

Regular Meeting – July 19, 2005

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Antonio Currie, and Charles Townsend. Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham was absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews, Public Safety Director Robert Hassell and Laverne Hunt.

Several citizens were present including Scott Witten, William McFarland, James Lennon, John Jackson, Mike Humbert, Terry Evans, Patricia Sealey, Sharon Campbell, Percy Shaw, and Mary Renfrow.

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

Approval of Agenda

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked the board to add “Budget Amendment” as an agenda item. Commissioner Kemp asked to add an item on “Sewer Extension.” Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight’s meeting with the addition of Budget Amendment and Sewer Extension. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the minutes for the budget workshop meeting on June 15, 2005, the regular board meeting on June 21, 2005 and the special board meeting on June 28, 2005. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Special Presentation – Plaque to Laverne Hunt for 20 years of service to Town.

Mayor Gaddy presented Laverne Hunt a plaque in recognition of his 20 years of service to the Town of Fairmont Public Works Department. The board thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the town.

Special Recognition – Alex Monroe

Sergeant Alex Monroe was not present but the board wanted to recognize him for his dedication to the town. Sergeant Monroe resigned from the police department on July 14 after devoting 14 years to the Town of Fairmont. He has decided to leave law enforcement and try his hand fulltime as a private industry entrepreneur. Sergeant Monroe came to the Town of Fairmont in February 1991 as a contract/auxiliary police officer. He was made full time in June 1991 and promoted to narcotics in 1991 and remained in that position until February 2005 when he became Interim Police Chief.

Administrative Matters

Resolutions and Membership Agreements for NCLM Property, Liability and Health Insurance Plans.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to adopt the resolutions and membership interlocal agreements for the NCLM Property, Liability and Health Insurance Plans. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. These resolutions and agreements are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution and amendment to AON Pre-Tax Premium Plan.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt the resolution and amendment to the AON Pre-Tax Premium Plan. 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.

Town of Dobbins Heights – acceptance into LRCOG.

The Town of Dobbins Heights has petitioned the member governments of the Lumber River Council of Governments for membership effective September 1, 2005. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to accept the Town of Dobbins Heights for membership in the Lumber River Council of Governments. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution Adopting Public Comment Procedures Policy

Ms. Tatum presented the following Public Comment Procedures Policy to the board:

1. The Public Comment period will be held at the end of the regular monthly Board meeting. The comment period will be limited to a maximum of thirty minutes.
2. Persons who wish to address the Board during the Public Comment Period will register on a sign-up sheet available on the counter just inside the entrance door to the Council Chambers indicating contact information and topic. Sign-up sheets will be available beginning 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. No one will be allowed to have his/her name placed on the list by telephone request to Town Staff.
3. Each person signed up to speak will have five (5) minutes to make his/her remarks. Each person signed up to speak will only be entitled to the time allotted to each speaker and one additional time period which may be yielded to him/her by another individual who has also signed up to speak on a particular topic.

4. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Mayor in the order in which their names appear on the sign up sheet. Speakers will address the Board from the lectern at the front of the room and begin their remarks by stating their name and address.
5. Public comment is not intended to require the Board to answer any impromptu questions. Speakers will address all comments to the Board as a whole and not one individual commissioner. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed.
6. Speakers will be courteous and civil in their language and presentation and not to engage in slander or name-calling.
7. Only one speaker will be acknowledged at a time. If the time period runs out before all persons who have signed up get to speak, those names will be carried over to the next Public Comment Period.
8. Any applause will be held until the end of the Public Comment Period.
9. Speakers who have prepared written remarks or supporting documents are encouraged to leave a copy of such remarks and documents with the Town Clerk. They may also pass out copies to the commissioners, staff and audience.
10. Speakers shall not discuss any of the following: matters which concern the candidacy of any person seeking public office, including the candidacy of the person addressing the Board; matters which are closed session matters, including but not limited to matters within the attorney-client privilege, anticipated or pending litigation, personnel, property acquisition, matters which are made confidential by law; and matters which are the subject of public hearings.
11. After the speaker has made his or her prepared remarks, he or she will be seated with no further debate, dialogue or comment.
12. Information sheets outlining the process for the public's participation in Board meetings will be available on the counter in the Council Chambers.
13. Action on items brought up during the Public Comment Period will be at the discretion of the Board.

After discussion Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt a resolution implementing the Public Comment Procedures Policy with the addition of the words “unless adjusted by the board” in item one. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Taxi Cab Permit Approval – Angie Lowery, Native Taxi and Transport, Inc.

Ms. Angie Lowery, Native Taxi and Transport, Inc., has completed the application process to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate a taxi-cab within the city limits and one mile ETJ area. Her paperwork has been reviewed and is basically in order. She will be allowed to operate one taxi cab under the certificate. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to approve the Tax Cab Permit for Angie Lowery of Native Taxi and Transport, Inc. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ASCAP and BMI Music License Agreements

The board was presented material during the June meeting concerning the ASCAP license agreement and the copy right infringement issue. Attorney Robert Price had researched the issue and was not sure which way the town needed to proceed since ASCAP was not the only entity providing this protection. The board tabled the issue to give Mr. Price more time to make a recommendation. The town has since learned that ASCAP and BMI cover protection for approximately 98% of the music on the market.

The license agreement being used by ASCAP and BMI for local governments was developed with the International Municipal Lawyers Association as an alternative to seeking permission to use copyrighted works. The benefits of the Agreement are as follows:

1. Access to and the right to perform approximately 98% of the music being utilized. Immediate access to contemporary music as soon as it is written or published at no additional cost.
2. Saves the time, expense, paperwork and trouble of contacting and negotiating separate permission for each musical work that may be performed during the year.
3. Helps prevent even inadvertent infringements on the rights of ASCAP member and foreign affiliates.

Kim Hibbard of the North Carolina League of Municipalities is recommending that municipalities enter into these agreements to protect themselves when public functions are held. During the Farmer's Festival and at other events, either the town or performers secured by the town play music that is under copyright. The current annual participation fees for ASCAP and BMI are \$268 each, totaling \$536. For each calendar year commencing 2006, all dollar figures set forth in the fee schedule shall be the license fee for the preceding calendar year, adjusted in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to enter into Music License Agreements with ASCAP and BMI. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Sharon Campbell – Mustard Seed Group.

Ms. Sharon Campbell with the Mustard Seed “Group,” came before the board to explain what her consulting firm could do for the Town of Fairmont. They provide planning and development functions for small towns and communities, as well as specialize in strategic planning, organizational development, and diversity and collaborative network training. She discussed the possibility of doing a 5-10 year strategic plan for the town. Normally, for a town Fairmont’s size, this type of plan costs approximately \$10,000. Towns normally pay so much upfront money and then pay a monthly fee. It will take about a year to develop the plan and once complete, the group will be able to offer grant writing services to apply for implementation grants. The board thanked Ms. Campbell for her presentation and said they would consider her proposal at a later date.

Request to purchase flag pole – library site

Mr. Gaines Grantham has offered to purchase the flag pole in front of the library for a sum of \$150.00. It has not been used for quite some time and is of no use to the town at its present location. The library officials have been contacted and have no objection to the sale of the flag pole. Mr. Grantham plans to restore the flag pole and erect it in his yard. Commissioner McCree made a motion to sell the flag pole in front of the library to Gaines Grantham for \$150.00. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Police Department – Lieutenant position and take home car policy

The board commended Public Safety Director Robert Hassell on his excellent monthly report for the Police Department. Chief Hassell gave the board three recommendations for the take home car policy:

- A. Allows all officers assigned a take home car to continue to drive their car home with no changes.
- B. Restrict the take home car program to one mile from town limits. This recommendation gives an across the board raise of 2.5% to compensate the loss of the take home car. Investigators and any rank above Sergeant will be able to drive their assigned vehicle home as long as they live in Robeson County.
- C. This recommendation is a combination of the first two. All current officers can take their cars home but only at their current home address and as long as it is within Robeson County. The new policy restricts take home cars within the one mile extra territorial jurisdiction of the town and will govern new officers and their assigned vehicles. All officers who currently take home cars will be given the option to continue to take their cars home at their current home addresses or accept a pay increase of 2.5%. They cannot take advantage of both.

Chief Hassell recommended option “C” as the best course to take with the take home care program.

After discussion, Commissioner Currie made a motion to approve the take home car policy that allows current officers to continue driving their cars home or accept a 2.5% pay increase and restricts new officers to take cars home only if they live within the one mile extra territorial jurisdiction of the town. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Townsend made the motion to reinstate and fill the Lieutenant's position in the police department. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Budget Amendment to FY 2005-2006

Commissioner Kemp asked how much revenue had been generated by the \$1,000 video poker privilege license fee. Ms. Tatum replied that the town has taken in \$15,000 so far. Commissioner Kemp asked if some of that money could be earmarked for a part-time recreation director. Commissioner McCree wanted to use the money to update the town code book and to tear down the two houses the town agreed to demolish a couple years ago. Mayor Gaddy suggested that the board update the code book, demolish the two houses and give the remainder to the Community Activities Committee for recreation. Commissioner Kemp stated the Community Activities Committee was not created for recreation.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt a budget amendment for the FY 2005-2006 budget, appropriating approximately \$7,000 for updating the code book, approximately \$3,000 for the demolition of two houses and the remainder placed in a line item for recreation. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it failed with a vote of 2 to 3:

For: Kemp, Sealey
Against: McCree, Townsend and Currie
Absent: Grantham

Commissioner McCree made an alternate motion to adopt a budget amendment for the FY 2005-2006 budget, appropriating approximately \$7,000 for updating the code book, approximately \$3,000 for the demolition of two houses and the remainder placed in a line item for the Community Activities Committee, with the committee making recreation suggestions for the board's final approval. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1:

For: McCree, Currie, Townsend, Sealey
Against: Kemp
Absent: Grantham

Sewer extension to Exit 10 of I-95

Commissioner Kemp asked if the town could apply for grant money to extend sewer to Exit 10 of Interstate 95. Ms. Tatum replied that the town is looking into different alternatives but applying for grant money is difficult without the commitment of an industry or other business.

Announcements

National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 2, on the front porch of Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. Public Safety Director Robert Hassell will be the guest speaker. There will be food, music and games.

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum will be on vacation from August 3 to August 15.

Citizen Appearance

Mary Renfrow, Grace Outreach – Complaint about trees on Main Street

Ms. Mary Renfrow, of Grace Outreach, 318 South Main Street, came to lodge a complaint about the trees on Main Street. Ms. Renfrow's business is located under a pair of trees that have not been trimmed back. Pigeons nest in the trees leaving hazardous bird waste all over the sidewalk. The trees are also growing into the windows and awnings of the building. She passed around pictures to demonstrate her claims. Commissioner McCree made a motion to put the trees on Main Street on the August agenda. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Gaddy advised the board to be accountable and resolve the tree issue once and for all.

John Jackson – complaint against Commissioner Kemp

Mr. John Jackson had a statement to make about Commissioner Kemp but Town Attorney Robert Price stated he was violating the rules by addressing one board member and not the entire board.

Terry Evans – general comments

Mr. Terry Evans thanked Ms. Campbell for her presentation on the Mustard Seed Group. He advised the board to take care of its infrastructure and repair the old sewer pipes. He also enjoyed the previous budget workshops and hopes the new public comment procedures work.

There being no further business, Commissioner Sealey seconded by Commissioner McCree, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – August 16, 2005

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Antonio Currie, Mary Bruce Grantham and Charles Townsend. Commissioner Currie arrived at 6:30 p.m. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Public Safety Director Robert Hassell, Water Collections Clerk Joyce Thompson, Lieutenant Danny Parker and Officer Regina Buie.

Several citizens were present including Scott Witten, William McFarland, Terry Evans, Patricia Sealey, Mickey Williamson, Annie Durant, Huel Faulk, Fred Hill, Wayland Lennon III, Marlene Bass, Butch Davis, Alex Monroe, Charlie Grantham, and Nell Campbell.

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

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Grantham asked to add recognition of new police officers and Alex Monroe to tonight's meeting. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of police officer recognition. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on July 19, 2005. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Recognition of New Police Officers

Public Safety Director Robert Hassell introduced Officer Regina Buie who was sworn in on August 12. She is one of three new full time officers. The other two full time officers sworn in were Samuel Britt and Robin Williams. A new auxiliary officer, Carlos Jones, was also sworn in. Director Hassell also recognized Lieutenant Danny Parker. Lieutenant Parker was promoted from the position of Sergeant. He has been with the department for twelve years starting out as a dispatcher. Director Hassell also informed the board that he is working on redoing the public safety section of the town's website. Mayor Gaddy informed the board that he was proud to represent the town at the swearing in ceremony last Friday and enjoyed the professionalism and togetherness of the event.

Administrative Matters

Letter from Representative Garland Pierce on National Night Out.

Ms. Tatum read a letter from Representative Garland Pierce congratulating the town on National Night Out.

Lumbee Tribe presentation by Chairman Jimmy Goins.

Lumbee Tribal Chairman Jimmy Goins had to cancel his appearance at the board meeting tonight due to a prior commitment but plans to reschedule for a future meeting.

Fall Litter Sweep, September 19-30, 2005.

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked the board to designate September 19-30, 2005 as the Fairmont Fall Cleanup period. During this period residents may place any item, except roof shingles, construction debris and professionally cut trees on the perimeter of their property for pickup without charge. During all other times of the year except the spring and fall cleanup weeks there is a charge for pickup of non-household garbage. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to designate September 19-30, 2005 as the Fairmont Fall Cleanup period. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Art Show Proposal – Sam McMillan

World renowned artist, Sam McMillan contacted Ms. Tatum on August 3rd to decline our invitation to serve as Grand Marshall of the Farmers Festival. Mr. McMillan indicated that he would be willing to help the town organize an Art Show. He would allow the town to use his address book to contact other famous artists. He said that we could either have an indoor show and use the Premium Wear Building or have it outdoors during the summer time and the artists themselves would provide their own tents. Mr. McMillan made this proposal because he wants to help Fairmont out of its financial situation. Ms. Tatum suggested that the town accept Mr. McMillan's proposal and hopefully the town will gain experience and ideas for doing an antique show in the future with Mr. John Morgan's help.

Mustard Seed Group Workshop

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to hold a workshop on the Mustard Seed Group on Wednesday, August 24, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Trees on Main Street.

At our last board meeting, Ms. Mary Renfrow came to lodge a complaint about the trees on Main Street. Ms. Tatum contacted Mr. Lee Grantham and he suggested that the trees be cut back 3 to 4 feet. Several tree trimming companies have been contacted about giving quotes on cutting the trees back but only one company, H & L Tree Service responded. Their quote to trim the trees is \$1,750. Commissioner Grantham felt that bid was high and suggested calling the Agricultural Extension office for advice. Mayor Gaddy said he would ask the City of Lumberton for advice since they maintain their own trees.

