto for the police department is "Business is Service." He wants to get out and introduce the officers to all the businesses and citizens.

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals said his department is there to help the citizens of Fairmont and that they will treat everyone equally. Recreation Director Mickey Williamson brought up the problems with renting the Fire Hall. It is currently being rented for \$35 for four hours with town employees able to rent it free twice a year. He suggested raising the rent to \$50 and charging employees \$25. There are also problems with members of the Rural Fire department parking in no parking zones and blocking doorways. Ms. Tatum stated she has received several complaints about the Rural Fire Department going through the dining hall to get to their office during events. She asked if there was any way their office could be moved to the bay area of the fire station. The council gave consent for Mayor Gaddy and Mr. Hill to meet with the members of the Rural Fire Department to discuss these problems.

The council discussed several projects including the sewer plant, Community Building, and Community Park. The CDBG Revitalization Project status report was given, detailing particulars for the Phillips and Benjamin Streets target area. Other issues brought up were the disposition of the shell building, the relocation of the head start program and Commissioner Townsend's radio program. There was much discussion by the board on these issues but no action was taken. The board also expressed the lack of interest shown in Fairmont by the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and the Robeson County Board of Education. They appointed Katrina Tatum as the town's representative to attend County Board meetings.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – January 8, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Commissioner J.J. McCree was absent due to illness. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Fire Chief Freddie Miller, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Water Clerk Joyce Thompson, Detective Tina Rhodes, Sgt. Alex Monroe, Sgt. Patrick Reed, Sgt. David Windom, Sgt. Steven Jones, Officer C.H. Lovette, Officer David Miller and Finance Director Linda Vause. Others present included Huel Faulk, Terry Hunt, Scott Witten, Teresa Hunt, Brooke Hunt, Brock Hunt, County Commissioner E.B. Turner, County Commissioner Berlester Campbell, Sheriff Glenn Maynor, Barbara Currie, Fay Sellers, Gaines Grantham, Shirley Eaton, Phil Wallace, Mark Warren and about 150 law enforcement officials and citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and County Commissioner E.B. Turner gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 11, 2001. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Swearing in of New Police Chief Samuel Hunt

Magistrate Mickey Williamson administered the oath of office to Police Chief Samuel Hunt. Chief Hunt's wife, Teresa, and Town Manager Ben Hill pinned the Chief of Police pins to his uniform. There was a short 15-minute break to congratulate him.

Citizens' Appearance

No one appeared during Citizens' Appearance.

Administrative Matters

L.R.C.O.G. – Resolution to release funds

The General Assembly has designated \$55,000 in State funds for use by the Lumber River Council of Governments to provide technical assistance to local governments in the areas of economic and community development. Each local government must adopt a resolution requesting that their portion of the \$55,000 be released to the LRCOG. Fairmont's portion of the funds is \$402.90. If a resolution is not adopted, then the town's

portion of the funds will revert back to the State. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution releasing \$402.90 to the Lumber River Council of Governments. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CDBG Grant Project Ordinance and Acceptance Resolution

Town Manager Ben Hill informed the council that the Town has been awarded a \$700,000 CDBG Community Revitalization grant to revitalize the western portions of Phillips and Benjamin Streets. In conjunction with this grant, the Town must approve a resolution to accept the grant and approve a project ordinance that outlines the financial components, including local commitment funds. The town's local commitment funds are \$80,000, with funding totaling \$780,000. These documents are required prior to expenditure of any funds under this grant. With the approval of these documents, the Town may expend administrative funds only. Program funds may be expended once the environmental report is submitted and approved. The Town has advertised for a consultant to administer the program and develop the environmental report.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Grant Project Ordinance and the Resolution of Acceptance for the FY 2001 Community Development Program Grant, Benjamin/Phillips Street Revitalization Project. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the ordinance and resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Bank Signature Resolution – Mayor Gaddy, Commissioner Jackson and Finance Director Linda Vause

Mr. Hill explained to the council that BB&T is the depository institution for the Town of Fairmont. As such, all signatures for banking must be authorized by a resolution with a supporting signatory card. Due to recent staff changes, the authorized signatures have changed requiring a new resolution and signatory card. The names of Charles Kemp and Helen Lockley need to be deleted and the names of Mayor Pro Tem John R. Jackson and Finance Director Linda W. Vause need to be added. These changes are necessary for normal financial activity on a day-to-day basis. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution and signature card for BB&T deleting Charles Kemp and Helen Lockley and adding John R. Jackson and Linda W. Vause. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Business

Robeson County Partnership for Children.

Ms. Jean Johnson, Executive Director, of the Robeson County Partnership for Children was present to talk about its services. The Robeson County Partnership for Children

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is an organization that was formed to provide a variety of children, family and health oriented services to the residents of Robeson County. The organization's funds serve children from infancy to five years old. The partnership sponsors seventeen Smart Start Programs in Robeson County.

Four-County Head Start Expansion/Construction Project.

Four-County Community Services, Inc. is planning an expansion of Fairmont's Head Start Center. They have purchased a tract of land on Martin Luther King Drive in Fairmont right down the street from its current location. The new building will combine Fairmont, Rowland, and Marietta's Head Start Centers into one central location. The new Head Start Center will employ 25 new people and educate 140 children. Mr. Richard Greene, Executive Director of Four-County Community Services is asking the Town of Fairmont to waive the water and sewer tap-on fees. The water tap-on fee is \$275 and the sewer tap-on fee is \$250. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to waive the water and sewer tap-on fees for the Four-County Community Services, Inc. Head Start Center expansion. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Set date for Issue Forum.

The Council instructed the Town Staff to set a date for the next Town Issue Forum. The staff later set Monday, February 4, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom, as the date for the forum.

Announcements

Mayor Gaddy and Town Manager Ben Hill will be attending the L.R.C.O.G. Retreat at Sea Trails Plantation in Sunset Beach on January 17, 18 & 19.

The Town of Red Springs will host the Robeson County Municipal Association on Monday, January 28, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at Flora MacDonald Academy.

The Town offices will be closed Monday, January 21, 2002 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

Town of Fairmont
Issue Forum - February 4, 2002

The Town of Fairmont held an Issue Forum on Monday, February 4, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Courtroom with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Charles Townsend and Mary Bruce Grantham. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Mickey Williamson, Ronnie Seals, Jack Johnson, Rose Johnson, Bill Lewis, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Ann Marks and approximately 9 other concerned citizens.

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

Mayor Gaddy thanked everyone for coming out and turned the meeting over to Town Manager Ben Hill. Mr. Hill stated the purpose of the issue forum is to gather citizen input. Mr. Hill gave updates on the following town projects:

- **Community Park** – The Town Council will approve the plans at the February board meeting. Construction on the park will begin immediately after the plans are approved. The park committee met and approved the plans with the only request to move the bathrooms and one picnic shelter closer to the canal. The park has to be completed by the end of June.
- **Community Building** – The Town will go out for bids the end of this month. Bids will be awarded in mid-March with construction beginning in April.
- **CDBG** – The Town has been awarded a \$700,000 CDBG grant to rehab homes on the western side of Phillips and Benjamin Street and improve water, sewer and drainage lines. The board will choose an engineer for the project at the next board meeting. Individual meetings with the residents will begin in the next few months.
- **Urgent Repair Grant** – The Town has also received a \$75,000 Urgent Repair Grant. This grant is scattered and will be used for citizens all over town to repair such items as roofs and bathrooms.
- **Dialysis Clinic** – Construction on the new Dialysis Clinic should be completed in June or July.
- **Four County Head Start** – Four County Community Services is combining the Fairmont, Rowland and Marietta Head Start Centers into one center to be built in Fairmont. The new facility will educate 140 students and employ 25 people. It will be located on Marion Stage Road between the church and graveyard on 5 acres of land. They hope to be finished with construction by the 2002-2003 school year.
- **Subway** – The construction on the new Subway restaurant should be completed by the end of February.
- **Sewer Plant** – Fairmont's Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant will be completed by the end of February. The Town will begin operating the plant in March. It takes 60 to 90 days for the plant to reach full operation. We will hold an Open House for the plant in May or June.

Mr. Hill opened the floor for citizen questions and input. Mr. Bill Lewis complimented the Mayor, the Council and the Town Manager for doing such a good job for the citizens of Fairmont. Mrs. Ann Marks asked if the drain on Dogwood Drive near the damn could be reopened. She also asked when the Town would pave the section where the damn washed out. Mr. Hill replied that it would probably be July. Another citizen asked about the flooding on Morro Street after a gushing rain. Mr. Hill said the Town would have to replace the tile. He also will have to talk to some property owners on Morro Street about removing their pine trees.

Mr. Phil Wallace, President of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, invited everyone present to attend the Chamber's dinner meeting on Monday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Civitan Hut. Barbecue and chicken will be served and the cost is \$6.00 per person.

Commissioner Grantham reported that the Fairmont Youth Council is doing well. They will host their first big event on Friday, February 15. The Youth Council is sponsoring a Middle School Dance for students of Fairmont, Fairgrove and Orrum Middle School. The chaperones will be the Fairmont Town Council, Town Manager Ben Hill, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson and the high school members of the youth council.

Commissioner Townsend reminded everyone of his "Community Spotlight" radio program on 860 WFMO on Thursdays from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. During the radio program he will talk to different individuals in the community highlighting the positive things in Fairmont. Past guests have included Commissioners Kemp and Jackson and Mr. Jimmy Byrne.

Mayor Gaddy thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He said it was a pleasure to serve people who appreciate the work you do for them. He reminded the citizens that he has office hours every afternoon and invited the public to come and talk with him. Commissioners Jackson and Kemp mentioned that they enjoy working with the other members on the town council and that it is a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

With no further comments, the issue forum adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Agenda Workshop - February 4, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special agenda workshop on Monday, February 4, 2002 at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were John Jackson, Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham and Charles Townsend. Commissioners J.J. McCree and Antonio Currie were absent. Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd and Town Clerk Jenny Larson were also in attendance.

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

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss agenda items for board action at the regular board meeting on February 12, 2002. The council discussed several items including the following:

- Public Hearing – Robeson County 2005, Planning for the Future. The steering committee wants the board to adopt a resolution endorsing this plan. The council felt that Fairmont's positives were not adequately covered in the plan, especially the new regional wastewater treatment plant. The council also wants to work more closely with the Robeson County Board of Commissioners to get their help in extending sewer to areas like Eastside Park.
- Request from Mayor Pro-Tem John Jackson to devise a marketing strategy for the Town of Fairmont.
- Request from Commissioner Charles Kemp to write a letter to Donnie Douglas, Editor of the Robesonian, detailing the progress of Fairmont.
- Proposal from Collections Clerk Joyce Thompson on increasing the reconnect fee for non-payment of water bills.
- Proposal from Recreation Director Mickey Williamson to increase the rent at the Fire Hall.
- C.D.B.G. and Urgent Repair Grants. The Town has received a C.D.B.G. grant for \$700,000 for housing rehab for the western portions of Phillips and Benjamin Streets. Last week the Town was notified that we had been approved for a \$75,000 Urgent Repair Program Grant.
- Approve the plans for the new park on South Main and Fisher Street.
- First reading of the sewer use ordinance and pretreatment program.
- N.C. Department of Transportation's response to our request for a Traffic Engineering Investigation.
- Adopt a monthly agenda workshop for the First Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
- Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum's status report on the County Board meeting.
- Letter from Greenbrier Rest Home praising the Town for its response to the fire at their facility on January 11, 2002.

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- Letter from the North Carolina League of Municipalities on the Breakfast Discussion Meeting with Congressman Mike McIntyre scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2002 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Center in Lumberton.
- Invitation to attend “Tomorrow’s Biotechnology for Southeast North Carolina” at UNC Pembroke on February 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Town Manager Ben Hill mentioned that issues concerning Exit 10, the new regional sewer plant and the Golf Course Road annexation will also be added to the board agenda.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – February 12, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, J.J. McCree and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Fire Chief Freddie Miller, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, and Water Clerk Joyce Thompson. Others present included Huel Faulk, Josh Thraikill, Sylvia Pate, Scott Witten, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Rusty Perry, Mitch Ray, Jimmy Byrne, Illya Chavis, Dan McKenzie, Terry Hunt and Ray Johnson.