Community Activities Committee presentation by Annie Durant

Mrs. Annie Durant, President of the Community Activities Committee, presented Certificates of Appreciation to the contributors and volunteers who participated in “A Day in the Park” held on July 9, 2005.

Activities and Recreation Commission Proposal

Ms. Tatum proposed to establish an Activities and Recreation Commission comprised of the current members of the Activities Committee. This commission would allow individual organizations or groups to submit proposals for recreational activities. Each such group would be required to submit a program description, showing how many children or adults benefit by the program (participants only) and a budget showing the total budget amount including in-kind services and donations relied upon to run a particular program. Each such group must be able to demonstrate that they have a track record for organizing and running such programs. The Commission would review the program and accompanying budget and either recommend approval as submitted, or at an agreed upon figure. Those entities selected will be required to develop a senior citizen recreation plan and budget for consideration by the Commission. That plan would be submitted along with the other plans for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. The Town Board would then be asked to accept or reject the Commission’s recommendation. As for any activities other than recreational, the commission would submit a description of the activity and a budget for approval by the board prior to expenditure of any funds. The amount budgeted for any proposal would depend on the availability of funds.

Mrs. Durant was asked how she felt about the proposal. Mrs. Durant feels that recreation should be kept separate from the activities committee. Mayor Gaddy suggested the council meet with the activities committee to decide which direction to go. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to table the Activities and Recreation Proposal to a later date. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. After further discussion, the board agreed to meet with the Community Activities Committee on Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Recognition of Sergeant Alex Monroe

Director Hassell presented Sergeant Alex Monroe a Certificate of Appreciation thanking him for his fourteen years of service to the town. Sergeant Monroe resigned from the police department on July 14 to work in the private sector. He will continue to assist the police department as an auxiliary officer.

Announcements

The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Tatum announced that one citizen, Terry Evans, had signed up to speak during the Public Comment Period. Mayor Gaddy excused himself from the meeting at 6:50 p.m. and Mayor Pro Tem Grantham presided over the remainder of the meeting. Town Attorney Robert Price went over the Public Comment Procedures. He explained that the main purpose of the Public Comment Period is to allow citizens a chance to give comments to enable the board to do something. It is not designed for citizens to air personal grievances or address issues that the board has no control over. Mayor Pro Tem Grantham called for a recess at 7:06 p.m. Attorney Price met with Mr. Evans during the recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:14 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Grantham announced that Mr. Evans decided not to address the board at this time.

There being no further business, Commissioner Sealey, seconded by Commissioner McCree, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – September 6, 2005

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioners absent were Antonio Currie, Wade Sealey and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, and Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews. Community Activities Committee members present were Annie Durant, Steve Floyd, Gosnold Floyd, Rev. Wendell Thompson, Mickey Williamson, Fred Hill, Huel Faulk, Angie Lovin and John Morgan. Several citizens were present including Scott Witten, Marlene Bass, Butch Davis, and Rusty Perry.

With a quorum present, Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Rev. Wendell Thompson gave the invocation.

Four Day workweek proposal

Mayor Gaddy asked the board to consider having the town employees work four 10 hour days on a rotating basis so the town will still be open five days a week. He feels this schedule would save on both gas and compensation time. After discussion, the board members present agreed to have staff research this schedule further and put it on the regular board meeting agenda.

Addition of Closed Session to agenda

Mayor Gaddy asked the board to add closed session to the agenda to discuss personnel. Commissioner McCree made the motion to add closed session for discussing personnel to the agenda. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 2 to 1 vote with Commissioner Kemp voting against adding closed session to the agenda.

Closed Session – Personnel

Commissioner McCree 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 Statue 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 Grantham, McCree, and Kemp along with Katrina Tatum, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:06 p.m. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Gaddy announced personnel was discussed but no action was taken.

Joint meeting with the Community Activities Committee

After discussion between the board and the Community Activities Committee, it was suggested that a separate Recreation Commission be established with seven members appointed by the Mayor and the Commissioners. It was decided to put the creation of the Recreation Commission on the next regular board agenda. Commissioner McCree nominated Fred Hill, Commissioner Grantham nominated Angie Lovin and Commissioner Kemp nominated Glenn Pridgen.

There being no further business, Commissioner McCree motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – September 20, 2005

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Antonio Currie, Mary Bruce Grantham and Charles Townsend. Commissioner Townsend was a few minutes late. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Rebecca Andrews Tax Collector, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Public Safety Director Robert Hassell, and Officer William Walker.

Several citizens were present including Scott Witten, Mickey Williamson, Jimmy Goins, Patricia Sealey, Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Bergman, Andy Grimsley, Terry Evans, Gosnald Floyd, Annie Durant, Rusty Perry, Huel Faulk, Butch Davis, and Sharon Campbell.

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on August 16, 2005 and the special meeting on September 6, 2005. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Lumbee Tribe presentation by Tribal Chairman Jimmy Goins

Chairman Jimmy Goins gave an update on current Lumbee Tribe projects. A \$2.3 million expansion of the Heritage Haven senior citizen apartment complex on Marion Stage Road is about to begin construction. Another project is opening Boys and Girls Clubs in all the towns in the county and membership will be open to all races. Another program available to all races is the Veterans Service Office, which is located in Pembroke and open on Tuesday and Thursdays. Another long term goal is to build a Community Based Outreach Clinic so area veterans will not have to travel to the VA Hospital in Fayetteville for their medical needs. The tribal council is looking for funding to help build this clinic. **Fairmont is one of the sites being looked at for the clinic and if the town builds it, the Veterans Administration would lease it.** Finally, the tribe is still seeking federal recognition and has the support of our U.S. Senators and Congressmen. Chairman Goins emphasized federal recognition would help all the people of Robeson County and Southeastern North Carolina by bringing in new jobs and businesses.

Operation Hand-Up – Adopt Lamar County, Mississippi

County Manager Ken Windley is asking local municipalities to become part of Operation Hand-Up and join the county in adopting the two largest towns in Lamar County, Mississippi; Lumberton and Purvis, as part of the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. There will be an empty tractor-trailer located at South Robeson Rescue Unit for citizens to drop off items such as non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, household items, diapers, blankets, clothes, etc. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to become a part of Operation Hand-Up and adopt Lumberton and Purvis, Mississippi. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Healing America Company – Landa Gaddy

Ms. Landa Gaddy was not present at the meeting.

Bridge Inspection Contract with the NCDOT

Ms. Tatum asked the board to renew the NCDOT Bridge Inspection Contract, which is executed every two years. It guarantees that NCDOT will maintain our bridges with the town's cooperation. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to enter into the NCDOT Bridge Inspection Contract. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this contract is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Public Safety Department – introduction of new officers and department policies

Chief Hassell introduced new auxiliary officer William Walker. Ms. Tatum asked the board to approve the following Public Safety Department Policies: Law Enforcement Role and Authority, Juvenile Operations, General Rules of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures, and the Use of Force/Weapons & Ammunition. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Public Safety Department Policies as presented. Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these policies are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Four Day work week proposal

Ms. Tatum informed the board that due to changes in staffing and recent illnesses, the four day work week proposal is on hold until staffing is stabilized.

Recreation Commission proposal

As discussed at the September 6, 2005 Special meeting, Ms. Tatum proposed a Recreation Commission be developed to review proposals for funding recreational activities. Each Commissioner and the Mayor were asked to submit one name to serve on the committee. She recommended each person serve for a period of four years. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to create a Recreation Commission of seven members with four-year terms. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The following are the citizens appointed to serve on the Recreation Commission:

Mayor Gaddy - Gosnold Floyd
Commissioner Kemp - Glenn Pridgen
Commissioner Grantham – Angie Lovin
Commissioner McCree – Fred Hill
Commissioner Currie – Huel Faulk
Commissioner Townsend – Robert Walters
Commissioner Sealey – Andy Grimsley

Mustard Seed Group – Sharon Campbell

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to add the Mustard Seed Group to the agenda. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Sharon Campbell of the Mustard Seed Group emphasized the importance of involving the citizens in strategic planning in order to help a town grow. Mayor Gaddy asked how much a strategic plan would cost. Ms. Campbell replied between \$2,500 and \$10,000. Ms. Tatum asked if there were grants available to help supplement the costs of the strategic plan and Ms. Campbell said there was none.

Announcements

Fall Litter Sweep, September 19 -30, 2005.

The Town of Maxton is hosting the September RCMA meeting with date and time to be announced. Fairmont will host the October RCMA meeting on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church on South Main Street. Representative Garland Pierce will be the guest speaker.

The Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant will be Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the E.R. Gause Auditorium at Rosenwald Elementary School.

The Fairmont Farmers Festival is Saturday, October 15, 2005. A dignitary reception will be at 9:00 a.m. at the Borderbelt museum and the parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. The Entertainers will be the band at the Hi-Dollar Warehouse that evening.

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The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

The Lumber River Council of Governments Annual Dinner will be Thursday, October 20, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Southeastern NC Agriculture Center in Lumberton.

The Committee of 100 will host their annual meeting on February 6, 2006.

Public Comment Period

Andy Grimsley – Fairmont Recreation Commission

Mr. Andy Grimsley informed the board that he was the unpaid Recreation Director from 1988 to 1992. He has agreed to be a member of the new Recreation Commission but does not think it is a good idea. The problem with committees is poor attendance and arguments over what they should do. Mr. Grimsley feels it would be simpler for individuals to come directly to the board with their recreation requests instead of going through a committee.

Closed Session – Personnel

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to go into closed session at 7:06 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 personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Grantham, McCree, Townsend, Sealey, Currie and Kemp along with Katrina Tatum, Robert Hassell and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Gaddy announced personnel was discussed but no action was taken.

There being no further business, Commissioner Sealey, seconded by Commissioner McCree, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – October 18, 2005

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Antonio Currie, Mary Bruce Grantham and Charles Townsend. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell.

Several citizens were present including Scott Witten, Mickey Williamson, Patricia Sealey, Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Bergman, Annie Durant, and Butch Davis.

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on September 20, 2005 with the addition of the following sentence to the paragraph on the Lumbee Tribal Council report: "Fairmont is one of the sites being looked at for the clinic and if the town builds it, the Veterans Administration would lease it." Commissioner Currie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Public Safety Department – Patrol Operations

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the Public Safety Department Policy on Patrol Operations. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this policy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Marion Stage Road Water Tower – Refurbishing Project

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the town can afford to loan \$210,000 from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer Fund to pay for the Marion Stage Road Water Tower Refurbishing Project. The Water/Sewer Fund will repay the \$210,000 plus 3% interest in 180 equal monthly installments of \$1,450.22 beginning May 1, 2006. The Local Government Commission has approved the Interfund Financing Agreement. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Interfund Financing Agreement between the General and Water/Sewer Funds for \$210,000. 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.

Announcements

Fairmont will host the October RCMA meeting on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church, South Main Street. Representative Garland Pierce will be the guest speaker.

Grand Opening of the UND/RCC Commercial Aviation Building will be Wednesday, October 19 at 4:30 p.m.

The Lumber River Council of Governments Annual Dinner will be Thursday, October 20, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Southeastern NC Agriculture Center in Lumberton.

The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Public Comment Period

Butch Davis

Mr. Butch Davis thanked everyone who worked on the Fairmont Farmers Festival and said he really enjoyed it. Mr. Davis also questioned why no town employees were at the school shelter during Hurricane Ophelia. Ms. Tatum explained that the county operates the shelters.

Closed Session – Personnel

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 6:20 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and attorney-client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Grantham, McCree, Townsend, Sealey, Currie and Kemp along with Katrina Tatum, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. No action was taken in closed session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Townsend, seconded by Commissioner McCree, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – November 15, 2005

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Nedward Gaddy presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner Charles Townsend was absent due to a death in the family. Commissioner Antonio Currie was also absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell.

Several citizens were present including Scott Witten, Mickey Williamson, Patricia Sealey, Annie Durant, Terry Evans, Landa Gaddy, Peggy Spencer, Terry Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Chalmus Hood, Raymond Johnson and John Masters.

Mayor Gaddy called the meeting to order. Mrs. Chalmus Hood gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of introduction of new staff. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on October 18, 2005. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

Introduction of New Staff Member – Terry Jones

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals introduced Terry Jones, the newest employee in the Public Works Department.

2004-2005 Audit presented by John Masters of S. Preston Douglas & Associates

Mr. John Masters of S. Preston Douglas & Associates, presented the 2004-2005 Audit. He presented graphs detailing the financial situation of the town over the last ten years. Mr. Masters praised the board for being good stewards of the town's money. Cash and Investments have rebounded substantially, up \$400,000 from last year. The town has a favorable tax collection rate of 93.55%. Utility Franchise Tax revenue is static, Sales Tax and Powell Bill revenue are both up. Sanitation, Water and Sewer Revenue has also increased. Payroll is the town's largest expense, it has been reduced by \$225,000 over the last two years due to position cutbacks. The General Fund's fund balance has

rebounded from a little more than \$200,000 to slightly less than \$600,000. The Local Government Commission pays significant attention to the undesignated portion of the fund balance. This year the town's portion is \$420,000 in the general fund, three times more than the LGC minimum required. Mr. Masters stated the town was able to rebound over the past two years due to building sale proceeds, increased revenues and the reduction in payroll. Mr. Masters credited the positive audit results to good management, dedicated employees and a responsible town council.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the 2004-2005 Audit as presented. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Healing America Company – Ms. Landa Gaddy

Ms. Landa Gaddy, representative of The Healing America Company, requested that the town agree to a website to allow staff direct access to order natural health and healing products. Five percent of the sales revenue will be given back to the town. After listening to Ms. Gaddy's presentation and asking her questions, the board was wary of participating in the website. Commissioner Sealey made a motion not to approve the Healing America Company website for town employees. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Speed Bump Request – West Alley, Downtown South Main Street

Ms. Tatum reported that some of the merchants abutting the alley between Iona and Thompson Streets have requested the board consider the installation of speed bumps. Many people park behind the stores and across the alley and there is an element of danger, especially at night when visibility is poor. The estimated cost of the speed bumps is \$400. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the installation of speed bumps on the west alley between Iona and Thompson Streets. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 15 – Nuisances – Uncontrolled Growth of Noxious Weeds, Bushes, Undergrowth or Grass higher than 11 inches

Ms. Tatum requested a change in the language pertaining to the growth of vegetation over eleven (11) inches in height. Due to the climate and the frequency with which the town must notify negligent property owners during the spring and summer seasons, she requested the language in Chapter 15 - Nuisances be modified to require one notice in any calendar year and regulate the fees charged.

Page 3 – Regular Meeting, November 15, 2005

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 15 – Nuisances, Sections 15-6, 15-7 and 15-8, abatement of uncontrolled growth higher than eleven inches. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Police Policies – Use of Force/Weapons & Ammunition, Property and Evidence Control, Crime Prevention/Community Involvement and Awards Program

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the Public Safety Department Policies on Use of Force/Weapons & Ammunition, Property and Evidence Control, Crime Prevention/Community Involvement and Awards Program. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of these policies are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Police Cars at Public Auction

Ms. Tatum announced the town has three surplus police vehicles that need to be sold at public auction. They are two 1996 Crown Victorias and a 1992 Toyota Camry. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the sale of three surplus police cars at public auction. 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.

Announcements

Town offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum will be out of the office November 23 – 29.

Employee Appreciation Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

The City of Lumberton will host the Robeson County Municipal Association. Date and time to be announced.

Christmas Festival – Sunday, December 4 on the front porch of Town Hall from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Lauren Miller will be the featured soloist.

The third annual “Visit from Santa” will be on Saturday, December 24. Any parent wishing to have a gift delivered by Santa and the Fairmont Fire Department should bring the gift to town hall by December 19.

Fairmont will host the Region N Managers and Administrators Association meeting on January 27, 2006.

Moment of Silence – W. J. Townsend

Commissioner Sealey asked for a moment of silence in honor and memory of W. J. Townsend, Commissioner Charles Townsend's father.

Public Comment Period

Chalmus Hood – Complaint about services

Mr. Chalmus Hood, of 1006 A East White Pond Road, complained that he pays taxes without the benefits of being a citizen. He has no streetlight near his home and had problems getting a broken trashcan replaced. Mr. Hood and his wife called several times to get a new cart and when they finally received one, it was dirty and smelly. Ms. Tatum thanked him for bringing his concerns to her attention and said she would look into the streetlight request. Mr. Hood's property does not have access to a public road so it may not be possible to put a streetlight near his home.

Closed Session – Personnel

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 7:10 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and attorney-client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Gaddy, Commissioners Grantham, McCree, Sealey, and Kemp along with Katrina Tatum, and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Personnel – Katrina Tatum, reimbursement of school expenses

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to reimburse Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum for her school expenses as regulated by the town's personnel policy. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Sealey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – December 20, 2005

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall with Mayors Nedward Gaddy and Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Jay Capps and Wayland Lennon, III. Commissioner Antonio Currie was absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. There were approximately 150 citizens present.

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

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of the acceptance of the water tower restoration bid. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on November 15, 2005. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Comments by Outgoing Mayor Nedward Gaddy

Mayor Gaddy thanked the citizens for allowing him to be mayor for the past five years. He also thanked the administrative staff for all their hard work. Mayor-elect Kemp presented Mayor Gaddy with a plaque in appreciation of his dedicated service and outstanding leadership to the Town of Fairmont.

Swearing in of Mayor and New Commissioners

Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd swore in Commissioners Charles Townsend, Wayland Lennon III, Jay Capps and Mayor Charles Kemp. A copy of their sworn oaths is hereby incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Comments by Newly Sworn in officials

Commissioners Capps, Townsend and Lennon thanked the citizens for entrusting them with the Town's future. They all pledged to work together to make Fairmont a better place to live and encouraged the citizens to be involved and participate in the changes ahead.

Mayor Kemp thanked the citizens for coming to tonight's meeting. He is honored to be entrusted with the office of mayor. He pledged to move Fairmont forward into the future with a team approach.

Organizational Meeting

Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to set the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. as the regular meeting date. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore

Commissioner Capps nominated Commissioner Wade Sealey for Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Lennon seconded the nomination. Commissioner Grantham moved that the nomination be accepted by acclamation and it was unanimous.

Administrative Matters

Recognition of Farmers Festival Pageant Queens

Mayor Kemp recognized the 2005 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens and Pageant Director Angie Lovin with certificates. The queens are Wee Miss Shayla Hunt (not present), Little Miss Haley Oxendine, Tiny Miss Courtney McCormick, Mini-Ambassador Taylor Locklear, Junior Miss Brianna Hunt, Teen Miss Elizabeth Hunt, Miss Jamee Hunt and Ambassador Whitney McFarland.

Bank Signature Card and Resolution

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the bank signature card and resolution with Mayor Charles Kemp, Mayor Pro Tempore Wade Sealey, Finance Director Linda Vause and Deputy Finance Director Jenny Larson as authorized to sign checks. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the bank signature resolution is hereby attached and made a part of these minutes.

Select LRCOG representative

Commissioner Capps nominated Commissioner Lennon to represent the town on the Lumber River Council of Governments board. Commissioner Sealey seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

Select Robeson Enterprise Community Development Corporation representative

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Charles Townsend to the Robeson Enterprise Community Development Corporation board. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayoral Committee Appointment/Announcements

Mayor's Committee on Economic Enhancement

Mayor Kemp announced the creation of the Mayor's Committee on Economic Enhancement whose purpose will be to recruit new businesses and industry. The members of this committee have vast years of experience in business and industry. The members are Key McKee, Leroy Freeman, Melvin Rogers, Gerald Campbell, Eric Thompson, Chairman Jimmy Byrne and Board Liaison Commissioner Wade Sealey.

Fairmont Appearance Committee

Mayor Kemp announced the creation of the Fairmont Appearance Committee whose purpose will be to give Fairmont a facelift and enhance and restore the town's attractiveness. The Co-Chairs of this committee are Laura Kemp and Rita Rogers.

Logo "Fairmont – The Little Town with the Big Heart"

Mayor Kemp asked a local artist to come up with a design to develop pride in Fairmont. He asked his sons to unveil the logo which is a big red heart with the words "Fairmont – The Little Town with the Big Heart." Mayor Kemp wants the board to consider adopting this logo at the January board meeting so it can be used on t-shirts.

Proclamation declaring January "Human and Civil Rights Month"

Mayor Kemp read a proclamation declaring January "Human and Civil Rights Month." He will award three certificates in January to a student from the elementary, middle and high schools who promote racial harmony and human togetherness.

Contribution of \$228 to the Local Government Wing Campaign – UNC School of Government

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to contribute \$228 to the Local Government Wing of the UNC School of Government. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation – AWARE Family Program – Pastor Linda Moody

Linda Moody, Pastor of the Accept Christ Fellowship Church, gave a presentation on the AWARE Family program. It is a drug education, awareness and prevention program founded in July 1995. This program assists families affected by illegal drugs, alcohol and other substance abuses. Pastor Moody's diligence and dedication over the last ten years has resulted in the assistance of over 200 families through support group sessions, referral services, healthy eating program, need a coat, the prison ministry and social services assistance.

Request to hire part time Equipment Operator in Public Works

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals has requested the creation of an Equipment Operator position. This position will be part time and require only 20 hours of active duty per week at an approximate annual cost of \$6,614. This position is greatly needed and will make it possible for the Public Works Department to better maintain the streets through street sweeping and bush hogging public areas.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the part time Equipment Operator position for Public Works at an annual salary of \$6,614. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rescind resolution adopted in November and adopt new resolution to allow surplus vehicles to be sold by sale method.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to rescind the resolution adopted November 15, 2005 to sell three surplus vehicles at public auction and to adopt a new resolution to allow the surplus vehicles to be sold by private sale. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Budget amendment – purchase of new computer server

Ms. Tatum asked the board for a budget amendment of \$10,583.50 to purchase a new computer server. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the budget amendment of \$10,583.50 for the purchase of a new computer server. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NC Step Demonstration Program and Building Reuse and Restoration Program

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the N.C. General Assembly has authorized funds to stimulate economic development and job creation in distressed areas. The Building Reuse and Restoration Grants Program is designed to spur economic activity and job creation by assisting in the productive reuse of vacant buildings in small towns, with priority to those with a population of less than 5,000. The maximum grant amount will be no more than \$400,000 with a 2.5% local match.

The Rural Center launched the Small Towns Initiative in November 2005 to bring greater prosperity and improved quality of life to North Carolina's small towns, especially those experiencing hardship posed by business closings and layoffs, devastation from natural disasters, or persistent poverty. As part of the Small Towns Initiative, the Rural Center announced the North Carolina Small Towns Economic Prosperity Demonstration (NC STEP). NC STEP is a three-year demonstration that targets economically distressed small towns, especially those faced with economic hardships due to structural changes in the economy. NC STEP is designed to spur economic activity, innovation, and job creation in selected small town demonstration sites through a program of strategic resource investments. The Rural Center will select 20 sites to participate in the demonstration.

Ms. Tatum asked the board for permission to pursue the Building Reuse and Restoration Grants and the NC STEP program. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to participate in the Building Reuse and Restoration Grant and the NC STEP program. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Community Building – decision to refund donations

Ms. Tatum informed the board that Anne P. Marks has requested the \$3,000 made by her family to the Fairmont Community Building Fund be repaid. In addition, Mrs. Mildred Brice requested a refund of \$600 and Mrs. Nina Johnson requested a refund of \$500. Town Attorney Robert Price and Ms. Tatum researched the paperwork sent in solicitation of these funds and concur that the funds should be repaid. A total of \$106,921.26 was collected and \$25,246.83 remains in the bank. The remaining funds will be exhausted first but the board will have to approve any expenditure from the general fund.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to refund the Community Building donations. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion. Commissioner McCree asked if we could sell the Community Building land to help recoup money. Attorney Price asked Commissioner Sealey for a more specific motion. Commissioner Sealey withdrew his first motion and made a motion to grant refunds from the Community Building Fund to those who have requested them. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Ms. Tatum did some research and emphasized the need to advertise that refunds were available to those who request them. Attorney Price stated that advertising the refunds could be added to the motion as a friendly amendment. Commissioner McCree had concerns about refunding money that the town had not budgeted for. Commissioner McCree made a motion to table the Community Building donation refunds until January. Commissioner Sealey withdrew his motion and agreed with Commissioner McCree that more time was needed to look into all the options. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to table the Community Building donation refunds until January so the board can have more time to discuss and the Town Attorney can research the possibility of selling the land to recoup money for refunds. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion. Attorney Price informed the board that Mrs. Anne Marks has an attorney and needs a

response to her refund request by tomorrow. He advised the board to consider the three requests for refunds now and address future requests at a later meeting. Commissioner McCree made a motion to use the \$25,000 in savings to refund the Community Building donations in the amount of \$3,000 to the Marks family, \$600 to Mrs. Mildred Brice and \$500 to Mrs. Nina Johnson and to place any remaining requests for refunds on the January agenda. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Acceptance of bid for Water Tower restoration

Ms. Tatum announced the town received three bid proposals on December 19, 2005 for the elevated tank restoration. The results were: Municipal Tank Coating \$162,800, Phoenix Tank Services, \$158,163 and Southern Corrosion, Inc., \$126,542. The project consultant, Koonce Nobles and Associates recommended awarding the contract to low bidder Southern Corrosion, Inc. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the bid of \$126,542 by Southern Corrosion, Inc. and award them the contract for the restoration of the Marion Stage Road Water Tower. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Town Employee Christmas Luncheon Thursday, December 22 at 12:00 in the Fire Hall with meal catered by TLC of Orrum.

The Town offices will close at noon on Thursday, December 22 and will be closed all day December 23, 26 and 27 in observance of Christmas. The offices will also be closed on Monday, January 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

Santa Visits the Kids – December 24, sponsored by the Fairmont City Fire Department.

Closed Session – Business

Commissioner Capps made a motion to go into closed session at 7:20 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 business as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Grantham, McCree, Sealey, Townsend, Lennon and Capps along with Katrina Tatum, Jenny Larson and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lease Agreement with Cingular Wireless for Water Tower site

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to enter into a lease agreement with Cingular Wireless for use of the Marion Stage Road water tower site for \$6,000 a year. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

No one spoke during the public comment period.

Closing Comments – Mayor Charles Kemp

Mayor Kemp thanked the citizens for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged them to stay for refreshments.

Rev. Marc Werner, Town Chaplain, gave the benediction. There being no further business, Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Sealey, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was followed with a social honoring the new mayor and commissioners. The refreshments were provided by Janice Faulk, Joyce Lewis, Collins Baxley and Betty Carl Britt.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – January 17, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, and Jay Capps. Commissioner Wayland Lennon, III was absent due to work and Commissioner Mary Bruce Grantham was absent due to illness. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Others present included members of the Fairmont City Fire Department, Jimmy Byrne, Huel Faulk, Rev. Marc Werner, Scott Witten, Peggy Spencer, Nedward Gaddy, Tony Bridgett, Evita Sanderson, Maurice Townsend, Thomas Townsend, and about thirty citizens.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order. Town Chaplain Rev. Marc Werner gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Kemp proposed the following changes to the agenda format:

1. Agenda packets are to be made available by the Wednesday prior to regular board meetings. This will allow board members to network with each other prior to meetings.
2. With the exception of emergency items, the board will not allow any item to be voted on that does not appear on the written agenda.
3. Reorganization of the agenda. Provide Consent Agenda section reserved for non-controversial items to be adopted as a group with one board vote. Maintain Administrative Matters section for items that need board discussion. Add Mayor and Commissioner Input sections to allow both entities to ask questions regarding functions or operations, make suggestions on needed actions, studies needed to be made, or make requests of staff.
4. Establish the Friday prior to agenda release as the deadline to have issues or data placed on the agenda. Any Commissioner who wishes to place an item in any section of the agenda should contact the Mayor or Manager no later than the deadline day. This requires an ordinance amendment to the Town Code by modifying Chapter 2, Section 43 Agenda to read “at least eleven (11) days prior to its meeting” instead of the current “four (4) days.”
5. Change Public Comment Period to the beginning of each regular meeting and restrict comments or questions from the spectators during all portions of the meeting to establish an orderly flow and swift movement of the meetings.

6. Until further notice, all individuals or groups requesting funds from the Town of Fairmont will not have their requests to appear before the board honored. It will be time consuming to hear their request(s) only to offer no resolution to the request.
7. All requests, questions, motions or comments be made only after a board member or staff member has gain recognition from the Chair after which they may proceed uninterrupted until they conclude.
8. Closed sessions are provided for by law and they will not be used improperly. Any conversation which does not relate specifically to the purpose of the called closed session will be terminated immediately.
9. To simply the Public Comment Period portion of the meeting and to prevent possibly antagonistic situations from arising during an open meeting, citizens are encouraged to go through the chain of command to possibly find a solution to their issue and thus avoid their appearance before the board.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the changes to the agenda format including an amendment to Chapter 2, Section 2-43 of the Fairmont Municipal Code. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the ordinance amendment is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. (Clerk's note: the numbering for the new code book is Section 30.17)

Commissioner Capps made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting with the addition of budget amendment to purchase fire gear under the consent agenda. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on December 20, 2005. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

"I Have a Dream" speech by Tony Bridgett

Mr. Tony Bridgett, of Charlotte, North Carolina did a rendering of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Mr. Bridgett has been performing this speech since he was 12 years old and Mayor Kemp asked him to come tonight in honor of the holiday. A copy of the speech was given to the audience.