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board Retreat on January 7, the regular meeting on January 8, and the Issue Forum and Workshop on February 4, 2002. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tax Releases

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$63.48. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Josh Thraikill, with the Fairmont Youth Advisory Council, presented his monthly report. The YAC is sponsoring a Middle School Dance for the Fairmont, Fairgrove and Orrum Middle School students on Friday, February 15 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Fairmont Fire Hall. Each school is allotted 50 tickets at \$3.00 each. Tickets cannot be sold on campus but are available from youth council members and will be sold at the door. The dance will be chaperoned by members of the Youth Advisory Council and the Board of Commissioners. This is the first major event for the youth of Fairmont by the YAC, and will set the precedence for future events. A high school dance in the near future depends on the success of this event.

No other citizens spoke.

Public Hearing – Robeson County 2005 - Planning for the Future

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss “Robeson County 2005 - Planning for the Future.” Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Sylvia Pate, Director of the UNCP Regional Center, gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Robeson County 2005 – Planning for the Future.” The Steering Committee, chaired by Maxton Mayor Lillie McKoy, developed five task forces for the plan. They are County Image/Marketing, Effective Government, Economic Development, Education and Workforce Development and Quality of Life. The committee plans to use a “TEAM Robeson” approach, Together Everyone Accomplishes More. The Steering Committee’s purpose is “to develop a county-wide plan through citizen leader participation that is designed to spearhead action for improving the marketability and quality of life in Robeson County by the year 2005.” Commissioner Jackson made several suggestions for the plan including adding the Afro-American Cultural Center and putting more positive emphasis on our new regional wastewater treatment plant. Commissioner Grantham also made some suggestions regarding education. Ms. Pate said she would take the comments back to the steering committee for their review. She hopes they will have a final draft in March.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Adopt Resolution of Support for “Robeson County 2005 - Planning for the Future” with any changes.

Mr. Hill asked the board to adopt the resolution of support for “Robeson County 2005 – Planning for the Future,” along with the suggested changes presented by Commissioners Jackson and Grantham. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt a resolution of support for “Robeson County 2005 - Planning for the Future” along with the suggested changes for the strategic plan made by Commissioners Jackson and Grantham. Commissioner 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.

Consider request from Commissioner John Jackson to devise a marketing strategy for the Town of Fairmont.

Mr. Hill went over Commissioner John Jackson’s proposal for a marketing strategy for the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Jackson conveyed the need to develop incentives to encourage people to come to Fairmont and Robeson County. He emphasized the positive aspects of our new regional wastewater treatment plant, which will open up the

southern end of the county for potential industries. Commissioner Jackson feels that “anything south of Hwy 74 is being strangled.” Commissioner Kemp made a motion to endorse Mayor Pro Tem John Jackson’s marketing strategy and instructed the town manager, town staff, town council and citizens of Fairmont to work together to put this strategy into action using whatever means necessary. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request from Commissioner Charles Kemp to submit a letter to Donnie Douglas, Editor of the Robesonian, detailing the progress of Fairmont.

Commissioner Kemp read the following statement for the record:

“Fairmont has made great progress over the past few years and we are a community poised at a crossroad. The question is whether we will look forward and take the road of future progress, which will improve and enhance life for all our citizens, or look toward the past and watch our growth and progress slowed. I do not believe any member of this board wants that nor do our citizens and it is for these reasons that I encourage and urge my fellow board members to utilize the strengths of our excellent manager and staff to plot a course toward industrial growth, jobs, and municipal service extension and to assume a very aggressive posture in all these areas. If Fairmont is to be the dynamic community of the future we have to shape that destiny ourselves and not rely so heavily on others.”

It is for the above reasons that Commissioner Kemp would like the Robesonian to print an article about the progress of Fairmont. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to submit a letter to Donnie Douglas, Editor of the Robesonian, detailing the progress of Fairmont. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposal from Collections Clerk Joyce Thompson on increasing the reconnect fee for non-payment of water bills.

Mr. Hill presented a proposal from Water Collections Clerk Joyce Thompson to increase the reconnect fee for non-payment of water bills to \$25.00. Ms. Thompson feels the Town could bring in more revenue as well as cut down on the number of reconnects each month if we would charge a reconnect fee each time a meter is disconnected for non-payment. The town currently charges an \$8.00 late fee plus the amount of the bill to be reconnected when a water meter is disconnected for non-payment. It is usually the same customers who are late every month and therefore would not affect senior citizens, who pay on time. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to increase the reconnect fee for non-payment of water bills to \$25.00. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposal from Recreation Director Mickey Williamson to increase the rent at the Fire Hall.

Mr. Hill presented a recommendation from Recreation Director Mickey Williamson that the town increase the rent of the Activity Room at the Fairmont Fire Hall to \$50.00 for five hours. Anything over five hours would be an additional \$10.00 an hour. There would also be an additional \$25.00 cleaning/key deposit that would be refunded afterwards if the room were left in a clean condition. For town employees and rural fire members, the rent should be \$25.00 for five hours with the additional deposit of \$25.00 being the same. The current rent is \$35.00 and town employees and firemen get the Fire Hall free of charge twice a year. The Town needs to raise the rent to cover increasing expenses at the Fire Hall. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to increase the rent of the Fire Hall for citizens to \$50.00 and charge town employees and firemen \$25, with an additional \$25.00 cleaning/key deposit for each. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of CDBG Implementation Package including Citizen Participation Plan and Project Area Committee.

Ms. Katrina Tatum presented the monthly status report on the CDBG project. The start-up visit was on January 14, 2002. The requirements for administrative funding release were satisfied and the environmental report was underway at the time of the visit. Once this item is completed and approved, project activities may begin. No funds have been expended through the program. The Town has spent approximately \$800 to purchase the file cabinet and supplies needed to administer the program. Reimbursement will be requested with the first administrative draw. The environmental report was submitted to the Town on 2/7/02. The copies are being submitted to DCA pending sign-offs. The evaluation of engineering and administrative consultant responses is complete and The Wooten Co. has been recommended to receive both awards. The Legal Services procurement package is complete and has been advertised.

Town Staff and The Wooten Company have prepared the administrative policies and ordinances required by federal, state and local regulations for the effective management of the CDBG project. The Town in conjunction with other CDBG projects has adopted similar documents. The following briefly describes each document and its intent:

- **Plan to Further Fair Housing:** This plan is designed to meet the requirements of Title VIII, Civil Rights Act of 1968, amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and sets forth the policy to be used with regard to its Fair Housing efforts. It also establishes a schedule for accomplishing the Fair Housing goals listed in the plan.

- **Equal Opportunity Procurement Policy:** This policy satisfies procurement standards as outlined in Federal Circular 24 CFR. It sets forth a procedure for the procurement of supplies, equipment, and services under this project.
- **Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low Income Persons-Section 3 Plan:** This plan must be approved prior to any contracting. It outlines the Town's efforts to ensure that all work performed under this grant will be advertised, making maximum efforts to give opportunities for employment to local persons of low and very low income.
- **Section 504 and ADA** – This document is a certification that no persons with handicapped status will be discriminated against and that accessibility under all components of this grant will be performed.
- **The Citizen Participation Plan and Project Area Committee (PAC)** approval documents serve to satisfy the requirements for citizen participation as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development/CDBG program. The Citizen Participation Plan identifies by name and demographic status all members of the Project Area Committee and the reasons for its existence. The Town of Fairmont Commissioners, neighborhood leaders and project area residents recommended the individuals asked to participate in the PAC. All recommended members of the PAC have been contacted personally by me and have agreed to participate as committee members. All Commissioners were polled to give recommendations and vote on the PAC Board representative, Commissioner Charles Townsend.
- **Residential Anti-displacement & Relocation Assistance Plan:** This plan is designed to set procedure and provide guidance to the administrative staff to minimize the adverse impacts of residential displacement. It must be adopted by the Town in accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and described in 24 CFR 570.60(b)(1).
- **Optional Coverage Relocation Plan:** This plan is designed to give the locality options other than those stipulated under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970, which is more suited to urban locations. It ensures that all classes of beneficiaries will be treated equally. Under this plan, homeowners are allowed to voluntarily demolish their homes rather than the locality having to trigger condemnation proceedings.
- **Code of Conduct/Hatch Act Policy:** This policy sets forth the standards by which the conduct of the Town staff and representatives will conduct themselves with regard to contract awards, politics and the overall administration of the grant.
- **Acquisition Guidelines:** These guidelines set forth the method(s) by which all properties designated for acquisition will be acquired, what constitutes the need to acquire and it gives the Town more flexible acquisition methods than are set forth in the Uniform Act.
- **Relocation Guidelines:** The Uniform Act is designed to protect individuals displaced through government action. Therefore, whenever federal monies are utilized in this category, the awarded jurisdiction must outline its policy and make it available to the public. These guidelines basically state that the Town will take

all precautions to avoid and or minimize the displacement, permanently or otherwise of the recipients of the CDBG grant.

- **Rehabilitation Guidelines:** These guidelines stipulate the process by which all properties covered by the grant will be rehabilitated. It also governs contracting, selection of products and supplies and governmental, contractor and owner obligations and responsibilities in the area of rehabilitation.
- **Clearance Guidelines:** These guidelines spell out policies that will be adhered to when clearing real property and the process by which a clearance determination will be made.
- **Complaint Procedure:** This procedure gives the Town, the recipient and the contractor a detailed procedure to follow in the event of disputes.
- **Contracting Officer Designation:** This designation allows the Town to designate an individual or individuals who will have contracting authority with respect to the grant. This speeds up the contracting process and outlines when contracting must be brought before the board.
- **Labor Standards Officer Designation:** The water, sewer and drainage component of the grant will require outside contractors using skilled labor to complete the work. Someone has to be responsible for making sure that all laborers are paid in accordance with the Davis Bacon regulations. This individual will also be responsible for making sure that wage determinations, laborer surveys and interviews are performed.
- **Verification Officer Designation:** The Town is required to verify that the contractor is not on the Federal and State Debarred Contractor list. This designates the individual who will have this responsibility.
- **Just Compensation Officer Designation:** Any property acquisition
- **Financial Management Procedure:** Sets forth procedure for proper flow of funds as required by DCA, making sure that the three-day rule is adhered to and that there are no unauthorized signatures on checks and other financial documents.
- **Plan to Further Fair Housing:** This plan is designed to meet the requirements of Title VIII, Civil Rights Act of 1968, amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and sets forth the policy to be used with regard to its Fair Housing efforts. It also establishes a schedule for accomplishing the Fair Housing goals listed in the plan.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Adoption of the Implementation Package for the Fairmont FY 01 Community Development Program, including the Program Initiation Manual, the Citizen Participation Plan and Project Area Committee. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Select Consultant for Administrative and Engineering Services for CDBG project.

The following represents a review of proposals submitted to the Town for Administrative and Engineering services in conjunction with the 2002 CDBG project:

- **Administrative Summary:** Services, experience, familiarity with the Town and implementation strategy are approximately the same for both consultants. Since The Wooten Company prepared the CDBG application, they are more familiar with the project itself. While The Wooten Company's not to exceed rate, \$88,826, is higher than Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates rate of \$82,000, they essentially offer more for less on an overall comparison. They will devote 366 more hours to the implementation of the grant, 1,492 hours total compared to Hobb's 1,126. If the Town were required to attain the number of hours being offered by Wooten Company at Hobbs' rate of \$72.82 per hour, it would cost the Town an additional \$26,652.12, over and above Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates' not to exceed rate of \$82,000. Considering cost, completion time and number of hours being devoted to the project, The Wooten Company is recommended for Administrative Services.
- **Engineering Summary:** The Wooten Company has a shorter time frame for project completion, 15 months, and a lower hourly rate of \$62.52 compared to Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates schedule of 16 and $\frac{3}{4}$ months and hourly rate of \$65.58. Therefore, The Wooten Company is recommended for Engineering Services.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to select the Wooten Company for the Administrative and Engineering Services for the CDBG project. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approve obligation of \$3,000 for administration of Urgent Repair Grant.