Recognition

Martin Luther King Certificates honoring three local students.

Mayor Kemp presented certificates to three local students who have done the most to promote togetherness and racial harmony at their schools. The students are Evita Sanderson, Rosenwald Elementary, Maurice Townsend, Fairmont Middle and Thomas Townsend, Fairmont High.

Certificates of Appreciation to Fire Department for helping with Santa Visit.

Mayor Kemp presented certificates to the members of the Fairmont City Fire Department who participated in the Santa Visit on Christmas Eve. They are Public Safety Director Robert Hassell, Deputy Fire Chief James Thompson, Assistant Fire Chief Leon Jacobs, Captain Tommy Hall, Sergeant Garrett Robinson, Firefighter Vernell Freeman, Firefighter Rita Davis and Police Officer Samuel Britt.

Public Comment Period

Huel Faulk – Drainage in Old Field area

Mr. Huel Faulk informed the board of the drainage issues in the Old Field area. Many of the homes that are on Canal, Stafford and Liberia streets have damage due to standing water from the poor drainage. Ms. Tatum replied that correcting the drainage problems would be a massive, costly project and suggested the board consider the Old Field area for the next CDBG project, which will be applied for in eighteen months.

Peggy Spencer – Property Taxes

Ms. Peggy Spencer asked the board to consider property tax relief for the citizens of Fairmont. She does not see how we can attract new residents with our high taxes and utility bills. Mayor Kemp thanked her for her comments and said the board would consider the tax rate during the budget process.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Townsend, seconded by Commissioner Capps, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- A. Adopted logo “Fairmont – The Little Town with the Big Heart” and agreed to sale \$10.00 t-shirts starting on February 14th.

- B. Set the date of Tuesday, January 24th at 6:00 p.m. for an Issue Forum in the Fire Hall with the topics of better communication between citizens and the government and the Fairmont Community Building project.
- C. Set the date of Tuesday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m. for a Board Retreat at Gaston Sealey Co., Inc. to discuss budget planning.
- D. Adopted Ordinance setting Parking Citation Fees by amending Chapter 14 – Motor Vehicles and Traffic adding Section 14-117 Parking Citation Fees. This ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. (Clerk’s Note: the numbering for the new code book is Section 73.17).
- E. Approved Budget amendment to purchase fire gear in the amount of \$8,800.

Administrative Matters

Community Building – Donation refund requests rescinded

Mayor Kemp announced he still supports the Community Building project. He has talked with state and federal representatives and asked them to help with funding. Mayor Kemp has also asked a general contractor to prepare an alternative plan for the Community Building by redesigning a commercial property in town. Commissioner McCree was concerned with going forward with a costly project when the citizens are asking for relief from high taxes and utility bills.

At last month’s meeting, Town Attorney Robert Price had received information from the School of Government that led the staff to believe that the donations should be returned. Since that meeting, Attorney Price contacted David Lawrence with the School of Government and provided him with a full list of expenditures on the Community Building project. After reviewing the information, Mr. Lawrence stated the town has no legal obligation to return the donations since the money was spent on both hard and soft costs and the town intends to continue forward with the Community Building project. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to rescind the action refunding Community Building donations passed at the December board meeting. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Appointments – Planning, ABC and Board of Adjustment

ABC Board

Commissioner Sealey nominated Steve Floyd for the ABC Board. Commissioner Capps seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, Commissioner Capps motioned to accept the nomination by acclamation and it passed unanimously.

Board of Adjustment

Ms. Tatum asked the board to nominate two citizens who live in the town's ETJ for the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Capps nominated Jerry Leggett. There was no nomination for a second person. Commissioner Capps made a motion to accept Jerry Leggett for the Board of Adjustment and table the second the other nomination until the February meeting. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Planning Board

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to reappoint Dennis Hicks and Phostenia McCrimmon to the Planning Board. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Report by Committee on Economic Enhancement

Mr. Jimmy Byrne, Chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Economic Enhancement gave the board a report on their first meeting held on January 10, 2006. The committee met for two hours and is optimistic on the future of Fairmont. The committee believes Fairmont and the South Robeson area is blessed with a strong labor force, vacant buildings, low priced undeveloped property, low cost housing and low tax rates. The area also has the sewer, water, airports, interstate highways and rail systems to accommodate almost any kind of industry. The committee also feels strongly that Fairmont has all the amenities for becoming a retirement village since there is low cost housing and land, a golf course, 45 to 65 minute drive to major airports and 60 minutes from major beaches and lakes and a friendly citizenry. Fairmont also has the ability to attract antique stores that would bring in tourist traffic. Mr. Byrne challenged the board to develop a five year plan for the town to use in applying for grants and loans.

Discuss renaming Center Street in honor of Levinson family

Mayor Kemp requested that Center Street be renamed Levinson Place in honor of the Levinson family. Harry Levinson operated Levinson's Department store and his son, David was instrumental in bringing the ABC store to Fairmont. There are no active businesses on Center Street at this time except for Al Lewis' warehouse and he has no problem with the name change. Commissioner Capps made a motion to rename Center Street to Levinson Place. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request by McKee Craft to motor grade their parking lot

Ms. Tatum reported Mr. Kee McKee has requested the town motor grade his company's parking lot due to poor drainage. Ms. Tatum contended that because this lot is in a low lying area, there will be washout regardless. She advised the board that if they approve motor grading McKee Craft's parking lot the staff could be flooded with other private requests for grading, etc. Attorney Price said the town could make a distinction for commercial lots but he does not think it is legal for the town to perform work on private property. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to table this issue until the town attorney can do research and give a solid opinion on the legality of motor grading private parking lots. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp announced the creation of the Phoenix Group, a Downtown Revitalization committee. The members of the committee are Odell Hunt, Robert J. Walker, Ty Jones, Vayda Taylor, Angie Lovin, Bud Pate, Dick Taylor, Ben Brady, Chairman and Jay Capps, board liaison. The mission of this committee is to network, brainstorm ideas and bring suggestions to the board for improving the downtown area.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Sealey wanted the board to know that the members of the Economic Enhancement Committee are excited about the opportunity to bring industry to Fairmont.

Commissioner Townsend announced that State Treasurer Richard Moore will be hosting a wealth building seminar on Saturday, January 28th at 9:00 a.m. on the campus of UNCP. He also announced that Ron Ross with the Boys and Girls Club is looking at locations for a Fairmont club.

Announcements

The town newsletter will be available next week in the Water Department, town churches and several area businesses.

The Town of Pembroke will host the Robeson County Municipal Association on Tuesday, January 31st at 7:00 p.m. at Shef's Seafood.

Fairmont will host the Region N Managers and Administrators Association meeting on January 27, 2006.

The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Closed Session – Personnel and Attorney-Client Privilege

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 7:50 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 personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Sealey, Townsend, and Capps along with Katrina Tatum, Jenny Larson and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Policy on awarding service weapon to disabled police officers

Commissioner McCree made a motion to change the policy concerning service weapons to award the weapon to any police officer who retires due to disability resulting from the line of duty. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Issue Forum – January 24, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special issue forum on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wayland Lennon, III, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham and Jay Capps. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Others present included Jimmy Byrne, Huel Faulk, Rev. Marc Werner, Scott Witten, Peggy Spencer, Shirley Price, John Jackson, Bridget Bass, R. J. Walker, Terry Evans, Bobby Walters, Anne Marks and about fifty citizens.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order. Town Chaplain Rev. Marc Werner gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp announced that the meeting would last an hour and a half with the first forty-five minutes devoted to better methods of communication and the second half to the pros and cons of a Community Building.

Better Methods of Communication

Mayor Kemp went over a list of tools that could be used for better communication between the town and its citizens:

1. Town Newsletter – available at the water department, town churches, area businesses, town and mayor’s websites.
2. Newly designed, updated town webpage containing the monthly newsletter and previous board minutes.
3. Town Issue Forums – four per year.
4. Neighborhood meetings – to be held quarterly.
5. “Park it with the Mayor” – Saturday morning discussion groups in the Community Park with the mayor during warm weather with refreshments.
6. “Focus on Fairmont” – Radio show on WSTS-FM 100.9 each Saturday from 12:00 – 12:15 p.m.
7. “Focus on Fairmont” – TV show on UNCP TV once a month, start date to be announced.
8. Suggestion box in lobby of water department for citizen suggestions and input.
9. Larger enclosed bulletin board in the first floor hallway of Town Hall.
10. Community cork board at the Community Park.
11. Lighted marquee sign on front lawn of Town Hall.
12. Items on large monthly calendar produced by The Robesonian.

Ms. Peggy Spencer was impressed to see the newsletter back in circulation. Mr. Bobby Walters suggested sending some newsletters to the new restaurant, The Royal Palace. Mr. Huel Faulk said he would distribute the newsletters as well.

Mr. John Jackson presented Mayor Kemp with a written statement and asked permission to read it. Mayor Kemp asked Mr. Jackson not to read his statement and for everyone to stick to the topic of communication.

Mr. Terry Evans stated that communication was a tough topic to discuss. Mr. Evans brought up the racial divide in the town and how some citizens are still living in the 1960's. He encouraged everyone to bury the past, bridge the gap between the races and learn to work together in order to move forward.

Mr. Huel Faulk asked about the changing of Center Street to Levinson Place. He owns property on the street and was not notified that a name change was being considered. Ms. Tatum stated that it was not required to notify property owners, just businesses currently operating on the street. Mr. Faulk felt it was bad communication and that all property owners should be notified in the future. Mr. Faulk suggested putting up a sign on Main Street in honor of the Levinson family. He noted that Center Street was the home of many minority businesses in the past and changing the name takes away a piece of their heritage. Ms. Tatum suggested putting up a cornerstone on Center Street with a brief history of the families who had businesses there as way of preserving their heritage. She also suggested leaving the street name Center Street and putting up a sign on Main Street in honor of the Levinson family.

Rev. Leonard Bergman suggested a portion of future issue forums be set aside for other issues besides the topics scheduled to be discussed.

Several citizens accused the county newspaper, The Robesonian, of covering only the negative aspects of the town in order to sale papers.

Mr. R. J. Walker suggested establishing a racial harmony committee to promote togetherness. Ms. Tatum added that at the recent LRCOG retreat, poor race relations was the number one reason North Carolina is not progressing like it should. New businesses want to come to North Carolina but they want to be in an environment that is conducive to all races.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that everything in his statement was discussed tonight by other people. Mayor Kemp still refused to let Mr. Jackson read his statement.

Pros/Cons of a Community Building

Mayor Kemp turned to the topic of the pros and cons of a Community Building. Mrs. Shirley Price asked the board not to sale the lot in case the building is not built since it is such a good location and can be used for something else.

Mr. Jimmy Byrne feels the town still needs a Community Building and that the original committee got overzealous in the expensive design plans which coincided with the town's financial problems. He asked the citizens to give the town board the opportunity to go forward and see what funding is out there and build a center that is less costly and will not put the town back in financial jeopardy.

Ms. Bridget Bass and Mrs. Shirley Price agreed that the town should look into a more central location for the Community Building, like one of the empty warehouse lots on Walnut Street.

Mayor Kemp informed the citizens that a general contractor was looking at reconfiguring a commercial property for the Community Building for a cost of less than \$400,000. When the plans are finished, he will bring them to the board and the town for their consideration. Mr. Huel Faulk was concerned that the Mayor's plan did not give the citizens a voice and suggested forming a committee to look at different building plans. Mayor Kemp said he was willing to look at any plans or suggestions the citizens may have.

Commissioner McCree feels the Community Building is a great idea but the town needs to look at its priorities first: the Old Field area has drainage and flooding problems, the citizens are asking for relief from high property taxes and the town employees deserve raises for their hard work.

Mayor Kemp thanked everyone for coming to the issue forum and announced that the next one would be in April. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Board Retreat – February 7, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a board retreat on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room at Gaston Sealey Warehouse with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present included Mary Bruce Grantham, J.J. McCree, Jay Capps, Wayland Lennon, III and Wade Sealey. Commissioner Charles Townsend was absent. Staff members present were Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Town Clerk Jenny Larson.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and Commissioner Wayland Lennon, III gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp announced the purpose of the meeting is to discuss budget planning for 2006-2007, as well as any commissioner concerns and staff issues that may come up.

Ms. Tatum went over the budget financial statement ending December 31, 2005. Commissioner McCree asked if we could create a business license category for the businesses that are going to sell lottery tickets. Ms. Tatum did not know but feels the state will regulate what fees we can charge in relation to the lottery and that it may be awhile before the town has an answer.

Mayor Kemp asked the board to put any budget requests they have in writing to Ms. Tatum. Ms. Tatum asked the board to keep in mind that the town needs a new fire truck. Staff is currently exploring grants to purchase equipment and a used fire truck. She also asked the board to consider raises for the staff including reinstating the merit raise system. Ms. Tatum also suggested reinstating a stricter health insurance program for retirees on a graduated basis.

Ms. Tatum informed the board she was looking into the E-911 money the county receives from the fees charged on resident phone bills to see how much comes to Fairmont.

Commissioner McCree asked about using Powell Bill money to help with the drainage problems in the Old Field area. Ms. Tatum responded that the Powell Bill money is not only used for drainage but also street and sidewalk repair, to purchase equipment and some salaries.

Commissioner Grantham was concerned about the water and sewer lines. Some of the pipes date back to the early 1900's. Ms. Tatum added that infiltration into the sewer system from storm water is also a major budget concern.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting - February 21, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Others present included Annie Durant, Terry Evans, Marlene Bass, Missy Hoggard, Shea Ann DeJarnette, Sergeant Donald Harper and about fifteen citizens.

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

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Community Activities Committee schedule of events under Administrative Matters. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – USDA grant for fire equipment.

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. to discuss a USDA grant for fire equipment. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The grant is for \$10,000 with the town providing a match of \$8,800 for a project cost of \$18,800. The funds will be used to purchase 10 complete sets of turnout gear and a “Touch-N-Track” accountability system. The accountability system will track firefighters inside burning or smoke filled structures. The system includes tags with an electronic chip which will store essential medical data on each individual fire fighter. This system also has carbon monoxide and other gas detection capability. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:07 p.m. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to apply for the USDA grant for fire equipment in the amount of \$10,000. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Introduction of New Employees

Public Safety Director Robert Hassell introduced Sergeant Donald Harper who has over eight years experience and recently worked at the Town of Fair Bluff.

Presentation by Mayor

Mayor Kemp presented a certificate of appreciation to Marlene Bass for her volunteer work in improving and enhancing the town’s beauty.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Terry Evans – Communication and Street Name Change

Mr. Terry Evans thanked the board for hosting Issue Forums that give the citizens a chance to speak their mind from the heart. He works with people who live in other municipalities and they were amazed at our town's willingness to give the citizens a voice. Mr. Evans was also concerned about the proposed street name change. He feels that the town could be opening a Pandora's Box where more people could come forward with requests to change street names.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Sealey, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting January 17, Issue Forum January 24 and Board Retreat February 7, 2006.

B. Adopt Resolution for Requisition Check Signatures and Administration for CDBG funds.

C. Letter commending former County Commissioner E. B. Turner for his long, successful career in local government.

Administrative Matters

Beautification grant and Azalea giveaway – Robeson County Ag Extension Office representatives.

Ms. Shea Ann DeJarnette and Ms. Missy Hoggard of the Robeson County Agriculture Extension Office made a presentation on a beautification grant and azalea giveaway program. Ms. DeJarnette works with the 4-H program and said there were several grant opportunities to create projects for our youth to beautify the town entranceways. The Junior 4-H Club can do the landscaping and civic organizations in town can then adopt an entranceway to maintain it. The 4-H program will apply for the beautification grant with the Town of Fairmont as the recipient.

Ms. Hoggard informed the board of the NC Beautiful organization which partners with WRAL in Raleigh to give away 10,000 azaleas to non-profit groups across the state. The applications will be available in June and non-profits can apply for up to 100 azaleas. Not only can the town apply but non-profits such as churches, schools and civic organizations can also apply for the azaleas which will be given out in October.

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Commissioner Grantham made a motion to allow the Robeson County 4-H program to apply for a beautification grant on behalf of the Town of Fairmont. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board Appointments – Board of Adjustment ETJ member.

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to table the appointment of the ETJ member of the Board of Adjustment to the March meeting. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Recreation Committee report and budget amendment request.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the Fairmont Civitan Club has requested the town to fund the Recreation Director position. The Recreation Committee discussed the Civitan Club's request for \$3,000 and suggested increasing the budget for recreation from \$2,925 to \$4,500. They recommended one of the following: if the budget is increased as requested, grant the Civitan Club \$3,000 or if the budget increase is not granted, give the Civitan Club \$1,425 now and at the end of the fiscal year grant them whatever funds remain in the budget after all other requests have been reviewed and acted upon. Commissioner McCree wanted to make sure that every program that requests funds get funded. After much discussion, Commissioner Capps made a motion to give the Fairmont Civitan Club \$1,425 now and wait until March to see what other funding requests come in before increasing the budget for recreation. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discuss Center Street renaming.

Commissioner Grantham stated she got several phone calls from citizens asking that the board reverse its decision to rename Center Street to Levinson Avenue. She added that putting up a plaque to honor the Levinsons as an option was also a bad idea because then other people would be requesting honorary plaques. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to keep the name Center Street and not to put up any honorary plaques. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner McCree requested that any future requests for street name changes require a public hearing.

Request by McKee Craft to grade their parking lot – Town Attorney's report on legality of performing this work.

Town Attorney Rob Price reported that it is illegal to grade or do work on private property unless the problem was caused by the town. The town has no authority to go on private property period.

Town Manager search process.

Commissioner Grantham was against going through the Town Manager search process again since the town still does not have the funds for the salary. Commissioner Lennon presented the following verbiage for the Town Manager advertisement:

Town Manager - Fairmont, pop. 2,732. Located 10 miles south of Lumberton in Robeson County, 8 miles from I-95, 70 minutes from Myrtle Beach. Council/Manager government. 30 FT and 5 PT employees (includes 11 FT sworn police officers including the Chief). VFD, \$94M tax levy, \$3.2M budget, new wastewater treatment plant. Manager directs and supervises all departments, offices and agencies of the town through department heads. Manager may also serve as the codes and planning director. Qualifications: Prefer 4 year BA/BS degree with a minimum of 3 years experience as a manager. Special preference given for MPA or business degree in finance. Strongly prefer individual with grant writing experience. Experience in local government administration or considerable experience in financial administration desired. Salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send cover letter, resume, 3 references, salary requirements and salary history to Town Attorney Robert E. Price at P.O. Box 630, Lumberton, NC 28359. Closing date is Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 5 p.m. EDT. EOE.

Commissioner Lennon also presented the following Town Manager Hiring Timetable:

Feb.22, 2006 -

April 11, 2006: Application Period – Advertisement to appear in specified publications.

April 11, 2006: Application Period closed. All application packets must be received by 5 p.m.

April 12, 2006: Regular Town Board meeting information packets distributed to board members including the application packets of each Permanent Town Manager job applicant.

April 18, 2006: Regular Town Board meeting date. Determine number of applicants desired for telephone interviews. Set meeting dates (no more than 3) to conduct telephone interviews as a group to narrow list of applicants to a smaller list of candidates prior to May 9, 2006.

April 19, 2006- Conduct telephone interviews as a group on the dates specified during

May 9, 2006: the April 18, 2006 meeting to narrow the list of applicants to a focused list of candidates.

May 16, 2006: Regular Town Board meeting date. Each board member will have reviewed applications and participated in the telephone interviews in order to specify their top candidate. Select candidates to be interviewed face to face by secret ballot submission of board members top candidate.

May 17, 2006 - Interviews of selected candidates.

June 16, 2006

June 20, 2006: Select Permanent Town Manager.

July 1, 2006: Permanent Town Manager begins work.

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to use the above wording to advertise for the hiring of a Town Manager and that this process begins on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 and ends on April 11, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. with the advertisement being placed in the NC League of Municipalities Newsletter and the Southern City Newsletter in the March and April editions, as well as the town webpage; at the end of the application process, the town board will follow the hiring timetable to assess the applicants, narrow the list of applicants desired for telephone interviews, narrow the list to top five candidates, conduct interviews of the top five candidates and hire the most qualified candidate for the position of Town Manager. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed 4 to 2 with the following votes:

For: Commissioners Capps, Lennon, Sealey and Townsend
Against: Commissioners Grantham and McCree

Town Attorney Rob Price mentioned that there is an additional cost to advertise on the NCLM website. Commissioner Lennon amended his motion to include advertising on the NCLM website. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed 4 to 2 with the following votes:

For: Commissioners Capps, Lennon, Sealey and Townsend
Against: Commissioners Grantham and McCree

(Clerk's note: Commissioner Townsend did not vote on either motion but because he did not ask permission to abstain from voting it counts as an affirmative vote. G.S. 160A-75.)

Theater Building.

Mayor Kemp asked the board to consider acquiring ownership of the Theater Building as part of the effort to demolish the building and establish a mini park in its place. Mayor Kemp is raising private funds for the demolition so the town would not have to expend any funds on the project. Attorney Price said the building's owner is willing to donate the property to the town. There is a deed of trust on the property but the holder is willing to cancel it. He went over the pros and cons of acquiring the property before it is demolished. The positive is the town will own the property and can use it as it sees fit. The negative is the town would be liable if someone was injured during the demolition. Commissioner McCree asked if an environmental study for hazards would be done. Commissioner Grantham was concerned about liability and opening a can of worms. She stated that the Warren Barnes and Charles Callahan buildings as well as three burned out houses all need to come down as well. Commissioner Grantham also hated to see the front of the theater building go because of the Art Nouveau architecture. Public Works Director Ronnie Seals informed the board that there is a structural crack in that portion of the building and that is one of the main reasons the building needs to come down. Attorney Price added that the town has a moral responsibility because of this. Commissioner McCree stated the town also has moral responsibility to helping the residents of Old Field who have asked for assistance year after year. Commissioner Grantham also had concerns about how the demolition would affect the buildings next door. Mr. Seals explained that the contractor would start at the top and bring the theater walls level to the existing buildings on either side and then cap that off. Ms. Tatum suggested entering into an agreement to accept the property pending the completion of demolition. After further discussion, the board decided to take no action on acquiring ownership of the Theater Building property but encouraged Mayor Kemp to continue with his fundraising to demolish the building.

Community Activities Committee Calendar of Events

Ms. Tatum presented the board with the Community Activities Committee Calendar of Events for 2006. Committee Chairman Annie Durant informed the board of two upcoming events: a Parent/Child Kite Building contest at the Fairmont Middle School Athletic Field on March 25 and an Easter Egg Hunt at the Community Park on April 8, co-sponsored by Fairmont First Baptist Church. Commissioner Capps made a motion to approve the Community Activities Committee Calendar of Events for 2006. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp commended Chief Hassell for establishing a Police Advisory Committee and asked the board to bring their committee member names to the March meeting. Mayor Kemp added the Fairmont Appearance Committee will give their first report at the March meeting as well.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Sealey thanked Chief Hassell and the fire department for being professional during a recent family fire.

Commissioner Grantham praised Chief Hassell for participating in the Ready to Work program at the high school. A student from Fairmont High comes to the police department and rides with police officers and observes dispatchers to learn what it is like to be a police officer.

Commissioner Grantham recently attended a presentation at Robeson Community College on business and government. She advised that the board has to change its way of looking at things because of the global impact of jobs going to China and India.

Commissioner Sealey invited everyone to his home for a meet and greet with Sheriff Kenneth Sealey on Sunday, March 5 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Announcements

The Towns of Proctorville and Orrum of will host the Robeson County Municipal Association on Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Proctorville Community Center.

The Fairmont Community Watch will meet on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom

The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Neighborhood Discussion Groups hosted by Mayor Kemp in three residential zones to be held March 7, 14 and 28.

Closed Session – Personnel and Attorney – Client Privilege GS 143-318.11(a)(3,6)

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 7:34 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and attorney-client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Sealey, Townsend, Grantham, Lennon and Capps along with Katrina Tatum, Jenny Larson and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:45 p.m. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Emergency Board Meeting – March 18, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held an emergency meeting on Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, and Jay Capps. Commissioners absent were J. J. McCree and Wayland Lennon, III. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Town Clerk Jenny Larson.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting is to develop a plan of action relating to the potential denial by the N.C. Department of Transportation to run sewer lines connected to the Town of Fairmont's planned extension of sewer to the Towns of Boardman, Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff. Mayor Kemp noted that the press was properly notified of the meeting last night at 10:37 p.m.

An article published on March 16 in the Columbus County paper, "The News Reporter," states that the \$6 million in grants for sewer extension to Boardman, Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff could be at stake if officials for the N.C. Department of Transportation decide not to allow sewer lines to be run under U.S. 74. The problem involves almost 4,500 feet of 10-inch sewer main that would cross under U.S. 74 and then bore below the Lumber River before running parallel to U.S. 74 for more than three-fourths of a mile to Fairmont's wastewater treatment plant.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that she has left several messages with the project manager, Bill Lester, of Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates. She also plans to contact Al Leonard, the Town Manager of Tabor City who is also assisting Boardman, Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff with this sewer extension project. Commissioner Sealey said he would contact Carl Meares of Fair Bluff who has close connections to State Senator R.C. Soles.

After discussion the board agreed to contact officials with the affected towns and offer any assistance necessary to keep the sewer extension project on track.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting - March 21, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Others present included Annie Durant, Garland Jenkins, Laura Kemp, Rita Rogers, Janet Robertson, Justin Oliver, Vicky Tate and about 15 citizens.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order and Town Chaplain Marc Werner gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion of the Fats, Oils and Grease Ordinance, the addition of CDBG award and budget amendment to repair street maintenance equipment and move RCC request to continue Golden Leaf program to the top under Administrative Matters. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Introduction of New Employees

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum introduced Equipment Operator Garland Jenkins.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

There were no citizens signed up for the public comment period.

Consent Agenda

The approval of the minutes from the regular board meeting on February 21 was removed from the consent agenda at the request of Commissioner McCree. He asked that the clerk add more detail to the portion of the minutes regarding the proposal to acquire the old theater building. Upon motion by Commissioner Sealey, seconded by Commissioner Capps, it was unanimously voted to adopt the remaining consent agenda items:

- A. Set Town Issue Forum for Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.
- B. Approve welcome letter for new residents.
- C. Set April 17 – April 28 as Spring Clean and Green weeks.

Administrative Matters

RCC request to continue occupancy of the old Head Start building.

Mr. Justin Oliver and Ms. Vicky Tate from Robeson Community College asked the board to continue supporting RCC's occupancy of the old Four County Community Services Head Start center at an approximate cost of \$4,000 per year for utility costs and insurance. RCC has used the facilities to offer adult education classes for high school dropouts and computer classes. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to continue the partnership with RCC and their off campus services at the old Four County Community Services Head Start center by covering any additional utility and insurance costs. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fairmont Appearance Committee report – Laura Kemp and Rita Rogers

Ms. Laura Kemp, Co-Chairman of the Fairmont Appearance Committee gave a progress report to the board. The members of the committee include Co-Chairman Rita Rogers, Novella McLean, Marlene Bass, Joan Spruill, Vera Faulk, Melvin Ellison and Stein Ellefson. The committee met on March 16 and focused on the business district, downtown and the main thoroughfares. The committee will address residential areas in June. They came up with a Top Ten list of areas that need improvement:

1. Burned out buildings on South Main Street present a health hazard as well as an eyesore. It may not be feasible to tear down these buildings as too many empty spaces will be left on the street. Owners should be required to clean out the debris inside, board up windows and doors and decoratively paint the boards to blend with buildings on the street (as was done on the back of these buildings). This also applies to the old Farmer's Exchange and the building next to it located on Iona St. The windows are boarded up but are faded and look unattractive. The entire front of the store and side, including boarded up windows, could be painted and made to look less abandoned.
2. Vacant buildings - windows should be covered with black plastic so the empty stores will not be so noticeable from the street. Newspapers and curtains (other than black) are not acceptable.
3. Awnings and old signs hanging over stores - awnings should be in good repair and not loose or swinging in the wind. Old signs should be removed if the business is not located there anymore.
4. Merchandise should not be displayed on the sidewalk unless there is a town wide sale and all merchants use the sidewalk for display. Examples: Whatever for Baby on Main St. and the thrift store at the corner of Byrd and North Main Street. These two stores consistently display merchandise on the sidewalk and it makes the street look junky.
5. Removal of old theater building and use space for mini park.