Ms. Tatum reported that on October 11, 2001, the Town submitted grant applications to the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency for the Single Family Rehabilitation and Urgent Repair Programs. The following outlines the status of each:

- **Single Family Rehabilitation Program:** The NCHFA denied the application for funding. The next funding round for this grant is in the spring of this year. One of the reasons the Town did not get approved was because our application did not offer local match funds.

- **Urgent Repair Program:** The Urgent Repair Program application for funding was approved as submitted, for \$75,000.00. Unfortunately, the reasons the Town applied for both programs was because the Urgent Repair Program does not allow for administrative costs as funded. As a result of being denied the Single Family Rehabilitation Program, the administrative costs must now be borne by the Town. If staff is able to perform the bulk of all outreach and qualification administrative work, the cost is substantially lowered from \$8,000 to about \$3,000. The Town must make a decision to obligate itself to the portion not funded, \$3,000, or turn down the funds. The normal administrative out of pocket cost for grants is 11-12 percent of local funds. This grant can be administered for 4 percent of the grant amount. This grant will allow the Town to service approximately 20 individuals for around \$3,000 plus each. Urgent repairs are classified as life threatening or modification for handicap repairs. Since most of the grant money will be issued to handicapped and elderly along with individuals with incomes below 30% of the area median, this grant is considered of great benefit to the Town residents. The money is issued to the recipients in the form of grants, not loans or deferred loans. Ms. Tatum recommended that the Board approve an obligation of \$3,000 for the administration of this grant. It can be budgeted in the FY 2002-2003 budget.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to accept the Urgent Repair Grant and approve an obligation of \$3,000 for the administration of the grant. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approve the plans for the new park on South Main and Fisher Street.

Mr. Hill informed the board that the Fairmont Park Committee met on January 30 to discuss the park plans. The committee liked the plans except for the location of the bathrooms. The consensus of the committee was to move the bathrooms to the former location of the “Friendly Lunch” building next to the canal, about 60 feet in from Main Street and move one of the picnic shelters closer to the bathroom. Mr. Dan McKenzie asked if the plans included curb and gutter around the parking on Fisher Street. Mr. Hill replied that it did. Mr. Hill added that construction would begin shortly after the plans are approved by the board, with a completion date of June 2002. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the plans for the new community park on South Main and Fisher Streets. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

First reading of the sewer use ordinance and pretreatment program.

Mr. Hill introduced the proposed sewer use ordinance and pretreatment program for our new wastewater treatment plant. This is the first reading of the ordinance. There will be

a seconding reading of the ordinance before the board adopts it. Hydro Management Services wrote the sewer use ordinance.

N.C. Department of Transportation's response to our request for a Traffic Engineering Investigation.

Mr. Hill informed the council that he received a letter from Bob Nelson, District Engineer, with the N.C.D.O.T. The N.C.D.O.T. is going to perform the three traffic investigations that the board requested back in December and report back with the findings at a later date. The areas in question are the intersection of NC 130 By Pass and White Pond Road, the intersection of Walnut Street and Leesville Road and the possibility of moving the stoplight from Walnut and Center Street to the intersection of Walnut and Jenkins Street, where Food Lion is located.

Adopt a monthly workshop for the First Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Hill explained that the town council needs a workshop every month because of the increased workload on himself and town staff. The purpose of the workshop is to keep the commissioners more informed and prepared to give out information to citizens. The items discussed at the workshop will be on the agenda at the next regular board meeting. The workshop will give the commissioners more time to study issues that require their action. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to adopt a monthly workshop for the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum's status report on the County Board meeting.

Mayor Gaddy stated that Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum is the liaison for the Town of Fairmont at the Robeson County Board meetings. It is her duty to report back to the council what the County is doing for Fairmont and surrounding areas. Mr. Hill encouraged any of the commissioners to attend the county board meetings to show support for our County. Ms. Tatum gave her report on the County board meeting held on February 4. The following items were of interest to the Town of Fairmont:

- **Cultural Fest 2002** – This festive occasion is scheduled for the week of February 17th-21st, 2002.
- **Robeson County Prevention Coalition:** This coalition is a formation of service agency partnerships and is designed to assist Robeson County citizens achieve maximum benefit of services through the Health Department and other service agencies. It is a confidential service geared to cut through some of the red tape when dealing with County service providers in the areas of child abuse, teen pregnancy and prevention, spousal abuse and other types of domestic violence.

- **Robeson County Law Enforcement Executive Association:** This organization gives college scholarships to worthy Robeson County students. At least three \$750.00 scholarships are given each year.
- **Mental Health Service Delivery:** The Robeson County Health Department is restructuring its services to provide citizens with the most effective mental health care possible.
- **Certified Sites Program:** The Committee of 100's representative, John McNeill appeared before the County Board to emphasize the importance of certifying industrial sites if Robeson County intends to compete with other areas for industry. Industries are looking for sites that have already met the criteria for water, sewer, environmental and utilities prior to committing to relocate. The Committee of 100 would like to spear head this effort by coordinating the certifications for the County. It proposes to certify at least 2-4 sites per fiscal year and have these sites shovel ready when requested. They are asking for funds from the affected towns, the county, property owners and other sources to fund the certifications. The County Board approved the request for County participation, agreeing to cover between 20% and 40% of the cost to certify sites.
- **Memorandum of Understanding for the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization by Jim Perry, LRCOG** - Mr. Perry did not go into detail concerning this issue. However, the federal government is apparently providing additional assistance in the area of transportation for deprived areas such as Southeastern North Carolina. Robeson County will be included in the SE Border Designation anticipated for approval sometime in the late fall.
- **Personnel:** The County has several new positions being advertised in the tax department as well as other areas. The positions will be advertised in about one month. Ms. Tatum requested that Fairmont be placed on the County's list for job opportunity postings.

The February 18th County Board meeting will be held on February 25. The first Board meeting in March has been canceled and will also take place February 25. This meeting was canceled to allow the Commissioners and Manager to attend the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, March 1-5, 2002.

Letter from Greenbrier Rest Home praising the Town for its response to the fire at their facility on January 11, 2002.

Mr. Hill presented a letter to the council from the residents and employees of Greenbrier Rest Home. The letter thanks and praises the Fairmont Police Department, Fire Department, town staff, rescue unit and the L.R.C.O.G. for their response to the fire at their facility on January 11. Mr. Hill said everyone should be commended for working together and helping the senior citizens.

Discussion on Exit 10.

Mr. Hill passed out a map of the area around Exit 10 on Interstate I-95. The Town of Fairmont would like to eventually provide sewer to the area around Exit 10. The County already has water at the site. Mr. Hill is in the process of talking with the City of Lumberton about providing electricity. Exit 10 is a prime industrial site, with 1,200 acres that could be developed. Commissioner Kemp feels providing sewer to Exit 10 would benefit surrounding communities like McDonald and Raynham. Commissioner Jackson was glad to hear that Mr. Hill has been talking with other municipalities about Exit 10. He was upset when he heard that the City of Lumberton had annexed the D.O.T. right of way of I-95 up to Exit 10, Chicken Road and Hilly Branch Road.

Institute a hiring freeze, wage adjustment freeze and reduction in spending.

Mr. Hill announced that Governor Mike Easley has decided to withhold \$81,244 in municipal revenues from the Town of Fairmont. \$81,244 represents a 12-cent property tax increase if we tried to make up for the loss of funds. Governor Easley withheld \$209 million from local governments statewide to make up for an estimated \$1.1 billion budget shortfall. The North Carolina League of Municipalities has informed municipalities that the state will probably not release the money at all. Mr. Hill would like the board to institute a hiring freeze, wage adjustment/merit freeze and cut back on spending except for emergencies. The Town has written Gov. Easley a letter letting him know how the loss of funds will affect our budget. The Town may have no alternative but to use part of our reserve fund balance. Commissioner Jackson asked about the proposed merit freeze and if any employees had received merits this year. Mr. Hill replied that involved personnel and needed to be discussed in closed session. The board decided to make a decision on the hiring freeze, wage adjustment/merit freeze and reduction in spending after they came out of closed session.

Announcements

The Town of Rowland will host the Robeson County Municipal Association on Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the M.J. Soffe Cafeteria on Hwy 301.

A Breakfast Discussion Meeting with Congressman Mike McIntyre will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2002 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Center in Lumberton.

The “Tomorrow’s Biotechnology for Southeast North Carolina” conference at UNC Pembroke will be held on February 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Mayor Gaddy, Commissioner Townsend and Commissioner Currie will be attending the New Mayor and Council School in Wilmington on February 13 & 14.

The Fairmont Youth Council will sponsor a Middle School Dance on Friday, February 15, 2002 from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Closed Session

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go into closed session at 7:55 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 Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, McCree, Townsend, Currie, Kemp and Grantham, Ben Hill, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:50 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to institute a hiring freeze on new positions, a wage adjustment/merit freeze and reduction in spending. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Agenda Workshop - March 5, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special agenda workshop on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were John Jackson, Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, Antonio Currie and Charles Townsend. Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Town Clerk Jenny Larson were also in attendance.

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

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss agenda items for board action at the regular board meeting on March 12, 2002. The council discussed several items including the following:

- Present Plaque to Robert Jones for 30 years of service with the town.
- Present Plaque to Public Works Director Ronnie Seals for Employee of the Year 2001.
- Second Reading of Sewer Use Ordinance.
- Opportunity to nominate candidates for the Health Foundation for North Carolina, Inc. Board of Directors. Commissioner Jackson suggested Mr. Raymond Johnson and the board agreed by consensus.
- Bonaventure Subdivision – South Main Street, Approve Administrative Package for Crisis Housing Assistance Fund Grant (CHAF) Program.
- Ashley House Demolition. The council also wants to discuss more properties for demolition at the regular board meeting including the Meares property on Mitchell St, a house on North Main St. and a building next to Ralph Hill in North Fairmont. Mr. Hill suggested that the board give authority to the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager to use a different attorney on demolition cases since Town Attorney Charlie Floyd represents many homeowners in the community.
- Name Linda Vause as Deputy Town Clerk.
- Declare April 15-28, 2002 as Spring Clean and Green weeks.
- OSHA Safety & Health Package.
- CDBG Monthly Status Report.
- GIS Mapping and Hazard Mitigation Grant Approval.
- Meeting with Columbus County and its townships. On Thursday, February 28, Ben Hill and Commissioner John Jackson met with Columbus County, Fair Bluff, Cerro Gordo and Boardman. Columbus County agreed to appropriate money to apply for grants to hook on to our regional sewer plant. We can give Columbus County up to ½ millions gallons of sewer a day.
- Discuss Exit 10. Town Attorney Charlie Floyd presented a map of Lumberton's proposed annexation of Exit 10, I-95 and Chicken Road. Attorney Floyd said it was a flawed annexation but would probably pass unless someone objected to it. Mr. Hill said that Lumberton City Manager Todd Powell wants to set up a meeting with Mr. Hill, Mayor Gaddy, Mayor Pro Tem Jackson, and his mayor and mayor pro tem to discuss the possibility of Fairmont providing sewer to the area.

Mr. Hill said a couple more items may come up during citizens appearance, including a petition for liquor by the drink and complaints from citizens about past due property taxes. Mr. Hill also said he was going to add to the agenda that the workshops be discontinued.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – March 12, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, J.J. McCree and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Finance Director Linda Vause. Others present included Robert Jones, Huel Faulk, Josh Thrailkill, Scott Witten, Rusty Perry, Charles Tedder, Sam Tedder, Mitch Ray, Cliff Rich, Abner Harrington, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Johnny Britt, Dennis Freeman, Rev. Chester Hopkins and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 12, and the Workshop on March 5, 2002. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tax Releases

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to release taxes in the amount of \$218.70. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mayor Gaddy presented Robert Jones a plaque for 30 years of service with the Town of Fairmont.

Mayor Gaddy presented Public Works Director Ronnie Seals a plaque for being named Employee of the Year 2001.

Josh Thrailkill, with the Fairmont Youth Advisory Council, presented his monthly report. He stated that the Middle School Dance on February 15 was a big success. The Youth Advisory Council is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day High School Dance on Friday, March 15 from 7:30 to 11:30 at the Fairmont Fire Hall. Tickets are \$4.00 each and only 125 will be sold. A police officer will be on duty for security reasons. Centura Bank will donate the refreshments.

Commissioner Townsend introduced Rev. Chester Hopkins, the new pastor at First Baptist Church, North Main St. Rev. Hopkins is from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Administrative Matters

Second Reading of Sewer Use Ordinance.

Town Manager Ben Hill went over the second reading of the Sewer Use Ordinance, which is required for any municipality that uses over 25,000 gallons per day. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt the Sewer Use Ordinance following its second reading. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this Sewer Use Ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Bonaventure Subdivision – South Main Street, Approve Administrative Package for Crisis Housing Assistance Fund Grant (CHAF) Program.

Town Staff and the Durham Regional Finance Center have prepared the administrative policies and ordinances required by federal, state and local regulations for the effective management of the CHAF project. Section I of the Administrative Package contain documents relative to the budget and financial and administrative management including the Grant Project Ordinance, the Resolution of Acceptance and the Resolution for Requisitions, Check Signatures and Administration. The Town of Fairmont adopted a Program Initiation Manual, February 12, 2002, containing in part; Plan to Further Fair Housing, Equal Opportunity and Procurement Policy, Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low Income Persons-Section 3 Plan, Section 504 and ADA, Complaint Procedure, Contracting Officer Designation Labor Standards Officer Designation, Verification Officer Designation Financial Management Procedure, Plan to Further Fair Housing, and Code of Conduct/Hatch Act Policy for the FY 2001 CDBG program. Section II is a resolution to adopt the above policies and plans for the CHAF program that were adopted for the CDBG program. This will avoid duplication and result in a more unified approach for both grants.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to accept the Resolution to adopt FY 2001 CDBG Policies, Plans and Procedures for the Town of Fairmont FY 00 Crisis Housing Assistance Fund Program, Bonaventure II Project. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Grant Project Ordinance, the Resolution of Acceptance, and the Resolution for Requisitions, Check Signatures and Administration for the Town of Fairmont FY 00 Crisis Housing Assistance Fund Program, Bonaventure II Project. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these resolutions is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Name Linda Vause as Deputy Town Clerk.

Mr. Hill asked the board to name Linda Vause Deputy Town Clerk and authorize her to sign official documents in the absence of Town Clerk Jenny Larson. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to name Linda Vause as Deputy Town Clerk. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Declare April 15-28, 2002 as Spring Clean and Green weeks.

Mr. Hill asked the board to proclaim April 15-28, 2002 as Spring Clean and Green weeks for Fairmont. During this time, citizens can get rid of furniture, white goods, tires and other bulky items at no cost. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to declare April 15-28, 2002 as Spring Clean and Green weeks for Fairmont. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OSHA Safety & Health Package.

Mr. Hill stated that during the voluntary consultation with the North Carolina Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, it was discovered the Town is in need of adopting a complete Safety and Health Program that includes various plans, policies and procedures. The Town decided to participate in the voluntary program in order to discover any OSHA weaknesses without the threat of citation. The following plans and policies are part of the OSHA Safety and Health Package:

- Safety and Health Program - This plan is an overall program designed to make sure that the Town has a procedure for ensuring that all employees are protected against occupational hazards. A Coordinator/Director of Safety and Health matters must be identified in this program.
- Control of Hazardous Energy-Lockout/Tag-out Program – This is a plan outlining procedures to protect employees against hazardous energy sources such as electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic, fluids and gases and mechanical.
- Fire Prevention Plan – This plan outlines procedures to protect employees against fire and fire related hazards. A full time staff member must be identified to act as the Fire Prevention Administrator.
- Police and Fire Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan – This plan outlines procedures to protect members of the Police and Fire Departments against Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure. An Infectious Control Officer must be appointed as a part of this plan. The Police Chief is normally appointed to serve in this capacity. A resolution has been prepared to ensure that the Police Chief position also carries the designation of Infectious Control Officer.

- Public Works Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan – This plan outlines procedures to protect members of the Public Works Department against Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure.
- Hazard Communication Program – This program describes how the Town intends to protect employees who are exposed to hazardous chemicals in the work place.
- Access To Exposure and Medical Records – Because employees have the right to access the exposure and medical records this plan is put in place to ensure compliance.
- Emergency Action Plan – This plan outlines the procedures the Town will take to protect employees against natural and manmade emergencies such as fire, bomb threats, severe weather, etc.
- Personal Protective Equipment Hazard Assessment – This assessment is required for the Public Works Department to identify hazardous tasks and the protective equipment needed to protect employees during the performance of those tasks.
- Confined Space Entry Program – This program is designed to protect employees while working in spaces large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; but which has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry.); and is not designed for continuous employee occupancy. The confined space survey; which identifies the confined space areas is made a part of the program.
- Chemical Hygiene Plan – This plan outlines procedures to protect employees who work in the wastewater treatment plant laboratory and handle chemicals related to the operation of the plant.

Mr. Hill mentioned that copies of these plans are on file in Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum's office. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the OSHA Safety and Health Package. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CDBG Monthly Status Report.

Mr. Hill reported that no funds were expended for the CDBG program in February. All Citizen Participation, Current Status Reports, Administrative and Engineering contract requirements were sent to Department of Commerce (DCA) on February 20, 2002. The Environmental Review was sent to DCA on February 18, 2002. The pre-design

engineering meeting for street and drainage improvements was held with the Wooten Company on March 1. Steve Player, William Bizzell, Ben Hill, and Katrina Tatum were present. Details affecting the improvements were discussed and finalized. The Wooten Company is now in the process of finalizing the plans for these improvements.

GIS Mapping and Hazard Mitigation Grant Approval.

Mr. Hill emphasized that if a natural disaster occurs, the Town must apply for federal and state disaster assistance as we did for the Fran and Floyd hurricanes in order to recover. The Town is not capable of recovery without assistance. The federal and state authorities are requiring local jurisdictions to develop hazard mitigation plans in order to receive assistance during such disasters. The federal authorities have not set a deadline as of yet, however, the state has mandated that the mitigation plans be written by June 30, 2002 and adopted by the governing board by August 1, 2002. The Wooten Company has offered to prepare an application for grant assistance to develop the Hazard Mitigation plan as well as GIS Mapping for the town. No local match is required for grant assistance. Commissioner McCree made a motion to instruct the Wooten Company to submit a grant application for funds to develop a Hazard Mitigation plan and GIS Mapping for the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting with Columbus County and its townships.

On Thursday, February 28, Town Manager Ben Hill and Commissioner John Jackson met with Columbus County, Fair Bluff, Cerro Gordo and Boardman government officials. After meeting for half an hour, Columbus County agreed to appropriate funds to apply for grants to hook on to our regional wastewater treatment plant. The town can give Columbus County up to ½ millions gallons of sewer a day. Mr. Hill said it was a pleasure to see governing bodies work together in a very positive manner. Commissioner Jackson added he was impressed with the speed and uniformity of Columbus County's governing units in making the decision to connect to our system. Mr. Hill mentioned that the new plant should be operational within 60 days.

Discuss Exit 10.

Mr. Hill presented a map of Lumberton's proposed annexation of I-95 and Exit 10. The City of Lumberton has annexed the DOT right of way of I-95 to Exit 10, then down SR 1003 to McDonald/Hilly Branch Road and down that road back to I-95. Mr. Hill is currently negotiating with the City of Lumberton about providing sewer to Exit 10. The county already has water lines there and Lumberton could provide the electricity. Commissioner Jackson feels that Exit 10 has always been Fairmont's exit and hopes that Lumberton will allow us to provide sewer to the site. He also hopes the county will work with Fairmont on providing sewer to residents on the southern end of the county since septic tanks often fail.

Adopt Resolution in support of the present system of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Mr. Hill was approached by Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Chairman of the Fairmont ABC Board, about requesting the town council to adopt a resolution supporting the present system of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The Legislative Alcoholic Beverage Control Study Commission is considering a plan to privatize the sale of alcoholic beverages. The North Carolina Association of ABC Boards is requesting the adoption of this resolution so they can present it to the Study Commission and convince them not to privatize the sale of alcoholic beverages. The Town of Fairmont receives a small amount of revenue from the ABC Board each year and we would lose those funds if Alcoholic Beverage Control became private. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a Resolution in support of the present system of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Make a motion to discontinue the monthly workshops on the First Tuesday of every month.

Mayor Gaddy pointed out there will be times when the board will need to have specially called workshops, especially during budget season, but that it is not necessary to have a workshop every month. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to discontinue the monthly workshops on the First Tuesday of every month with the stipulation that the council meet whenever the Mayor deems necessary. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Gaddy received a letter from Governor Easley concerning the state's budget deficit of \$900 million dollars.

The State of the Young Child Conference will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at the Osterneck Auditorium, Robeson County Public Library, in Lumberton.

The Towns of Parkton and Lumber Bridge will host the Robeson County Municipal Association.

Commissioner McCree will be attending the New Mayor and Council School in Boone on March 13-15.

The Town offices will be closed on Friday, March 29, 2002 in observance of Good Friday and Easter.

The Fairmont Youth Council will sponsor a High School Dance on Friday, March 15, 2002 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Mayor Gaddy announced that Agenda Item C, Demolition Progress for 305 Mitchell Street, 114 Iona Street, 114 North Main Street and 606 Red Cross Street would be discussed following closed session.

Closed Session

Commissioner McCree made a motion to go into closed session at 6:35 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, McCree, Townsend, Currie, Kemp and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Demolition Progress for 305 Mitchell Street, 114 Iona Street, 114 North Main Street and 606 Red Cross Street.

Mr. Hill gave a progress report on the following properties scheduled for demolition:

- 305 Mitchell Street – Minimum Housing Code paperwork was prepared to serve the owner of this property and the owner refused service. Consultations with his attorneys have proved fruitless. The Minimum Housing Code paperwork will be sent to the owner's attorney along with an offer to demolish the structure for a fee of \$150.
- 114 Iona Street – This property is scheduled for demolition on April 15, 2002.
- 114 North Main Street – The Board of Trustees of the First Baptist Church on South Main Street have agreed to pay the fee of \$150.00 under voluntary demolition. This property is scheduled for demolition within three weeks.
- 606 Red Cross Street – Efforts to negotiate with owners to enter into a voluntary demolition agreement have failed. The Minimum Housing Code process was initiated on March 8, 2002.

Mr. Hill explained the costs for voluntary demolition of property. It costs \$150 for a structure less than 900 square feet, \$300 for a structure more than 900 square feet and \$500 for a brick structure. The town can use state drug money to get some of these structures on the ground. The town has to use special equipment to break the pieces up small enough for the county to haul it off to the landfill. Commissioner Jackson made a motion instructing Town Attorney Charlie Floyd and Code Enforcement Officer Katrina Tatum to use all legal avenues to get dilapidated houses demolished. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – April 9, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, Antonio Currie, J.J. McCree and Charles Townsend. Commissioner John Jackson was absent due to illness. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Finance Director Linda Vause. Others present included Huel Faulk, Josh Thraikill, Scott Witten, Mitch Ray, E.R. Gause, Bill Lewis, Andy Grimsley, Gaines Grantham and several other concerned citizens.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Commissioner Townsend gave the invocation and said a prayer for Commissioner Jackson.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 12, 2002. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tax Releases

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to release improperly listed property taxes in the amount of \$449.58. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Josh Thraikill, with the Fairmont Youth Advisory Council, presented his monthly report. The Youth Council met on March 18 and discussed the St. Patrick's Day High School Dance held on March 15. The success of the event was not as great as expected. The reasons for this were lack of advertisement, event being on a teacher workday, age group targeted and ticket price. The YAC recommended that the next event should be another middle school dance based on the success of the previous middle school dance. The YAC also decided that because most of its members are high school seniors that an event for the recruitment of younger members is needed. An event with food, music and other activities should be held and available to all students that can attend at no charge to help gain prospective members.