6. Some buildings need to be repaired and painted on Main Street. Property owners should be required to maintain their buildings in a stated manner.
7. Signs displayed on the fence at Mr. G's store. Too many and looks tacky. This may take only a word spoken with the owners to get this cleaned up.
8. Thomas Auto Repair - north of town - junk yard is still exposed to view and looks like it has expanded to the north side of the building in full view. The trees are not providing enough covering for the fence.
9. Trash and weeds along streets entering town. We would like to start a program called "Adopt A Block" and encourage civic groups, church groups, school clubs, residents and anyone interested, to choose a block or area of town and keep the trash picked up along the streets, plant flowers (with town approval) and otherwise make the area more attractive.
10. Houses and buildings located on main thoroughfares of town that are abandoned, need repair, or are burned out rubble such as the pile of rubble located at corner of Iona and Trinity Streets, abandoned house located next to You'll Love It Pizza on North Walnut St., the old Graham Pittman house on Walnut Street, building located across from Food Lion which may be a business but needs some work, Fairmont Upholstery building located on N. Walnut Street near Bruce St (looks abandoned with broken windows and weeds), Swiss Piedmont building located on Walnut Street near the Post Office (abandoned, and a health hazard). These are a few of the main ones and there are more on other streets leading into downtown.

Mrs. Kemp asked property owners for cooperation in keeping their buildings painted and in good repair. She encouraged the citizens to participate in the awakening of Fairmont and to make our town a shining star.

Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO) presentation by Janet Robertson, Rural Transportation Planner with the LRCOG.

Ms. Janet Robertson, Rural Transportation Planner with the LRCOG made a presentation on the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO). The RPO can help municipalities develop long range transportation/thoroughfare plans. They also do intersection traffic counts and enhancement projects.

Appoint LRCOG alternate member for Commissioner Lennon.

Commissioner Townsend volunteered to be the alternate to Commissioner Lennon on the LRCOG board.

Board Appointment – Board of Adjustment ETJ member. (Third request)

The board did not have a nominee for the Board of Adjustment ETJ member, so Ms. Tatum announced she would find someone for the board to approve in April.

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Police Advisory Board – each board member needs to appoint a citizen.

Mayor Kemp asked the board to give their names to Chief Hassell for the Police Advisory Board.

Recreation Committee report and budget amendment request.

Ms. Tatum announced that the Recreation Committee met but were not asking for a budget amendment request at this time. The committee received two proposals, one for a photography class and one for a music class. The committee asked for more information about the proposals before making a decision.

The board also discussed the difference between the Recreation Director position and the Recreation Committee and the possibility of having a combination of both. The board decided to discuss this in more detail at a later date.

Community Activities Committee – Donation announcement

Chairman Annie Durant announced that Time Warner Cable has made a \$250 donation to sponsor the Day in the Park activity in July.

Fats, Oils and Greases Control Ordinance.

This item was tabled until the April meeting.

Amend Traffic Schedule Ordinance to change speed limit on Golf Course Road/NC Hwy 130 Bypass to 35 mph.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that once a thoroughfare is annexed the speed limit is changed to an in town speed limit. The current speed limit on Golf Course Road/NC Hwy 130 Bypass is 45-55 mph. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to amend the Traffic Schedule Ordinance to change the speed limit on Golf Course Road/NC Hwy 130 Bypass to 35 mph starting at Walnut Street and ending at Old Stage Road. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

CDBG engineering award

Ms. Tatum announced that the town advertised for engineering services in conjunction with the 2004 CDBG Community Revitalization Project on February 15, 2006, with a submission date of March 10, 2006. Four engineering firms submitted proposals: The Wooten Company, Koonce, Nobles and Associates, Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates and Municipal Engineering Services Company. Ms. Tatum recommended The Wooten

Company based on their experience and familiarity with the project. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to select The Wooten Company as the engineering firm for the 2004 CDBG Community Revitalization Project. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Budget amendment for street equipment repair

Ms. Tatum asked the board for a budget amendment in the amount of \$5,600 to repair a piece of street equipment called the Alamo, which is used to cut ditch banks and brush. The transmission needs to be replaced and it is more cost effective to repair than purchase a new piece of equipment. A new Alamo costs between \$60,000 and \$70,000. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the budget amendment of \$5,600 to repair street equipment. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Community Building proposal by Mayor Kemp with decision to be made in April.

Mayor Kemp presented his plan to transform the old Super 10/Popes building on Main Street into the Fairmont Community Building. He had a contractor draw up the plans which will be on display in the Water Department for the next 30 days. The estimated budget cost to renovate the building is \$360,900 which includes: demolition, concrete floor (right side of building), new restrooms, kitchen (non-commercial, catering only), new storefront, exterior exit (rear), new ceilings (acoustical lay-in), new floor covering (VCT), drywall over existing walls, folding partition doors, stage, storage and electrical rooms, painting, front brick work, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, roof and design/engineering. Some of the positive aspects of converting the old store into the community building are: cost (\$360,900 vs. \$800,000); auditorium side will seat 300 in movable chairs; four different meetings can be held simultaneously without bothering each other; groups can have meals catered in; properly supervised youth activities can be held; can serve as a Senior Citizens Center; in the middle of downtown, better visibility, protection; can be a magnet to draw other businesses in town; can have adult dances and other social events; and user fees will offset the maintenance costs. Some of the negatives include parking and taking a commercial property off the tax books.

The Community Building proposal will be up for discussion by the citizens at the April 11th Issue Forum. Mayor Kemp encouraged the board to seriously consider the plan and vote at the April 18th regular board meeting to proceed with the fund raising stage of this proposal and upon attaining the necessary funds, bid out, and go forward with this project.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp thanked the Fairmont Development Corporation, the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce and three private citizens for covering the cost of paint and labor in painting the back of the buildings facing Walnut Street.

Mayor Kemp also thanked Town Clerk Jenny Larson for updating the town's website, www.fairmontnc.com.

Announcements

Congressman Mike McIntyre announced that the Town of Fairmont has received a \$10,000 federal grant to purchase firefighting equipment.

Public Safety Director Robert Hassell will be Mayor Kemp's first guest on the "Focus on Fairmont" TV show to be taped at UNCP-TV on Wednesday, March 22 at 4:00 p.m. Air dates for the show will be announced.

Parent/Child Kite Building at the Fairmont Middle School Athletic Field – Saturday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by the Community Activities Committee.

The Town of St. Pauls will host the Robeson County Municipal Association on Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hooks Community Building.

Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Fairmont Community Park – Saturday, April 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Community Activities Committee and Fairmont First Baptist Church.

The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Town offices will be closed Friday, April 14 in observance of Easter.

Bike Safety Rodeo in the Town Hall parking lot – Saturday, April 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for ages 8 - 14. Sponsored by the Fairmont Department of Public Safety and the NC Highway Patrol.

Spring Litter Sweep is April 17- April 28. Citizens can put any household items, excluding construction debris, next to the curb to be picked up free of charge.

Closed Session – Personnel and Attorney – Client Privilege GS 143-318.11(a)(3,6)

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 7:28 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and attorney-client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Sealey, Townsend, Grantham, Lennon and Capps along with Katrina Tatum, Jenny Larson and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:38 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Issue Forum – April 11, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special issue forum on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Fire Hall with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wayland Lennon, III, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner Jay Capps was absent due to illness. Staff present included Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum was absent due to attending a SEDC meeting. Others present included Rev. Marc Werner, Peggy Spencer, John Jackson, Terry Evans, Nedward Gaddy, Ben Brady and about thirty other citizens.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order. Town Chaplain Rev. Marc Werner gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp announced that the meeting would last an hour and fifteen minutes with the main topic being the proposed Community Building.

Mr. John Jackson was not opposed to the Community Building plan but had concerns about the amount of parking on Main Street. Mayor Kemp replied that Mr. Ben Brady and Dr. Hal Herring have agreed to let the town use the 82 off street parking places behind Webster's Pharmacy. Once the theater is torn down, citizens can walk through to the Community Building from those parking spaces.

Former Mayor Nedward Gaddy had concerns about the financial cost of the project. He wanted to know if the property would be given to the town. Mayor Kemp replied that once the board approves going forward with the Community Building, Commissioner Capps will contact Mr. Pope and work out a deal to either get the property donated to the town or sell it for a very reasonable price. Mr. Gaddy also wanted know where the money was going to come from to pay for the renovations. Mayor Kemp responded that no town money would be spent on the project and that it will all come from grants and citizen contributions.

Commissioner Grantham was concerned about the cost of maintaining the building. She was worried there would not be enough business to cover the expenses. Mayor Kemp was confident that people would use the facility. He emphasized that the first hurdle is to raise the money to renovate the property. Commissioner Sealey feels the Community Building is the key to revitalizing downtown.

Commissioner McCree was concerned about security problems especially at night. Chief Hassell replied that there is always a risk. He suggested that any major functions should be required to hire one to two off duty police officers.

Commissioner Grantham suggested that a structural engineer come and examine the building since it is so old in case there are any hidden problems.

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Mr. Jackson suggested promoting Fairmont as the shortcut to Myrtle Beach, SC. He also recommended extending sewer out to Exit 10 since the I-95 and I-74 interchange will be so close. Mr. Jackson said the county has been ignoring Fairmont and the southern end of the county. He suggested getting a coalition of towns together to go to the county and demand attention to the needs of this area.

Mayor Kemp thanked everyone for coming to the issue forum and announced that the next one would be in July. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – April 18, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Town Chaplain Marc Werner and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Others present included County Commissioner Hubert Sealey, County Commissioner Tom Taylor, Ron Ross, Stephen Bowen, Jerry Vaughn, Terry Evans, Kelly Hunt and about 20 citizens.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order and Town Chaplain Marc Werner gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to approve the agenda with the exception of moving the Manager Application process to closed session. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Introduction of New Employee – Telecommunicator Kelly Hunt

Public Safety Director Robert Hassell introduced Telecommunicator Kelly Hunt to the board.

Presentation by County Commissioners

County Commissioners Hubert Sealey and Tom Taylor presented Mayor Kemp with a check for \$4,000 to go toward the demolition of the old theater building.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Terry Evans – complaint on mopeds

Mr. Terry Evans had a complaint about reckless moped drivers. Chief Hassell replied that several citizens have complained about the mopeds. Chief Hassell asked that any citizen who sees careless moped drivers to call the police. He added that any moped going more than 35 mph has to have a license for a motorcycle.

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit, Cingular Wireless

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. to discuss a conditional use permit for Cingular Wireless. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Stephen Bowen, Attorney for Cingular Wireless, was present to discuss coverage and answer questions. Ms. Tatum informed the board that the Planning Board met Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. to entertain a request for a

conditional use permit submitted by Cingular Wireless and discuss the merits of their proposal to erect a cellular tower at the Marion Stage Road Water Tower site. After a review of the plans and specifications, the Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the conditional use request submitted by Cingular Wireless with the stipulation that the Town's emergency services (police, fire and rescue) be allowed to use the tower for communication purposes as long as there was not interference by the Cingular system. Mr. Bowen informed the board that Cingular has agreed to allow the Town's emergency services to erect antennas on the tower. Mr. Bowen showed a map demonstrating Cingular's current lack of coverage in the Fairmont area and a map showing the widespread coverage after the tower is erected. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Capps, it was unanimously voted to adopt the remaining consent agenda items:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting February 21, Emergency Meeting March 18 and Regular Meeting March 21.
- B. Urgent Repair Program – Adopt Assistance Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy and approve \$1,500 Local Match. The Town of Fairmont and the Town of Maxton were approved for a \$75,000 North Carolina Urgent Repair Program award. Each town is to receive half of the funding level, \$37,500. The \$1,500 local match is to assist in administrative, reporting and compliance assistance. The Assistance Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy are program requirements.
- C. Approve Conditional Use Permit, Cingular Wireless.

Administrative Matters

Robeson County Boys and Girls Club – Ron Ross

Mr. Ron Ross gave a presentation on the Boys and Girls Club. The club offers educational and recreational programs. There are currently 988 members, ages 6-18, at the Lumberton club and none are dropouts or in trouble. Mr. Ross stated that it takes a lot of hard work and money to establish a Boys and Girls Club but the effort is worth it to change a young person's life. Mr. Ross said the national club will give seed money to start a new club and that the size of the building doesn't matter.

Marquee Sign presentation by vendor

Mr. Jerry Vaughn of Parish Signs presented a marquee sign proposal for Town Hall. The sign will be 4' x 6' double face, 6 feet tall, internally illuminated with four lines of 4" letters. The sign will cost approximately \$3,096.23. The sign will be placed in front of town hall and should not interfere with the viewing of the Rotary clock. Commissioner

Grantham asked about the potential for vandalism. Mr. Vaughn replied that the sign will have a lexan cover that is virtually indestructible. Commissioner Grantham was against having the sign next to the clock and would rather have the money spent on recreation. Mayor Kemp replied that he planned to raise all of the funds without using any of the town's money and that he had a commitment of \$1,300 so far. He said the sign was just another way to increase communication with the citizens.

Board Appointment – Board of Adjustment ETJ member Rita Davis

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve Rita Davis as the ETJ member for the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fats, Oils, Greases, Sand and Gas Control Ordinance

Ms. Tatum explained the purpose of the proposed Fats, Oils, Greases, Sand and Gas Control Ordinance. It is intended to aid in the prevention of sanitary sewer blockages and obstructions from contributions and accumulation of fats, oils, greases, sand and gas into the sewer system from industrial or commercial establishments, particularly food preparation and serving facilities. Food service, cooking or food generating establishments will be required to install a grease trap or interceptor designed to limit the introduction, contribution and discharge of greases into the Town's wastewater collection system. These establishments will have one year from the adoption of the ordinance to install the traps or interceptors in order to avoid penalties. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to amend Chapter 50, Water and Sewers, by adding the Fats, Oils, Greases, Sand and Gas Control Ordinance. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Manager Application Discussion – next step in process

This agenda item was moved to closed session.

Schedule Budget Workshops for May 2 and 23 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to schedule Budget Workshops for May 2 and 23 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Community Building Decision - 1) Release of Endorsements, 2) Name Fundraising Co-chairs, 3) Motion to proceed with fund raising

Mayor Kemp announced that the Community Building plans have been reviewed by the public for the last thirty days. Some of the major concerns were parking and where the money was coming from to pay for the renovations. Mayor Kemp assured the board that the money will not come from town funds but from grants and private contributions. He asked the board to approve going forward with the fund raising portion of the project.

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to initiate the fund raising phase of the Community Building effort with Jimmy Byrne and Leroy Freeman as Community Building Fund Raising Co-Chairs, and that upon securing the funds from independent sources equaling the amount needed to complete the building renovation, the Board of Commissioners put the project out for contractor bids. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Theater Building status report

Mayor Kemp announced that he has received the \$20,000 in donations needed for the Theater Building demolition. He received two bids for the demolition, the lowest bid being EME, Inc. of Greensboro, which expires in 60 days. After the demolition is complete, the Robeson County Agriculture Extension Office is going to design the mini park for free. The only hurdle remaining is a legal one. Town Attorney Robert Price advised the board could approve the building being torn down subject to the legal issues being resolved. Commissioner Grantham was concerned about liability and did not want to accept the property until after it is torn down. Commissioner Lennon made a motion to proceed with the Theater demolition project and the acceptance of the Theater property as donated to the town with the stipulation that all legal matters be addressed as appropriate before the expiration of the demolition estimate. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 5 to 1 as follows:

For: Commissioners Capps, Grantham, Lennon, Sealey, Townsend

Against: Commissioner McCree

Commissioner McCree was excused from the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp thanked his wife, Laura for typing the minutes from the Neighborhood Zone meetings held in March. He also thanked everyone who donated to the theater demolition project and those who have expressed support for the Community Building plans.