Mr. Andy Grimsley was present to discuss the possibility of holding a Mixed Beverages election for the Town of Fairmont. Mr. Grimsley recognizes the need for another sit down restaurant in Fairmont. He would like to open a restaurant but needs outside investors. He said the ability to sell mixed drinks would be a good economic incentive and help him obtain the funds necessary to open a restaurant. Mr. Grimsley would like to

see the town hold an election to let the people of Fairmont decide whether they want liquor by the drink or not. Mr. Hill said the Town of Fairmont is qualified to hold a Mixed Beverage Election under G.S. 18B-600(e) because we have at least 500 registered voters and operate a town ABC Store. Attorney Charlie Floyd added that the town board can call for the election or it can be obtained with a petition of 35% of the registered voters. Mr. Grimsley said he had been working on a petition but that asking the board to call for the election was quicker. Mayor Gaddy advised the council to wait until the May board meeting to vote on the mixed beverages election so it can be studied in more detail. The council decided it was best to go ahead and start the process so Commissioner Grantham made a motion to give the people of Fairmont an election on allowing mixed beverages within the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hill said a letter would be sent to the Robeson County Board of Elections asking to hold the election at least 90 days from now.

Administrative Matters

CDBG Monthly Status Report.

Town Manager Ben Hill presented the monthly CDBG status report. In administrative matters, the CDBG program office approved the Town's Fair Housing Plan and Complaint Procedure, but recommended a couple of minor changes be made to each. They also requested the Town complete a new Section 504 Self Evaluation Survey. Apparently the one that was on file at DCA no longer satisfies HUD requirements. The requested changes and the new Self Evaluation Survey were completed within two days of the request and returned to Charlie Thompson at DCA. In engineering matters, the scope of work for street and drainage improvements has been determined and a contract has been executed with the Wooten Company to begin the procurement process for execution of the work. In environmental matters, the Town has received some responses under the environmental review. To date, no negative responses have been received. The environmental review process should be completed during the third week in May. At that time the town will request a Release of Funds to begin program activity. As far as the project's budget, no expenditures have been made at this time.

Adopt Sewer Improvement Project Loan Resolution for Rural Development loan closing.

The Rural Development loan for the new regional wastewater treatment plant project is scheduled to close on April 22, 2002. The Loan Resolution, which was adopted by the board on February 11, 1997, contains an error in the grant amount. The following forms are to be receded and revised forms adopted: Form RD 1942-47 Loan Resolution, Form RD 400-1 Equal Opportunity Agreement, and Form RD 400-4 Assurance Agreement. Mr. Hill is working with Mr. Ronnie Pope of Rural Development to get all the necessary documents together for the loan closing on April 22.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to rescind the loan documents adopted on February 11, 1997 and adopt the revised Sewer Improvement Project Loan documents and resolution as part of the Rural Development loan closing. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these documents are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$3,000,000 General Obligation Waste Water Bonds for the Town of Fairmont.

Mr. Hill mentioned that the board needs to adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$3,000,000 General Obligation Waste Water Bonds, Series 2002A and 2002B. The Bonds were used to finance the construction of the new regional wastewater sewer plant. The Bonds will be issued in two series, designated “Waste Water Bonds, Series 2002A” in the aggregate principal amounts of \$1,250,000 and “Waste Water Bonds, Series 2002B” in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,750,000 and shall be dated April 22, 2002. The Bonds shall mature in annual installments beginning June 1, 2002 and will be paid in full by June 1, 2041.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$3,000,000 General Obligation Waste Water Bonds for the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner 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.

Board of Adjustment appointments.

Mr. Hill acknowledged the need to update the Town’s Board of Adjustment with new members. The Board of Adjustment consists of 5 Town Commissioners with the 6th Commissioner serving as an alternate and two citizens that live in the town’s one mile ETJ. The term for each commissioner follows their elected term of office and the term of office for the citizens is three years. The council needs to decide which Commissioner will serve as the alternate and also choose two citizens. Ms. Katrina Tatum suggested using the out of town members of the Planning Board, Mr. Lacey Floyd and Mr. Ronald I. Jackson because the County Board of Commissioners appointed them. The Board of Adjustment rarely meets except in quasi-judicial situations involving zoning disputes.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to appoint the current town council, with Commissioner John Jackson serving as alternate, to the Fairmont Board of Adjustments along with citizens Ronald I. Jackson and Lacey Floyd. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposal for a Race Relations Committee.

Pastor Linda Moody has expressed an interest in forming and serving on a Race Relations Committee. Pastor Moody believes that if the races begin to work more cohesively, Fairmont would grow and improve at a more rapid pace. Mr. Hill went over a letter he received today from Dr. Felicia Wilkins-Turner, the Southeastern Regional Director of the North Carolina Human Relations Commission. Dr. Turner congratulated the board for considering a race relations committee but pointed out the differences between a race relations committee and a human relations committee. A race relations committee addresses just community racial problems. A human relations committee addresses a broader area of concerns including race, gender, handicap, age and national origins within the community. Issues such as sexual harassment, employment concerns, Klu-Klux-Klan activity, school gang issues, racial issues, law enforcement concerns and more are addressed by a human relations committee. Mr. Hill added that the town has had a human relations committee in the past and it could be beneficial to revise it. Mr. Hill suggested that he and Mayor Gaddy meet with Dr. Wilkins-Turner to get more information before making a decision on the committee. Mr. Hill read a statement from Commissioner Jackson expressing his support for a race relations committee. Commissioner McCree made a motion to table the race relations/human relations committee proposal until the May meeting. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proclamation – Municipal Clerks Week, April 28 – May 4, 2002.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to proclaim April 28 – May 4, 2002 as Municipal Clerks Week. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Proclamation – NC Women’s Club Centennial Celebration.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to proclaim April 24, 2002 as the NC Women’s Club Centennial Celebration Day. 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.

Amendment – Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the amendment to the North Carolina Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule, Standard-3 Budget and Fiscal Records and Standard-13 Personnel Records. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution of Support to name the oldest building on the campus of Rosenwald Elementary School in honor of the late Mr. John H. Isley.

The Rosenwald Alumni Association has made a request for the town council to adopt a resolution of support to name the oldest building on the campus of Rosenwald Elementary School in honor of the late Mr. John H. Isley. Professor Isley opened the first school for colored children in Fairmont in the fall of 1908 with a salary of \$50 a month. After the first seven years, he began building the present Rosenwald School with the help of Richard Bradshaw. Mr. Hill read a statement from Commissioner Jackson expressing his support for naming the oldest building on Rosenwald after Mr. Isley. In his statement, Commissioner Jackson also suggested using this opportunity to gather information on how to preserve all the historic properties in Fairmont. Mayor Gaddy mentioned that Rosenwald Elementary School as well as the old Yellowhammer School are being looked at by the historical society. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to fully and enthusiastically adopt a Resolution of Support to name the oldest building on the campus of Rosenwald Elementary School in honor of the late Mr. John H. Isley. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution of Membership in the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization (LRRTPO).

Mr. Hill informed the board that the North Carolina Department of Transportation has been working with County Boards of Commissioners to form multi-county Rural Transportation Planning Organizations in North Carolina. The purpose of these RTPOs is to grant local governments, municipal and county, the ability to undertake multi-modal transportation planning on a local and regional level. The counties of Hoke, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland are signing a Memorandum of Understanding to form the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization. The Lumber River Council of Governments is asking each municipality to adopt a resolution of membership for the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization. As members of the LRRTPO, the town council shall vote on all nominated municipal official representatives on the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee and vote to elect one representative for membership on the Transportation Coordinating Committee. The town can also make suggestions on what will benefit Fairmont transportation wise in the next 10 years. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Membership in the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization (LRRTPO). Commissioner 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.

FY 02 Urgent Repair Program Assistance Policy.

Ms. Tatum reported that local governments are required to develop and approve a program assistance policy under the Urgent Repair Program in order to maintain a system of administration that includes the required program guidelines and regulates the award

procedure to insure that awards are made equitably and without prejudice to any protected class. The Town’s recommended award policy was approved by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) and according to the Agency, is “well written”. The most significant area of this policy is the award process, which outlines the rating system by which awards will be made. Although anyone may apply under this program, the regulations dictate that individuals with special needs be given preferences in the rating system. The rating system is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Elderly Head of Household (62 or older) | 4 points |
| 2. Disabled Head of Household | 4 points |
| 3. Disabled or Elderly Household Member | 2 points |
| 4. Single-Parent Household (one or more children in the home) | 3 points |
| 5. Large Family (5 or more permanent residents) | 2 points |
| 6. No special needs (as listed above) | -2 points |
| 7. Income less than 30% of County Median income | 4 points |
| 8. Income 30% to 40% of County Median income | 3 points |
| 9. Income 41% to 50% of County Median income | 2 points |

Ms. Tatum emphasized that the Urgent Repair Program is for owner occupied properties only. She is going to advertise the program in the town’s newsletter and post it in the water department. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt the FY 02 Urgent Repair Program Assistance Policy. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Set May 6th as date for next Town Issue Forum.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to set May 6th 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. Commissioner Grantham suggested announcing the forum at local churches to increase participation by the citizens.

Announcements

The Town of Maxton will host the Robeson County Municipal Association in April. The Town of Fairmont will host the RCMA in May.

The Town of Fairmont Spring Clean and Green Weeks will be April 15 – 28.

The Fairmont Dixie Youth Baseball Opening Day ceremonies will be Saturday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Little League baseball field. There are 18 teams this year and it is the biggest program the town has ever had.

Mr. Hill mentioned that he received a letter regarding Raymond Johnson’s application for the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Health Foundation.

Mr. Hill also received a letter from Time Warner Cable regarding cable modem services and the small reduction in franchise fees.

The Town of Fairmont received a check for \$24,317.00 from NC Emergency Management to assist in the town's Hurricane Floyd recovery efforts thanks to the hard work of Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum.

The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet Monday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall. Dinner will be served at a cost of \$6 per person.

Closed Session

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 6:50 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 industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:51 p.m. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner McCree made a motion to add the discussion of personnel to closed session as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to go back into closed session at 6:52 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners McCree, Townsend, Currie, Kemp and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, industry, and personnel, Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Attorney Charlie Floyd announced that the Golf Course Road Annexation lawsuit is on the court calendar for the week of April 22. The case is #17 on the docket.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to vote on firing the Town Manager. Mayor Gaddy immediately called a recess at 7:27 p.m. and left the council chambers followed by Commissioners Kemp and Grantham, Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd and Town Clerk Jenny Larson. After a brief recess, Mayor Gaddy called the meeting back to order at 7:45 p.m. with everyone present. Commissioner McCree stated there was a motion and second on the floor. Mayor Gaddy declared that Commissioner McCree's motion was out of order. Mayor Gaddy then adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer H. Larson, Town Clerk

Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Emergency Called Meeting – April 12, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held an emergency called meeting on Friday, April 12, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, Antonio Currie and John Jackson. Commissioners Charles Townsend and J.J. McCree were absent but were duly notified of the emergency meeting. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, and Finance Director Linda Vause. Others present included Scott Witten, Venita Jenkins, Terry Hunt and Norma Hill.

With a quorum present, Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and Commissioner Jackson gave the invocation.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 6:06 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 Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, Currie, Kemp and Grantham, Ben Hill, Sam Hunt, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and personnel, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor Gaddy announced that no action had been taken and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Special Called Meeting – May 2, 2002**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, Charles Townsend, Antonio Currie and John Jackson. Commissioner J.J. McCree were absent but was duly notified of the special meeting. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum. Mr. Danny Nobles was also present

With a quorum present, Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and Commissioner Townsend gave the invocation.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 5:01 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 industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Jackson, Currie, Kemp, Townsend and Grantham, Ben Hill, Katrina Tatum, Charlie Floyd, Danny Nobles and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information and industry, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 5:43 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion for Mayor Gaddy to send a letter to the In 7 Company stating the Town Council's full support of their industry and thanking them for their involvement in our community and children's education. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Citizens Issue Forum
Monday, May 6, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held its quarterly Citizens Issue Forum on Monday, May 6, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were John Jackson, Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, Charles Townsend and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Antonio Currie was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Chief Sam Hunt, Linda Vause, Mickey Williamson, and Alex Monroe. There were over 150 citizens present with the following citizens speaking for the record: Lynn Bergman, Raven Taylor, Frances Davis, Margery Wallace, Gaines Grantham, Bill Lewis, Jimmy Byrne, Daphne Byrne, Wade Sealey, Patricia Sealey, Bill Taylor, Mitch Ray, Anne Marks, Bill Marks, Bridget Bass, Charlie Grantham, Melvin Rogers, and Linda Hicks.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order and Rev. Lynn Bergman gave the invocation.

Mayor Gaddy stated that the purpose of the forum is to hear citizen's concerns. He asked that each speaker state their name for the record and hold their comments to three minutes.

Ms. Raven Taylor began by asking the council what their problem was with Mr. Ben Hill. Commissioner McCree, who made the motion to fire Mr. Hill at the last regular board meeting on April 9th, said that it was a personnel issue and he did not want to get into the specifics at a public forum. Commissioner McCree did say that he has heard both pros and cons about Mr. Hill and that some citizens in the community want stronger leadership. Commissioner Grantham responded that she has no complaint with Mr. Hill and feels Fairmont has a strong leader in him. Commissioner Kemp added that the Town of Fairmont has made tremendous strides and progress under Mr. Hill. Commissioner Jackson also expressed support for Mr. Hill and that as a commissioner he will strive to vote in the best interest of Fairmont citizens and town employees.

Ms. Frances Davis wanted clarification that not all of the commissioners are for Mr. Hill. Ms. Margery Wallace couldn't understand the reason behind the vote to fire Mr. Hill. She said the town has never looked better, that we have a wonderful police department and that she is concerned for everyone in town.

Mr. Gaines Grantham asked Commissioner McCree if it was his intention to bring up the issue of firing Mr. Hill again if one of the commissioners in favor of Mr. Hill is absent from an upcoming board meeting. Commissioner McCree responded that each situation is different. He feels that he made the right decision at the last board meeting and that the situation has not been resolved.

Mr. Jimmy Byrne spoke on behalf of the citizens involved in the All American City project. He said he has talked individually with each commissioner and has heard no solid reason why Mr. Hill should be fired. Mr. Byrne gave several reasons why the Town of Fairmont has progressed under Mr. Hill's leadership including the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, the new Medical Clinic, the Dialysis Center, the Indian Housing Authority apartments, In 7 Company, the new community park and the Community Building. Mr. Byrne wants the town board to make peace. He emphasized that it is the job of the town council to make policy and the town manager's job to enforce those policies. If Mr. Hill does not do his job, then there would be a reason to fire him. Mr. Byrne asked the citizens present to raise their hand if they were supporters of Mr. Hill. The majority of the people in the room stood up and clapped as a vote of confidence for Mr. Hill. Mr. Byrne concluded by asking the board to show their confidence in Mr. Hill by giving him a three-year contract or he would bring the whole town to the May 14th board meeting. Mr. Wade Sealey asked the board if they realized that firing Mr. Hill would destroy the town. He agreed with Mr. Byrne that the board should come to a compromise and give Mr. Hill a contract.

Mrs. Patricia Sealey commended Mayor Gaddy for his "grace under fire" and said that Fairmont could not find a better mayor than him. The citizens agreed and stood up and clapped for Mayor Gaddy. Mrs. Sealey also commended Police Chief Sam Hunt for his help during a recent church break in at First Baptist South Main. She asked the council whether they wanted unity or dissension for Fairmont. She added that a World Changers Mission Group would be coming to Fairmont next summer to help repair homes in North Fairmont. The church is working with Mr. Hill and Katrina Tatum on this project.

Commissioner Jackson informed the citizens that he was offended when the vote to fire Mr. Hill came up while he was in the hospital. He wanted to know why Commissioner McCree could not wait and table the issue until he was present and able to vote. Commissioner Jackson did not like being denied his right to vote on this issue. He feels outside influence was behind the vote. He said that you should not "throw a stone and then hide behind a bush."

Commissioner Kemp stated he supports Mr. Hill 100 percent. Commissioner Kemp would like to research the possibility of a contract and if feasible, would vote for one. Commissioner Jackson supports Mr. Hill but is wary of a contract. He would like something like arbitration instead. Commissioner Grantham also stated her full support of Mr. Hill. She said it would be hard to find someone who has done as much as Mr. Hill has for Fairmont because he loves this town and its people. The citizens clapped again.

Mr. Bill Taylor, of the Fairmont Civitans, said the Civitan club struggles every year with whether or not to continue sponsoring Little League Baseball. He said Mr. Hill has been a strong supporter of the Little League program. This year's program is the largest to date with over 200 kids participating. He said now is the wrong time to be bickering. He advised the council to pull together and "weather the storm."

Commissioner Townsend expressed his feelings that government should work for the entire community. He said he has a lot of respect for everyone. He stated that the town should not be afraid of change. He realizes that there have been tough times in Fairmont and that we need to be looking to the future. He wants Fairmont to progress and develop to benefit all people.

Mayor Gaddy appreciated all the citizens for coming to the meeting. He said that the job situation is tough both in Fairmont and Robeson County and that makes it hard to grow. However, Fairmont has had steady growth even in these tough times and with the addition of our new sewer plant, hopefully industry will follow.

Town Manager Ben Hill thanked everybody for their support. He stated that he has “worked his ass off” for the Town of Fairmont for 23 ½ years and is only 18 months away from retirement. It hurts his feelings to know that some of the commissioners want him gone. He feels that certain people have agendas and are pitting the commissioners against each other. He said that those people do not have Fairmont’s best interest at heart and that they do not have a “backbone.” All Mr. Hill wanted to know was why they wanted fire him. Mr. Hill loves the citizens of Fairmont and will continue to work for them. He asked the board to work out its differences and that in the meantime he was going to continue to work hard for Fairmont. Mayor Gaddy added that even though Mr. Hill works for the pleasure of the board it should also be a pleasure to work for the board.

Mr. Mitch Ray wanted to know who in the audience supported Commissioner McCree and Commissioner Townsend’s actions. Only Mr. Huel Faulk raised his hand. Mr. Ray said there was something wrong with that and asked where their supporters were. He added that the Rotary Club is going to introduce exchange students from India at the next board meeting.

Mrs. Anne Marks spoke up and asked the board not to fix things that are not broken. She wants the board to tell Mr. Hill what he is doing wrong and give him a chance to fix it. She also emphasized that the commissioners represent all of Fairmont not just themselves. Ms. Daphne Byrne wants the board to come together because we cannot have a white community, a black community and an Indian community and be an All American City. We have to be unified and work together for the betterment of everyone.

Ms. Raven Taylor wanted to know if those who wanted a change had someone qualified in mind to take Mr. Hill’s place. She also asked the commissioners to come to the citizens if they have problems and see if they can help.

Mr. Bill Lewis said that it was good that the town is having this meeting. Fairmont does not have the money to advertise, we have something to offer but becoming an All American City will give the town the publicity it needs. He begged the board not to destroy Fairmont’s positive image and not let race be a factor in its decisions.

Commissioner Kemp said that Fairmont, along with every other community in the State of North Carolina is facing a tough budget year. Commissioner Kemp does not want to have to face these budget decisions without Mr. Hill. Mr. Bill Marks wanted to know who is better qualified to lead Fairmont than Mr. Hill. He said Mr. Hill works for every person who lives in Fairmont and has done a good job. Mr. Marks also commended Mayor Gaddy for not being prejudiced and working with all the citizens.

Commissioner Jackson emphasized that the town employees are Mr. Hill's backbone and let everyone know they are doing a wonderful job. Mr. Bill Lewis asked the audience to give the town staff a round of applause.

Ms. Bridgett Bass, who lives in the Golf Course annexation area, commended the town board for having a manager and police department that you can depend on. She stated that a "house divided will not stand." She let the board know that now is not a time to make changes without making certain it is the right choice.

Mr. Charlie Grantham wanted to know if the issue of firing Mr. Hill would be put on the agenda again. Mayor Gaddy responded that the board will more closely follow parliamentary procedure in the future and not take things for granted.

Mayor Gaddy let the citizens know that he thanks God for Mr. Hill and the town staff. They have helped him learn how the town operates and in turn helped him be a better mayor. He stated that it is not the manager's job to recruit industry but Robeson County's. He wanted everyone to know that progress is being made in Fairmont. More than anything, he wants the citizens of all races to unite. He promised that the board would do its best to work out its differences.

Mr. Melvin Rogers gave his support of the board as a whole. He stated that the council has a golden opportunity to work together and get rid of feelings of animosity. He would like to see the board get in a room and work out their problems for the betterment of Fairmont.

Ms. Katrina Tatum, Assistant Town Manager, spoke on behalf of the town employees. She wanted the board to know that the motion to try and fire Mr. Hill affected all of the employees. A lot of the employees were frightened and began to worry if their job was next and started to look for another job. The employees decided to wait it out because they had faith that the board would work out their differences. She stressed that each employee felt Mr. Hill's vulnerability. She said the staff needs the security of knowing that the town council supports them because we all work as a team. She also emphasized that an unstable governing body could affect not only grants but also businesses and industries interested in relocating to Fairmont. She said that Fairmont does not need negative press. Fairmont needs its residents, staff and governing body to be solid.

Ms. Linda Hicks asked Commissioner Townsend if he had any experience working on a budget. He replied that he did not. She advised the board to look back at where Fairmont has been and then see where the town is going before making decisions that affect its citizens.

Rev. Lynn Bergman, who is new to Fairmont, made a couple of observations. He feels the problem is not with the issues but with personalities. He said it is all right to disagree but that you should not be disagreeable. The Bible says that putting down your brothers and sisters by name-calling puts a person in the same category as a murderer. Rev. Bergman said it is faster to assassinate a person's character than it is to cause them physical harm. He hopes the board will learn how to disagree without being disagreeable and to do it behind closed doors and out of the press.

Mr. Wade Sealey said that Robeson County has been receiving negative press for many years and that Fairmont does not need to add to the negativity. He encouraged the citizens to speak their minds to the board. He also said they would bring a crowd to the board meeting on the 14th.

Mayor Gaddy thanked the citizens for coming to the issue forum. Chief Sam Hunt reminded the citizens of the Community Watch Meeting on May 16.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – May 14, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, J.J. McCree and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Finance Director Linda Vause, Fire Chief Freddie Miller and Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews. Others present included Josh Thrailkill, Scott Witten, Mitch Ray, Wade Sealey and about 150 other concerned citizens.

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

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 9, 2002, the emergency called meeting on April 12, 2002, the special called meeting on May 2, 2002 and the citizens issue forum on May 6, 2002. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Youth Council Monthly Report.

Mr. Josh Thrailkill presented the Fairmont Youth Council monthly report. The Youth Council will hold its last meeting for the year next Tuesday and will honor those who have participated. The elections for next year's Youth Council will be held in August. Mr. Thrailkill said the Youth Council made good progress in its inaugural year and thanked the town council for its support of fund raising and youth council functions. Mr. Hill said that the Youth Council plans to donate \$250 this year and \$250 next year to the Community Building. Commissioners Kemp and Grantham, advisors for the Youth Council, said it was a pleasure working with the youth.

Palmer Drug Prevention request for funds.

Ms. Latasha Murray, a prevention specialist from Palmer Prevention, was present on behalf of Director Thomas Norton, to ask the council for funds. Palmer Prevention's mission is to reduce and hopefully eradicate the substance abuse problem in Robeson County by providing innovative and spiritually based activities for children and youth. They requested \$3,000 to help ensure that their work continues. Ms. Murray said the

organization is facing cuts from the state, United Way and the LRCOG. They do not want to bill Medicaid because they do not want our youth to be labeled as drug addicts and have their medical records hurt their future. Palmer Prevention needs to raise \$25,000 in order to match a federal grant and prevent four employees from losing their jobs. Mr. Hill suggested that the council table this issue until after the board holds a budget workshop.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to table Palmer Prevention's request for funds until after the budget workshop to see if the town has any funds to spare. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CDBG, URP and Bonaventure Monthly Status Reports.

Mr. Hill gave the board a status report on the following programs:

CDBG PROGRAM – BENJAMIN AND PHILLIPS STREETS

Administrative: Legal services procurement is complete. Upon approval of the Attorney by the Board, a request for title reports will be made for entire ownership profile.

Engineering: The Wooten Company is preparing documents to begin the procurement process for execution of the work.

Environmental: The Environmental conditions have been released by DCA, effective May 8, 2002.