Commissioners Input

Commissioner Lennon commended Mayor Kemp and the town staff for the improvements in communication with the citizens via the web site changes, newsletter, and informative radio and TV shows.

Announcements

Spring Litter Sweep is April 17- April 28.

Fairmont Community Watch will meet on Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall. The program will be on gangs.

Fairmont Economic Enhancement Committee Chairman Jimmy Byrne will be Mayor Kemp's guest on the "Focus on Fairmont" TV show to be taped at UNCP-TV on Tuesday, April 25. The show will be aired on Thursday, April 27 and Thursday, May 4 at 9:00 p.m. on Time Warner Cable Channel 6.

Robeson County will host the Robeson County Municipal Association on Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the RCC Student Center.

Womanless Pageant and Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Fire Hall. Tickets are \$10 with the meal at 6:00 p.m. and the pageant at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Relay for Life and it is sponsored by Angie Lovin and the Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens.

Big Dog Circle of Friends Benefit Dinner for Bill Taylor - Sunday, April 30 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Fairmont Fire Hall. BBQ Chicken plates \$6.00. Proceeds to benefit the Fairmont Civitan Youth Baseball program.

"Park it with the Mayor" – Saturday, May 6 at 8:30 a.m. at the Fairmont Community Park. Come discuss town issues while enjoying free coffee and cinnamon buns.

The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce will meet on Monday, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Closed Session – Personnel and Attorney – Client Privilege GS 143-318.11(a)(3,6)

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 7:45 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel, property acquisition and attorney-client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,5,6). Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, Townsend, Grantham, Lennon and Capps along with Katrina Tatum, Jenny Larson and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:26 p.m. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp announced that the Manager Selection process was discussed and that the board will hold a special meeting on Monday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to conduct telephone interviews.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – May 1, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, May 1, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Commissioner J. J. McCree was absent. Town Attorney Robert Price was also present.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session to conduct four telephone interviews of candidates for the position of Town Manager. A motion was properly made and seconded to go into closed session 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).

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, Townsend, Grantham, Lennon and Capps along with Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

A motion was properly made and seconded to come out of closed session and with there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – May 2, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Jay Capps, Wayland B. Lennon, III, Mary Bruce Grantham, and Charles Townsend. Commissioner Wade Sealey was absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Commissioner Lennon gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp stated the purpose of the meeting was to have a budget workshop on Fiscal Year 2006-2007 and to receive information from staff on preliminary figures.

Public Works presentation

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals gave a PowerPoint presentation on the needs of his department. The sewer flusher is a 1975 model that has body damage, leaking fluids and rusting. Mr. Seals proposed purchasing a new Jet Vac flusher that will cost \$230,000 and can be financed. The new flusher will calculate feet flushed, which is a state reporting requirement. The department also needs a new 61" Scagg mower to replace a 48" model that has over 1500 running hours. It is recommended that mowers with more than 1000 hours be replaced. Mr. Seals informed the board that the limbs and leaves landfill needs to be chipped per state requirements and that will cost approximately \$30,000. He also asked for another full time person to be hired to assist with the maintenance of the Proctorville sewer lines.

Public Safety presentation

Public Safety Director Robert Hassell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the needs of his department as well. The Fire Division needs to replace the 1976 Chevy American LaFrance because it will not pass the service test, does not have enough lights, is leaking oil and rusting. He proposed purchasing a refurbished 1991 diesel truck that will cost around \$85,000 fully equipped using a ten year USDA loan with an interest rate of 4.38% and an annual payment of \$10,677. The first payment would not be due until next fiscal year, July or August 2007. Town staff is also looking into getting a Homeland Security grant to purchase a new truck. Chief Hassell also needs to purchase equipment for the Fire Division including fire hoses, nozzles, ten portable radios, ten sets of turnout gear, washing machine and dryer, traffic cones, bolt cutters, flammable liquid cabinet, rescue saw and flame suppression foam as well as uniforms for the volunteers. The Police Division has six 1996 Crown Victorias with over 100,000 miles on them. Chief Hassell recommends replacing at least three cars in the coming fiscal year to start rotating the oldest cars out of the fleet. He suggested selling the four oldest vehicles and replacing them with 2000 to 2003 year models. The Police Division is also going after a N.C. Crime Commission Grant to purchase computers, communications furniture/console, portable radios, crime scene camcorder and processing room upgrades. Chief Hassell also asked to hire an additional officer to bring the total of fulltime officers to 12. He also requested a 10% raise for all police personnel so the salaries will be more in line with neighboring departments.

Budget overview

Ms. Tatum went over the proposed budget for 2006-2007 by each department. She emphasized that not all the figures had been received for health, property and workers compensation insurance. She stated that a 3.5% Cost of Living raise was included for all employees as recommended by the LRCOG. Commissioner Capps was excused from the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Commissioner McCree asked if money had been put in the budget for fixing the drainage in the Old Field area. Ms. Tatum said no but she asked an engineer for a cost estimate. She will bring the figure to the board once she hears back from the engineer, who is doing the work for free.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – May 16, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Others present included Terry Evans, Concetta Lowery, Danielle Baker and about 15 citizens.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp called for a brief nine minute recess at 6:05 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:14 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Townsend made a motion to add attitude valve replacement for the Marion Stage water tower under administrative matters. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation by Mayor Kemp to Fairmont High Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Mayor Kemp presented certificates to Fairmont High School Valedictorian Concetta Lowery and Salutatorian Danielle Baker.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Terry Evans – thanks for supporting his recovery from alcoholism

Mr. Terry Evans thanked the board and the town for supporting his recovery from alcoholism. Mr. Evans admitted to being an alcoholic for 27 years but was proud to say he has been sober for over a year.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Sealey, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Issue Forum April 11, Regular Meeting April 18, Special Meeting May 1 and Budget Workshop May 2, 2006.
- B. 2006 Clean Water Bond Resolution. (A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference).
- C. Set Public Hearing on Budget FY 2006-2007 for Tuesday, June 20th at 6:00p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- D. Advertise 2005 delinquent taxes in “The Robesonian” the first week of June.

Administrative Matters

Theater Building – legal matter resolution by Town Attorney

Town Attorney Robert Price reported the legal matters involving the Theater Building should be resolved soon, therefore allowing the demolition to proceed in a timely manner.

Marquee Sign – funds and placement

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to table the marquee sign until the June board meeting so additional questions can be answered. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Building Donation – 603 South Main Street

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that the family of Dorothy O. Floyd would like to donate the building located at 603 South Main Street to the town. It was previously discussed to use this property as additional offices for the Public Safety Department. However, some of the rooms on the third floor of Town Hall are currently being converted for that use. The building could still be converted to office space for records retention and program equipment storage offices. There will be attempts made to seek grants for the rehabilitation of the structure. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the donation of the building at 603 South Main Street from the Dorothy O. Floyd family. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Codification amendments.

Ms. Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price and Town Clerk Jenny Larson went through American Legal Publishing's editorial and legal review of the town code book as part of the codification process. Mr. Price presented the board necessary amendments to the code book that have to be adopted before the book is finalized and printed. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the codification amendments as proposed. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The codification amendments are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Reinstate Retiree Health Insurance Benefits.

Ms. Tatum stated retiree health insurance benefits were suspended two years ago for various reasons. Commissioner McCree is requesting the retiree health insurance benefits be reinstated immediately. Ms. Tatum asked the board to reinstate the benefits for active employees with safeguards to protect the town from excessive burdens connected with the benefits. The basic changes are as follows:

Reinstate Retiree Health Insurance Benefits (continued)

1. A graduated system for payment of retiree health insurance benefits for those individuals who retire on disability: 5-9 years, 25% paid; 10-14 years, 50% paid; 15-19 years, 75% paid; 20 years and over, 100% paid by the town.
2. In the event the employee does not meet his/her premium obligation, the town has the right to terminate the policy for non-payment.
3. Once a retiree becomes eligible for Medicare, the town will provide supplemental insurance.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to adopt the resolution reinstating retiree health insurance benefits to active employees effective immediately. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference.

Attitude Valve Replacement – Marion Stage Water Tower

Ms. Tatum reported the Marion Stage water tower is currently under repair. In the process of shutting the tower down to complete the repair work, it was discovered that the attitude valve that switches water from one tower to another was not working and could not be repaired. Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates bid out the valve replacement and received two bids; Frank Horne Construction at \$47,250 and Columbus Utilities, Inc. at \$47,900. Ms. Tatum recommended going with the low bidder, Frank Horne Construction. Funds from the existing water/sewer budget will be used to cover the cost of the valve replacement. Commissioner Grantham made a motion to replace the attitude valve at the Marion Stage water tower with Frank Horne Construction doing the work at a cost of \$47,250. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp met with the chairpersons of the Appearance Committee and they gave their top requests for action: demolition of the theater and creation of a mini park; burned out buildings on Main Street; awnings and old signs hanging over stores in disrepair; and merchandise displayed on sidewalks. Mayor Kemp asked that these topics be placed on the June agenda for discussion and have the Town Attorney look over the items to see what can and cannot be done based on the town codes.

Commissioners Input

Commissioner Lennon gave a report on the LRCOG meeting held in April. The LRCOG will be cancelling the Welfare to Work program, the Youth Opportunity (YO!) centers and the Rewarding Youth grant because these were federally funded and there are no more funds available. The COG transit is also being taken out of the LRCOG budget but will be funded by Robeson County instead.

Announcements

Public Safety Director Robert Hassell thanked the board, Irma McPherson and USDA for the grant that enabled the department to buy new turnout gear for the firemen. Captain Tommy Hall and Fireman Wayne Rollins modeled the new gear for the board.

Budget Workshop, Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

RCMA meeting hosted by Red Springs, Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Flora McDonald Academy.

Fairmont Community Watch will meet on Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Town Offices closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Gospel Fest will be held on Monday May 29 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the E. R. Gause Auditorium at Rosenwald Elementary School. The group Gratitude will be performing.

“Park it with the Mayor” – Saturday, June 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the Fairmont Community Park.

Neighborhood Discussion Groups:

Tuesday, June 6th – North Fairmont, Rosenwald Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13th – Central Fairmont, Fairmont Middle Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 27th – South Fairmont, Fire Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Day, Wednesday, June 7th Raleigh – Mayor Kemp will be attending.

Regular Town Board meeting, Tuesday, June 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Closed Session – Personnel and Attorney – Client Privilege GS 143-318.11(a)(3,6)

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to go into closed session at 6:58 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and attorney-client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, Townsend, Grantham, Lennon, McCree and Capps along with Katrina Tatum, Jenny Larson and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Page 5 – Regular Meeting, May 16, 2006

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp announced that the board is proceeding with its efforts to hire a permanent Town Manager.

Chief Hassell invited the board to take a tour of the renovated rooms on the third floor which includes an office for Detective Timmy Oxendine, a weight room and lounge.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Budget Workshop – May 23, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special budget workshop on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Jay Capps, Wayland B. Lennon, III, and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioners Wade Sealey and Charles Townsend were absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. A reporter from “The Robesonian” was also present.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp stated the purpose of the meeting was to have a budget workshop on Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Finance Director Linda Vause went over the budget previously submitted which showed a \$475,000 general fund deficit. They reduced each individual department budget by as much as possible without disturbing the COLA, required or position sensitive training, matching grant funds for sewer line replacements at Leesville Road and Thompson Street, and two new positions in the Police and Public Works Department.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates have estimated the cost to perform the drainage in the Old Field area to be approximately \$80,000. Adding this figure to the budget would increase the projected general fund deficit to \$333,190.

Commissioner Lennon asked what the tax rate was. Ms. Tatum replied 69 cents per one hundred dollar valuation. Commissioner Grantham felt the tax rate was too high for the citizens to pay. Finance Director Linda Vause stated that one cent of the tax rate generates \$9,000 in revenue.

Commissioner Lennon felt there was a duplicitous entry with both the Town Manager and Planning/Codes positions. Ms. Tatum asked him if he wanted to address any other duplication of services like those provided by the county. Commissioner Lennon was not aware of any other duplication in service. Commissioner Lennon thought that since Ms. Tatum is a candidate for the Town Manager position she should have expected there to be only one line item in the budget. He felt there was no reason to have both positions in the budget since the search for a permanent Town Manager is an advertised dual position. Ms. Tatum replied that unless the board plans to eliminate her out of planning, codes and zoning that the position would have to be budgeted. Ms. Tatum emphasized the two positions are combined now only because she agreed to do both when she became Interim Town Manager. Commissioner Lennon also thought the salary for the Town Manager position was too high and suggested reducing it from \$65,000 to \$55,000. Mrs. Vause said they came up with the \$65,000 salary figure based on the average salary paid to managers of similarly sized towns. Ms. Tatum explained the \$65,000 was budgeted based on a Town Manager who does not handle code enforcement. She recommended the board create a new position that would combine the manager and code enforcement

duties prior to July 1. Mrs. Vause added the board would still have to budget for planning at least part of the year even if the positions were combined. Commissioner Lennon apologized for the misunderstanding and suggested leaving both positions in the budget since it will only reduce the fund balance if one position is not needed.

The board discussed recreation and Ms. Tatum suggested cutting out the salary for a recreation director but leaving in the \$7,500 for recreational activities. The Civitans will receive \$3,000 for Dixie Youth baseball and the rest will go to other activities like soccer, softball and football.

Commissioner McCree asked if money had been budgeted for the Community Building. Mayor Kemp responded there was no way the Community Building would be ready by June 30, 2007 so it did not need to be in the budget.

Mayor Kemp suggested lowering the tax rate from 69 cents to 67 cents since that will only reduce revenue by \$18,000.

The board agreed to holding a third budget workshop on Monday, June 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Kemp reminded the board of the special meeting to be held on Thursday, May 25 at 6:00 p.m. to go into closed session to discuss personnel.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – May 25, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Commissioner Charles Townsend was absent. Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Town Attorney Robert Price were also present.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session to discuss industry as well as personnel to consider the procedures for hiring a Town Manager, those candidates to interview and the dates and times for interviews. A motion was properly made and seconded to go into closed session 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 and personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4,6).