Budget: The followings expenditures were processed during this reporting period:

Requisition #1: The Wooten Co. (Construction Services) - \$6,460.17

Requisition #2: (a) The Wooten Co. (Construction Services) - \$1,337.60,
(b) Town of Fairmont (Staff Administrative, Supplies, Advertisement Reimbursement) - \$6,498.78

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM

Administrative: The application process is underway with 21 qualifying applicants to date.

Budget: The following expenditures were processed during this reporting period.

Requisition #1: The Robesonian (Advertising)- \$255.25

BONAVENTURE SUBDIVISION

Administrative: The first Application Workshop was held Saturday, April 27, 2002. Twenty-five individuals attended, seven were not processed. Those seven are securing data to fill out applications. Eighteen (18) applications were processed and 18 requests to purchase homes were made. Of this number, more than 80% have 620 or better credit scores (lenders look for at least a 600 credit score). USDA is being used as the primary lender and down payment assistance programs are being applied for to assist eligible families. The other 20% have scores above 500 and are undergoing homeownership and credit counseling classes. The problem causing a reduction in the score is medical bill delinquencies. These are very easy to rectify. These families should graduate with scores above 600 within 12 months. Only one applicant had a score below the 500 level. The top four scoring individuals are in the process of model selection and lot. In addition to the seven who were not processed during the workshop, five more have inquired and are being sent applications.

Construction: The infrastructure plans are being completed for construction to begin. It is anticipated that the subdivision developers will break ground within one month.

Select Attorney for the CDBG Program.

Mr. Hill reported that the Request for Proposals for Legal Services for the CDBG Program was advertised twice, once on February 12, 2002 and again on March 25, 2002. In addition to the advertisement, a request for proposals was sent to seven local attorneys each time. The solicitations resulted in a response from one attorney, Mr. Robert Price. Mr. Price has worked on CDBG projects before and his work is timely and accurate. Mr. Price is able to prepare title work for a fee of \$250.00 each, closings for a fee of \$200 each (reduced to \$150.00 when at least two closings are scheduled within ½ hour of each other), \$50.00 for each deed prepared and \$90.00 per hour for all other work. The program seldom requires other work that would require billing for the quoted hourly fee. Therefore, the rates quoted for the services common to the CDBG program would be the predominant billings. Mr. Price is given a 95 point overall rating, his rates are considered reasonable and his schedule will permit the workload anticipated for CDBG. Mr. Hill recommended that Mr. Price be awarded a contract to perform legal services under the CDBG program as proposed. Commissioner Jackson emphasized that the money to pay Mr. Price will come out of the CDBG funds.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to award Mr. Robert Price the contract to perform legal services for the CDBG program. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reappoint Planning Board Members Phostenia McCrimmon and Dennis Hicks.

The terms of Planning Board Members Phostenia McCrimmon and Dennis Hicks expire May 2002. Both Planning Board members have been contacted and have asked for their terms to be renewed. Ms. McCrimmon and Mr. Hicks have good attendance records. They are genuinely concerned about the Planning Board and meeting its obligations. Staff is recommending that these individuals be reappointed to the Planning Board to serve an additional three years. Their new terms will expire May 2005.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to reappoint Phostenia McCrimmon and Dennis Hicks to the Planning Board for an additional three-year term. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bonaventure Subdivision – approve final plans.

Ms. Tatum reported that the developer for the Bonaventure Subdivision submitted the final plans to the Planning Board on May 8 for review and approval. The Planning Board as well as a couple of adjacent property owners reviewed the plans and discussed the redesign. Everyone agreed that the new design was much better and improved the subdivision layout. The changes include two entry streets equal to Halsey and Arnold Streets, no opening to the senior citizen complex and a public space buffer next to Gaston Sealey Warehouse. There will be 23 houses total, 21 in the subdivision and two on Highway 130 Bypass. The Planning Board approved the plans under a unanimous vote. Ms. Tatum stated that the last step to subdivision approval is for the Board of Commissioners to review and approve the final plans. Commissioner Jackson asked if there would be a buffer for the street running next to Mrs. Leggett's property. Ms. Tatum said there would be a buffer. She added that the town could work with the developer to make changes to anything that may be harmful to the property owners. Mr. Wade Sealey asked about the open space between the subdivision and his property. Ms. Tatum replied that there would be a fence and that nothing would be built from the ditch to his property. Attorney Charlie Floyd asked if the houses on Main Street would face the street. Ms. Tatum replied that they would and that there was no stipulation as to the presentation of the houses.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the final plans for the Bonaventure Subdivision with the stipulation that the board has the right to ask for changes contingent upon approval of the developer. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mitch Ray will introduce visiting Rotary club members from India.

Mr. Mitch Ray, President of the Fairmont Rotary Club, was going to introduce exchange students from India but they were unable to attend. Mr. Ray did say the group toured the In 7 Company this afternoon and will tour the new sewer plant tomorrow.

Request from Pleasant View Baptist Church to use room for toy storage.

Mr. Hill stated he received a letter from Rev. Ricky G. Burnett, Pastor of the Pleasant View Baptist Church, asking the town council to provide them with a storage room to store toys until Christmas. Pleasant View Baptist Church, along with Dogwood Baptist, Reedy Branch Baptist and Fair Point Church has united to start a Toy Drive for Christmas for the Fairmont community. They are going to start collecting toys in June and continue until mid-December, at which time they will give away the toys to those families in need. Mr. Hill said the room will be locked but that the town will have a key to monitor the collection and make sure that the toys are new and in good condition.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to allow Pleasant View Baptist Church to use a room on the third floor of Town Hall to store toys until Christmas with the understanding that the town is not responsible for theft or damage to any of the toys. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise delinquent 2001 taxes in the Robesonian.

Mr. Hill reported that Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews has been working diligently to collect past due property taxes. It is a formality to advertise delinquent current year taxes in the newspaper. The list is of people who have not and probably will not pay their taxes. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to advertise delinquent 2001 taxes in the Robesonian. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adopt NCLM Resolution requesting that Municipal Revenue Sources be made secure.

Mr. Hill informed the board that the NCLM has asked each municipality to adopt a resolution requesting that municipal revenue sources be made secure. The League is also seeking the introduction and passage of legislation that will restrict the authority of a governor to withhold local revenues that the General Assembly has provided to units of local government by statute or annual appropriations acts. They will also seek a constitutional amendment to accomplish the same goal. Governor Easley has withheld \$81,000 from the Town of Fairmont and will most likely not release the funds. The town does not know if it should budget for the \$200,000 it is supposed to get from the state for FY 2002-2003. Commissioner Jackson did not understand why the governor has not touched the money in the Highway Trust Fund.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt the NCLM resolution requesting that Municipal Revenue Sources be made secure. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Accept Richmond County into the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Mr. Hill reported that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners has petitioned the member governments of the Lumber River Council of Governments for membership effective July 1, 2002. The by-laws of the LRCOG prescribe that the existing member governments must vote to accept a new government's petition for membership. A majority vote by the existing members decides the vote.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to vote for the acceptance of Richmond County into the Lumber River Council of Governments. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Set date for Budget workshop.

Mr. Hill suggested setting a Budget workshop date for Tuesday, June 4, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set Tuesday, June 4, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a Budget workshop. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request for Capacity Approval for the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II at the Fairmont Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mr. Hill informed the council that Columbus County is involved in a study to determine the feasibility of regionalizing the sewer services for Western Columbus County (Water and Sewer District II). If the study is successful, municipalities in the proposed service area will apply for grant money for construction of the regional collection system through the Rural Center and Division of Community Assistance. Potential Contributors and the maximum daily flow they would need are:

Town of Boardman	45,000 gallons/day
Town of Cerro Gordo	40,000 gallons/day
Town of Fair Bluff	100,000 gallons/day
Western Columbus County	250,000 gallons/day

Mr. Billy Joe Farmer, County Administrator for Columbus County, is requesting that the Town of Fairmont send a written approval letter accepting the above flow amounts.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the sewer capacity request from Western Columbus County, Water and Sewer District II for adding on to the Fairmont Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Commissioner Kemp read the following statement regarding the Grand Opening of the Fairmont Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.:

“Due to a previously scheduled school event and a meeting for my yearly evaluation set for 1:00 and 3:00 tomorrow, I will be unable to attend the sewer plant visit. I regret I will not be present but I am very proud of our NEW Facility and have observed its progress in the four visits I have made to it. The citizens will be likewise proud and our entire community will benefit from it.”

The Town of Fairmont will host the Robeson County Municipal Association on Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church on South Main Street. The speaker will be Ms. Billye Ammons, Interim Director of Foundation and Public Relations at Robeson Community College.

The Police Department is holding a Community Watch Meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

The Town Offices will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Town Hall Day is June 11, 2002 in Raleigh.

The NC Association of Regional Councils Meeting is June 5-6, 2002 in Raleigh.

August 6 is National Night Out.

Citizens Appearance

No citizen spoke during citizens appearance.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session at 7:00 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statue 143-318.10(e) and to discuss industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners McCree, Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Page 8 – Regular Meeting, May 14, 2002

After the discussion of privileged information and industry, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCree to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Special Called Meeting – May 28, 2002**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree and John Jackson. Commissioners Antonio Currie and Charles Townsend were absent but was duly notified of the special meeting. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause and Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum. Mrs. Shirley Price was also present

With a quorum present, Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner Jackson gave the invocation.

Mayor Gaddy stated the purpose of the meeting was to decide on the employee health insurance plan. Town Manager Ben Hill reported that the Town of Fairmont is currently insured with the NCLM Municipal Insurance Trust. The Town of Fairmont falls under the Standard Rate Category because 90% of the premiums paid in is paid back out in claims. The NCLM has three different health insurance plans: HealthPlus, Care Plus and Med500. The difference between each plan is the amount of the deductible. The Town of Fairmont is currently using the HealthPlus plan, however, the rates are going to increase 41.8%. With such a tight budget year, the town cannot afford this increase. Mr. Hill suggested the town switch to the higher deductible Med500 plan because its rate increase is only slightly higher than what we currently pay. Mr. Hill emphasized that the Town of Fairmont will save over \$58,000 by going with the Med500 plan. The total annual cost for HealthPlus next year would be \$215,671.20 versus the Med500 annual cost of \$157,111.20.

Commissioner Grantham does not like the Municipal Insurance Trust program because they are not recognized by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. She was also disappointed because no other insurance company will cover the town because we provide insurance for our retirees. Finance Director Linda Vause explained that other companies would not quote our health insurance because of the small number of employees versus the high percentage of retired employees. Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum added that retirees also have a higher rate of illness.

Mr. Hill reported that over 50% of the state's municipalities use the NCLM's Municipal Insurance Trust program for their insurance. He recommended that the board switch the town's employee health insurance to the MIT's Med500 plan.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to accept the NCLM's MIT Med500 plan as the Town of Fairmont's employee health insurance. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – June 4, 2002 Budget Workshop

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, John Jackson, Mary Bruce Grantham, Antonio Currie, J.J. McCree and Charles Townsend. Others present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Jenny Larson, Linda Vause, Sam Hunt, Ronnie Seals, Katrina Tatum, Freddie Miller, Connie Miller and Scott Witten.

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

Mayor Gaddy stated the purpose of the meeting was to hold an informal workshop on the fiscal year 2002-2003 budget. Town Manager Ben Hill went over the draft budget line by line. He began with the General Fund. Expected revenues are \$1,397,235. Projected expenditures for the General Fund are \$1,502,674, forcing the town to use \$105,439 of its Fund Balance to make up the shortage. Mr. Hill included \$198,635 in state reimbursements as part of the expected revenues from the General Fund. If the Governor withholds these reimbursements like he has this year, the town will have to use \$304,074 from its General Fund Balance. Mr. Hill emphasized that this is a tight budget year. He has trimmed as much as he can from every department. There will be no salary increases next year for the employees. He also proposes no property tax increases. Mr. Hill said the police department budget does not include a salary for the vacant lieutenant position. The town would have to budget an extra \$37,000 if the board chooses to hire a lieutenant. Commissioner Kemp asked Chief Hunt if he could run his department without a lieutenant. Chief Hunt responded that once he reorganizes the department he should be able to. After much discussion about budgeting for an officer and discussing compensation time, the board agreed to leave the police department budget as is and to amend it at a later date if another officer is hired. Mr. Hill stated that some of the biggest General Fund expenses in this year's budget are the Community Park, the CDBG project on Phillips and Benjamin Street, the Urgent Repair Program and payments on the Shell Building. The total expected expenditures for these four projects are \$183,322.