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, McCree, Grantham, Lennon and Capps along with Katrina Tatum and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session. After the industry portion of closed session, Ms. Tatum was excused from the meeting. Commissioner McCree was excused at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was properly made and seconded to come out of closed session and with there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – May 30, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Commissioners J. J. McCree and Charles Townsend were absent. Town Attorney Robert Price was also present.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session under personnel to conduct two interviews for the position of Town Manager. A motion was properly made and seconded to go into closed session 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).

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, Grantham, Lennon and Capps along with Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

A motion was properly made and seconded to come out of closed session and with there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – June 1, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Commissioners J. J. McCree and Charles Townsend were absent. Town Attorney Robert Price was also present.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session under personnel to conduct two interviews for the position of Town Manager. A motion was properly made and seconded to go into closed session 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).

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, Grantham, Lennon and Capps along with Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

A motion was properly made and seconded to come out of closed session and with there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Budget Workshop – June 5, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special budget workshop on Monday, June 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Jay Capps, Wayland B. Lennon, III, Wade Sealey and Mary Bruce Grantham. Commissioner Charles Townsend was absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Lieutenant Danny Parker.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and Commissioner Lennon gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp stated the purpose of the meeting was to have a budget workshop on Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that she reviewed the budget again for any possible reduction areas. She added \$29,402 to the General Fund revenue estimate for total revenue of \$1,577,627. Ms. Tatum reduced expenditures by freezing training for the Clerk, Finance and Tax departments, moving some Public Works salaries to the Water Fund and eliminating the Recreation and Code Enforcement positions. The new expenditure estimate for the General Fund is \$1,643,040, which leaves a deficit of \$65,413.

Ms. Tatum suggested eliminating the new police officer position because that would reduce the deficit by \$35,000. With two officers out on leave, a temporary person could be hired to fill in the void without affecting the budget.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that Old Field drainage was not included in the budget and recommended applying for a CDBG grant to address the problems in that area.

Commissioner Lennon suggested replacing the 3.5% COLA and the 2% Christmas bonus with a 2% COLA and a 1.5% Christmas bonus.

Commissioner Grantham suggested letting Robeson County handle our tax collection. Mayor Kemp was concerned that they would not handle anything correctly based on the debacle of the tax revaluation.

Mayor Kemp asked about reducing the tax rate to 67 cents. Ms. Tatum replied that cutting the tax rate by two cents is only going to help the wealthy, not the poor and senior citizens.

Ms. Tatum advised the board to budget for the Code Enforcement position since salary will have to be paid for part of the year even if the position is eliminated.

Page 2 – Budget Workshop, June 5, 2006

Finance Director Linda Vause asked for clarification of the changes to be made to the budget. They include increasing the General Fund revenue by \$29,402, reducing the COLA raise to 2%, reducing the Christmas bonus to 1.5%, eliminating the new police officer position, reducing the Town Manager salary to \$55,000, putting the Code Enforcement Officer position back in, deleting training for the Clerk, Finance and Tax departments, moving Public Works/Garage positions back to the Water Fund, eliminating the Recreation Director salary and leaving the tax rate at 69 cents. The board agreed to these changes and Ms. Vause said she would get the board the new figures by Wednesday.

Mayor Kemp reminded the board of the special meeting to be held Wednesday, June 7 at 6:00 p.m. to go into closed session to discuss personnel.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Board Meeting – June 7, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J. J. McCree, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Town Attorney Robert Price and Town Clerk Jenny Larson were also present.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session under personnel to consider narrowing the field of Town Manager applicants and any other subject relevant to the efforts to hire a permanent Town Manager. Commissioner Grantham made the 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 Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, Grantham, McCree, Townsend, Lennon and Capps along with Robert Price and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – June 20, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Others present included Rev. Marc Werner, Terry Evans, Butch Davis, John Jackson, Bob Fisher, Rusty Livermore and about 20 citizens.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order and Rev. Marc Werner gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Butch Davis – Congratulations to board

Mr. Butch Davis congratulated the board for the work they have been doing lately.

John Jackson – Firefighter turnout gear

Mayor Kemp asked Mr. John Jackson if he had discussed his concerns about the firefighter turnout gear with Public Safety Director Robert Hassell. Mr. Jackson replied that he had not. Mayor Kemp advised him to go through the chain of command to avoid conflict and to speak to Chief Hassell first and if not satisfied to speak to Ms. Tatum and finally the board.

Public Hearing – Budget FY 2006-2007

Mayor Kemp informed the public that the citizens would be allowed fifteen minutes to speak on the budget and then the commissioners would have fifteen minutes for a total of thirty minutes. Commissioner Lennon made a motion to go into a public hearing on the budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Terry Evans advised the board to leave the property tax rate at .69 cents until the board is on more solid financial ground. There were no other public comments on the budget so Mayor Kemp gave the board the remaining twenty-five minutes to speak.

Commissioner Lennon requested that the Town Manager and Code Enforcement budget line items be merged under the Town Manager line except for professional services and nuisance abatement. Commissioner Grantham reminded him of the reason why both departments have to be funded. Mayor Kemp reminded the board that there would have to be a vote on any budget changes that did not have a general consensus. Commissioner Lennon withdrew his request to change the Town Manager and Code Enforcement line items.

Commissioner Lennon rescinded his original request of a 2% COLA raise and 1.5% Christmas bonus. He realized that a 3.5% COLA and 2% Christmas bonus would create better moral for the town employees. The board agreed to the salary increases.

Commissioner McCree inquired about including drainage for the Old Field area in the budget. He feels the town has a moral and legal responsibility to these citizens. Ms. Tatum said the rough estimate of \$88,000 is for drainage repair with good streets. In order to fix the drainage and the streets, the cost would be much higher. She suggested borrowing the money separately or increasing the amount of the loan for the sewer flusher. Mayor Kemp discussed applying for a CDBG grant to cover the drainage repairs. Commissioner McCree was concerned about the two and a half year timetable involved in applying for a grant because the work needs to be done now. Commissioner Grantham asked for an itemized statement from Hobbs and Upchurch on how much the drainage work would cost and have it ready by the June 27 budget adoption meeting. The board agreed to the request for an itemized statement on the Old Field drainage project. Mayor Kemp instructed Finance Director Linda Vause to change the budget to include the 3.5% COLA raise and the 2% Christmas bonus. Mayor Kemp announced that the budget would be adopted on Tuesday, June 27 at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Sealey, seconded by Commissioner Lennon, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items with the addition of Commissioner Lennon's name to page three of the May 16th minutes under the Commissioner Input paragraph:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting May 16, Budget Workshop May 23, Special Meeting May 25, Special Meeting May 30, Special Meeting, June 1, Budget Workshop June 5, Special Meeting June 7.
- B. Set Tuesday, June 27 at 5:45 p.m. as date to adopt Budget FY 06-07 and Amended Budget 05-06.
- C. Set Tuesday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall for the next Town Issue Forum.

Administrative Matters

Tax Waiver request – Theater building.

Town Attorney Robert Price suggested the board adopt a resolution to purchase the theater property for the amount of the back taxes owed. Mayor Kemp announced that the Robeson County Board of Commissioners agreed to waive the county taxes on the property. Commissioner Lennon made a motion to purchase the donated old theater building property for the 2003-2005 back taxes in the amount of \$625.71. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced that the building is scheduled to be demolished on July 10.

News and Events Sign Display – placement recommendation and approval.

Commissioner Lennon felt the most appropriate placement for the town marquee sign is in front of the library at the corner of Thompson and Main Streets. Mayor Kemp introduced Robeson County Public Library officials Rusty Livermore and Bob Fisher. Mr. Livermore and Mr. Fisher agreed that having the sign at the library is a wonderful idea. Commissioner Lennon made a motion to approve the erection of the news and events marquee sign at the corner of Thompson and Main Streets with the entire cost paid for with private donations. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced that the sign would be ordered tomorrow.

Request to give the Civitan Club the remaining \$1,500 in the recreation activities fund.

Commissioner Capps made a motion to give the unused portion of the recreation activities fund (\$1,500) to the Fairmont Civitan Club. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adopt Resolution in support of an application to participate in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program 2006-2007.

Ms. Tatum informed the board about the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program, which is a human and technical reference center that works to stimulate economic development within the context of historic preservation. The North Carolina Main Street Center is in the Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance. The Center utilizes the approach developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and operated through their National Main Street Center (NMSC). The program involves planning, evaluating, applying for grants and organizing civic groups and citizens to become more interested and involved with downtown revitalization. The deadline for applying to participate in the program is June 30, 2006.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt a resolution in support of an application to participate in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program 2006-2007. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp introduced Dalton Lennon, a student at the North Carolina School of Science and Math who is at the meeting tonight to finish a requirement for a Boy Scout merit badge.

Mayor Kemp informed the board that he went with Commissioner Lennon to the NCLM Town Hall Day in Raleigh on June 7. They attended a briefing on pending legislation and met with Senator David Weinstein. Some of the topics addressed were annexation, video franchising, bonds for infrastructure, storm water management and retirement.

Mayor Kemp announced that he will be presenting “Pride in Fairmont” certificates starting at the July board meeting and the recipients will be honored at the Big Heart banquet in February.

Commissioners Input

Commissioner Sealey talked to Lumberton City Manager Wayne Horne, who is willing to help Fairmont in any way.

Commissioner Lennon gave a report on the LRCOG board meeting.

Announcements

Neighborhood Discussion Groups: Tuesday, June 27th – South Fairmont, Fire Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Fairmont Community Watch will meet on Tuesday, June 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

RCMA meeting hosted by Rowland, Tuesday, June 27th at 7:00 p.m. at M. J. Soffe.

Lumbee Guaranty Bank Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Thursday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m. at their new location, 301 North Walnut Street.

Lumbee River EMC will have a grand opening ceremony at their new location in the old Lumbee Bank on Thursday, June 29 at 11:30 a.m.

“Park it with the Mayor” – Saturday, July 1st at 10:00 a.m. at the Fairmont Community Park.

Town Offices closed Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

“A Day in the Park” – Saturday, July 15th in the Fairmont Community Park. Time and details to be announced.

Regular Town Board meeting, Tuesday, July 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Closed Session – Personnel and Attorney – Client Privilege GS 143-318.11(a)(3,6)

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to go into closed session at 7:15 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and attorney-client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners Sealey, Townsend, Grantham, Lennon, McCree and Capps along with Jenny Larson and Robert Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Capps made a motion to come out of closed session at 9:10 p.m. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced that personnel and attorney-client privilege had been discussed as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6).

Hire Permanent Town Manager / Codes Enforcement Officer

Commissioner Lennon made the motion that The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont, NC convey an offer of employment for the dual role position of Town Manager and Codes Enforcement Officer to Howard Blake Proctor with a start date of July 3, 2006 with a salary package of \$52,000 per year consisting of a Base Salary of \$48,000 to include 5 days of accrued Vacation, to include 5 days of accrued Sick Time and a Relocation Package cash payment of \$4,000 to be made available after acceptance of employment and with the signed stipulation that the funds be re-paid should the position be vacated without cause with the offer of employment to be conveyed tonight by the Mayor and/or his designee. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed with the following 4 to 2 vote:

For: Commissioners Lennon, Sealey, Capps and Townsend
Against: Commissioners McCree and Grantham

Sever Interim Town Manager Position

Commissioner Lennon made the motion that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont, NC dissolve the Interim Town Manager Position immediately with the current Interim Town Manager being relieved of all responsibilities and decision making authority effective immediately, June 20, 2006. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed with the following 4 to 2 vote:

For: Commissioners Lennon, Sealey, Capps and Townsend
Against: Commissioners McCree and Grantham

Reduction in Force – Codes Enforcement Officer Position

Commissioner Lennon made the motion that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont, NC present Ms. Katrina Tatum a non-working notice with the effective period of the non-working notice to be June 22 through June 30, 2006 because there will be a Reduction In Force due to the elimination of the standalone position of Code Enforcement Officer with June 21, 2006 being used as a period of time to collect personal effects, document all active and planned Interim Town Manager and Codes Enforcement efforts, and to participate in an exit interview with the Mayor, with an official layoff date officially being declared as 5 p.m. June 30, 2006 and for Ms. Katrina Tatum to be provided a 3 week severance package with a basis of one week for each year as Interim Town Manager and as an expression of our appreciation of her efforts as Interim Town Manager over the last three years with separate checks being presented for non-working notice to be paid as normal paycheck on July 3 and severance paycheck to be paid as desired on July 3 and with all benefits to be fully provided and in tact until 5 p.m. on July 21, 2006. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed with the following 4 to 2 vote:

For: Commissioners Lennon, Sealey, Capps and Townsend
Against: Commissioners McCree and Grantham

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

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – June 27, 2006

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Charles Townsend, Mary Bruce Grantham, Wayland Lennon, III and Jay Capps. Staff present included Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Finance Director Linda Vause, and Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lennon gave the invocation.

Administrative Matters

Name an Interim Town Manager until July 3, 2006.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to name Finance Director Linda Vause as Interim Town Manager until July 3, 2006. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Hobbs and Upchurch itemized drainage report for Old Field Area/Adopt 2006-2007 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Kemp went over the preliminary construction cost estimate from Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates on the drainage improvements for the Old Field area including Morro, Canal, Stafford and Marvin Streets. The estimate is for \$89,000. Mrs. Vause suggested the board budget \$9,000 from the Powell Bill Fund for the engineering and design portion of the project in this year's budget. She added the budget can always be amended later in the year to cover the construction costs. Commissioner McCree was concerned about budgeting the \$9,000 and not following through with the project. He wanted to make sure that if grants are not available that the board is willing to borrow the money to cover the project cost. Commissioner Lennon wanted the study to be done on all the drainage problem areas in town, not just Old Field. Commissioner McCree made a motion to adopt the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year Budget with \$9,000 to be spent out of the Powell Bill fund for the engineering and design study of the Old Field area drainage and once the study is done either seek out grants or borrow the money to complete the project. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion. Commissioner Lennon said he could not support a motion that did not cover all the drainage problems in town. Commissioner McCree amended his original motion to include an engineering and design study for all the town's drainage problems. Commissioner Capps seconded the amended motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2006-2007 budget is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Adopt 2005-2006 Amended Fiscal Year Budget

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to adopt the 2005-2006 Amended Fiscal Year Budget. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2005-2006 amended budget is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Page 2 – Special Meeting, June 27, 2006

Write Off Uncollected Water Accounts for 2005-2006 in the amount of \$4,098.48.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to write off uncollected water accounts for 2005-2006 in the amount of \$4,098.48. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the uncollected water accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Release 1995 Property Taxes in the amount of \$6,081.54.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to release 1995 property taxes in the amount of \$6,081.54. Commissioner Capps seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 1995 property tax accounts are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, CMC
Town Clerk