Mr. Hill estimates the Powell Bill Fund revenues and expenditures to be \$99,800. Two salaries are paid out of the Powell Bill fund as well as the payments on the new public works vehicles.

The estimated revenue for the Water and Sewer Fund is \$827,000. Projected expenditures are \$820,924 with a surplus of \$6,076. Mr. Hill feels that the revenues for the Water and Sewer Fund could be higher than projected because the In 7 Company will be using more water and there will be new taps on to the system in including Orrum Middle School. Mr. Hill proposed no increase on the utility bills because the Water and Sewer Fund is in good shape. Commissioner Grantham said the board voted last year to raise the utility bills every year for five years by the amount of the Federal Cost of Living increase, which is 1.6% this year. Mr. Hill said raising the bills by 1.6% would increase

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the bills by 50 to 60 cents. Commissioner Jackson wanted to know why we could not use the surplus in the Water and Sewer fund to make up for the deficit in the General Fund. Mr. Hill explained that it is state mandated that the different funds be self-sufficient.

Mr. Hill gave the board some possible salary savings if all the employees with the exception of the Police Department worked 32 or 36-hour weeks. If the employees worked 32 hour weeks, it would save the town \$101,847.72. If the employees worked 36 hour weeks, it would save the town \$50,923.76. The council disliked these ideas. They want to protect the employees as much as possible.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – June 11, 2002

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Mary Bruce Grantham, John Jackson, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Commissioner J.J. McCree was absent due to National Guard duty. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Charlie Floyd, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Sam Hunt, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others present included Scott Witten, Shirley Price, Huel Faulk, Phil Wallace, Kathy Wallace, Tory Mitchell and Dylisha Townsend.

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

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hill announced that a Resolution of Assurance and designation of agent for the Hazard Mitigation Plan grant application needed to be added to the agenda under Administrative Matters. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of the resolution. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 14, 2002, the special called meeting on May 28, 2002 and the budget workshop on June 4, 2002. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Before a vote was held on the motion, Commissioner Grantham commented that Commissioner Jackson should have recused himself from voting on the health insurance plan because he is a retired town employee. Commissioners Townsend and Jackson withdrew their motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Grantham made a motion that the record be clarified that Commissioner Jackson should not have voted on the health insurance plan during the May 28 meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to approve the minutes with the above clarification. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Correction 7/9/2002 – Commissioner Jackson abstained from voting to approve the minutes.)

Tax Releases

Town Manager Ben Hill explained that the tax releases of \$7,996.73 are high because the County Tax office mistakenly charged the In 7 Company for Munsingwear's equipment. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to release the improperly listed taxes in the amount of \$7,996.73. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Citizens Appearance

Mr. Huel Faulk asked about the drainage problem behind his mother's house near Rosenwald Elementary School. Mr. Hill said the school system is supposed to put a new drainage system in and he would check on its status.

Ms. Katrina Tatum introduced Tory Mitchell and Dylisha Townsend, summer youth workers, who will be helping out at the office.

Mrs. Shirley Price, former Town Clerk, said she was impressed with her recent tour of the new regional wastewater treatment plant. She believes it is a glimmer of hope for Fairmont's future. She feels the state of the art facility is as fine as any facility in Charlotte or Raleigh. She encouraged everyone to go see the new system and then compare it to the old plant. Mrs. Price is very proud of "our little town."

Mr. Phil Wallace, of Flag Tree Golf Course, announced that Fairmont would be host to several Junior Golf Tournament qualifiers in the upcoming weeks.

Administrative Matters

Set June 25th as the date for the Public Hearing on FY 2002-2003 budget and adopting FY 2002-2003 budget and FY 2001-2002 amended budget.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set Tuesday, June 25th at 6:00 p.m. as the date for a special meeting to hold the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 budget and adopting the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 budget and Fiscal Year 2001-2002 amended budget. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CDBG, URP and Bonaventure Monthly Status Reports.

Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum gave the board the updates on the following programs:

CDBG

Title research is underway and a form letter is being sent to prospective owner occupants and tenants.

URP

The Urgent Repair application deadline was May 31, 2002. Twenty-six applications are now being reviewed. There are only 20 slots available. Ms. Tatum stated that she is still receiving applications for the program and is putting those applicants on a waiting list.

Bonaventure Subdivision

One applicant is being sent to the lender and home design is being selected. The Developer is requesting that the Town of Fairmont apply for funding through the Individual Development Accounts Program for down payment assistance. This is a new program that is being tested by the Federal Government through the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance. IDA's are a new approach to asset building and self-sufficiency that have the potential to be a significant tool in the process of social reform. At the core of this approach is the hypothesis that homeownership; entrepreneurship, improved skills and enhanced education will provide low-income residents with jobs, hope, self-esteem and a future that for some has not materialized. The areas mentioned above are considered to be asset-building initiatives. There will be approximately ten homeownership IDA sites established throughout the state. IDA's are essentially restricted savings accounts established for poor or working poor families and individuals for one of the asset building purposes. Poor and working poor families and individuals are classified as those whose income is below 80% of the area median. The median area income in Robeson County for a four member family household is \$36,900 per year. An eligible applicant would be a four member family household whose income is \$29,250 or below. The maximum award will be \$50,000. The local match is \$1,000 for a total expected account balance of \$3,000: \$1,00 saved by the recipient, \$1,000 CDBG match, and \$1,000 local match. In the Bonaventure case, the Enterprise Community CDC is providing the local match. The CDC has agreed to provide these funds in conjunction with their Home Building concept program goals and targets. Only towns and municipalities can apply for the funds. Therefore, the Town of Fairmont would have to administer the funds. The Durham Regional Finance Agency would be responsible for program administration. The grant cycle is open. However, the funding is limited and the first, most worthy applicants will be selected for current funding. Ms. Tatum requested permission to apply for these funds in order to build substantial down payment assistance opportunities for potential homeowners.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to apply for funding through the Individual Development Accounts Program for down payment assistance on the Bonaventure Subdivision contingent upon receipt of commitment letter from Enterprise Community CDC on providing local match. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Accept Town of Hoffman into the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Mr. Hill reported that the Town of Hoffman in Richmond County has petitioned the member governments of the Lumber River Council of Governments for membership effective July 1, 2002. The by-laws of the LRCOG prescribe that the existing member governments must vote to accept a new government's petition for membership. A majority vote by the existing members decides the vote.

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Commissioner Grantham made a motion to vote for the acceptance of the Town of Hoffman into the Lumber River Council of Governments. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request from Reach Ministries to use Town Bus.

Mr. Hill reported that Mr. Barry Belles with Reach Ministries, Inc. has requested to use the Town's bus to transport children to their Day Camps this summer. The dates are June 17 through 21 and July 8 through 12. They have liability and medical insurance plus two licensed CDL drivers.

Mr. Hill recommended that the council deny Reach Ministries' request to use the Town Bus. He feels that the town should use the bus only for town sponsored recreational activities. Commissioner Kemp added that the town does not want to set a precedent where everyone will want to use the bus. Commissioner Grantham does not want the town to be held liable in case of an accident.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to deny Reach Ministries' request to use the Town Bus for safety and liability reasons. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Community Building update.

Mr. Hill gave the board an update on the Community Building project. The Construction Bids were opened on May 16, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Eleven bids were opened and the lowest bid was \$1,027,576, which is way over the town's budget range. The Town along with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates are in negotiations with the low bidder to bring the cost of the building down closer to our budget of \$650,000. Mayor Gaddy was concerned that changing the plans to lower the cost is unfair to the other bidders. Mr. Hill admitted that there is a possibility that the plans will have to be re-bid.

Compost Bins.

Mr. Hill informed the council that the Town applied for a grant for Compost Bins. The town has received 192 bins to be given out to the citizens at no cost. He encouraged anyone who might be interested in a compost bin to contact Town Hall or Public Works. They will start giving out the bins next week.

Adopt Resolution of Assurance and designate Katrina Tatum as agent for grant administration purposes for the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

During a previous meeting, the Board approved a request for the Wooten Company to apply for funds on behalf of the Town to prepare a Hazard Mitigation Plan. As

previously discussed, hazard mitigation plans must be submitted by each jurisdiction in order to be eligible at the federal and state levels for funding during a federally declared disaster. There is no local match requirement.

Part of the application process is for the Board to adopt a resolution of assurance that the town will comply with FEMA requirements and designate an agent for grant administration purposes. Katrina Y. Tatum is recommended as designated agent. Funding is limited and the Office of Emergency Management is now issuing second round funding.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt a resolution of assurance and designate Katrina Tatum as agent for grant administration purposes for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Robeson County Municipal Association to be hosted by the City of Lumberton, date and time to be announced.

Buds N Blooms will hold its Grand Opening on Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Town Offices will be closed Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Closed Session

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into closed session at 6:35 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 Legal Matters, “William H. Hayes, et al vs. Town of Fairmont” and industry as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,4). Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Townsend, Jackson, Currie, Kemp and Grantham, Ben Hill, Charlie Floyd and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

After the discussion of privileged information, legal matters and industry, Commissioner Jackson made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jackson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kemp to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

**Fairmont Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting - June 25, 2002**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Townsend, Charles Kemp, Jeffery McCree, Mary Bruce Grantham and John Jackson. Commissioner Antonio Currie was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Ben Hill, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Assistant Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Fire Chief Freddie Miller. Mr. Danny Williamson was also present.

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

Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Budget

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the fiscal year budget for 2002-2003. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson asked how Robeson County's resolution to adopt a ½ cent sales tax would affect the Town of Fairmont. Mr. Hill replied that the sales tax money would replace the state reimbursements we currently get. He hopes the sales tax amount will come close to the reimbursements we have budgeted.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Adopt 2002-2003 Budget.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Budget and set the 2002 tax rate at .69 per hundred-dollar valuation and a utility bill increase of \$.60 cents 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.

Commissioner Grantham suggested that the town not give any money to organizations like Palmer Drug this year due to the tight budget. Commissioner Kemp added that it would not be right to give money to other groups when we cannot give our own employees a raise. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to instruct the Town Manager to inform any organizations interested in donations that the town does not have any extra money appropriated in the 2002-2003 budget for them. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adopt 2001-2002 Amended Budget.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Amended Budget. Commissioner Grantham 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.

Release/Write Off Uncollected Water Accounts for 2001-2002 in the amount of \$720.90.

Town Manager Ben Hill commended Water Collections Clerk Joyce Thompson for her efforts to collect delinquent water bills. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to write off the 2001-2002 uncollected water bills in the amount of \$720.90. Commissioner Jackson 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.

Release/Write Off 1991 Property Taxes in the amount of \$5,505.63.

Mr. Hill also commended Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews for her efforts to collect delinquent taxes. He pointed out that \$3,964.22 of the amount to be written off is owed by Swiss-Piedmont, an old industry that is currently in the process of being foreclosed on by the county. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to write off delinquent 1991 taxes in the amount of \$5,505.63 for nonpayment. Commissioner 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.

Choose Board Member for Nominee for the LRCOG Transportation Advisory Council.

Mr. Hill announced that the LRCOG is looking for nominations for its Transportation Advisory Council. The County Board of Commissioners will choose three municipal officials from Robeson County for two-year terms. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to nominate Commissioner John Jackson as Fairmont's nominee for the LRCOG Transportation Advisory Council. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Change Date of Regular Board Meeting on July 9th to July 16th.

Mr. Hill asked the board how they felt about changing the Regular Board Meeting from Tuesday, July 9th to Tuesday, July 16th at 6:00 p.m. since several staff members will be out on vacation for the Fourth of July. Commissioner Grantham does not want to set a precedent for changing board meetings but was willing to go either way. After discussion, Mr. Hill decided to leave the meeting at its regularly scheduled date of July 9th.

Set Date for Possible Board Retreat

Mr. Hill suggested holding a special Board Retreat to discuss several town projects and get the board's input. After discussion of dates, Commissioner Kemp made a motion to set a Board Retreat for Tuesday, July 9th following the regular board meeting at Pat Floyd's Clubhouse on Mill Branch Road. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kemp made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk