

## **Regular Meeting – July 17, 2018**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Charles Kemp and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Commissioner Cassandra Gaddy was absent. Staff present included Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Finance Director Denise Whitley, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Jon Edwards, Captain Darren Davis and Officer Donte Locklear. Town Manager Katrina Tatum was absent due to illness. Others in attendance included John Woodall, Scott Bigelow and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

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

### **Mayor Presentation – Camp4Heroes**

Captain John “Woody” Woodall of Camp4Heroes presented a video about the camp to the board and citizens. The 2-year-old camp dedicated to helping wounded veterans, firefighters, police, first responders and their families is located on 184 acres outside Fairmont on Zimp Road.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner McCallum, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, June 19, 2018 and Special Meeting, June 28, 2018.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Housing Demolition**

Commissioner Kemp made the following statement regarding housing demolition:

“I asked that this item be placed on the agenda and hope my short presentation can initiate discussion and consensus by our board and action to continue the good work we’ve undertaken to remove unsightly and dilapidated structures here in our community over the past 2 fiscal years.

Since September 2016, 8 structures have been demolished and removed. These 8 structures were certainly eye sores in several neighborhoods and needed action. I am certain that the neighbors were grateful that they were removed.

Now another fiscal year has begun with funds in our budget for the continuation of our community improvement efforts and I wish to suggest to my fellow board mates that we begin that process of removal again.

I have raised the request for the removal of the burned residence on the corner of Holly and Pine streets several times, have conferred with both the owner and our town manager on it and have recently made another contact with the owner. They very much want this structure removed as do the immediate neighbors all who consider it an eyesore in their neighborhood. It is also used as a school bus morning stop and afternoon student get off point. As the days advance more debris collects, vegetation grows, rodents and vermin congregate and safety for residents comes into play. I believe this house should be demolished and removed as soon as feasible in the sake of community safety.

I am certain other commissioners share the concern of the neighbors and may have other structures to target. I will support any and all efforts to remove those structures in our town which qualify as such and will do my part to find economical ways to accomplish this but let's make a start with the house on the corner of Holly and Pine streets. It really needs removal."

Commissioner Kemp made a motion, in order to get the matter on the floor for discussion, that the board decide upon three structures to demolish including the burned house at the corner of Holly and Pine streets at the August board meeting and follow that with requests for sealed bids from qualified demolition companies for the structures demolition and debris removal. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion.

Commissioner McCallum thinks the house on Holly and Pine streets should be torn down but since it is a private residence that has burned; the owner should come up with the money or contribute to the demolition costs. He pointed out that other homeowners contributed to the demolition costs in the past.

Commissioner Evans agreed with Commissioner McCallum. He said there are homes that have needed demolition for 15 or 20 years. He suggested using the list that Commissioner McCallum prepared a couple years ago of the dilapidated homes in town. Commissioner Evans would like the town to get the "most bang for its buck" by tearing down as many houses as possible with the \$10,000 budgeted. He stated the town is not in the demolition business and should spend the money wisely.

Commissioner Kemp has a list of homes demolished since September 2016 and would like to know how much homeowners contributed to the cost. He added that he plans to talk to the owner of the house on Holly and Pine streets to see what they can pay towards the demolition.

After discussion, Mayor Townsend called for a vote on the motion. The motion failed with a vote of 3 to 2 as follows:

For:	Commissioners Kemp and McCree
Against:	Commissioners Evans, McCallum and McLean-Kesler
Absent:	Commissioner Gaddy

**New Business**

Swearing in of new Finance Director Denise Whitley

Town Clerk Jenny Larson administered the oath of office to new Finance Director Denise Whitley. Mrs. Whitley is an Orrum High School and Francis Marion University graduate. She majored in accounting and worked at the university for the past 11 years. She started her new job on July 2.

Resolution 18-09 Bank Signatures

Ms. Larson explained that a new bank signature resolution needs to be approved and signed so Mrs. Whitley can start signing checks. Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Mayor Charles Townsend and Mayor Pro Tempore Monte McCallum will also be authorized to sign checks. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-09, Bank Signatures. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 18-10 – Stanley Stephens offer for 603 South Main Street

Mrs. Larson informed the board that the town received an offer of \$6,000, with a certified check in the amount of \$1,500 refundable earnest money from Mr. Stanley Stephens to purchase 603 South Main Street a few months ago. Mr. Stephens attempted to finance the balance of the purchase amount without success. Mr. Stephens would like to renovate the building and operate a replacement window business. He was initially given 120 days to allow the Carolina Small Business Fund (CSBF) to review and render a final disposition on his loan request for the balance of the funds. He was unable to secure a loan through CSBF and was refunded the initial earnest money. He is now requesting that the town approve a \$4,500 Economic Development loan so that he can get started on renovating the building and build his business here in Fairmont. He has again paid the \$1,500 earnest money in the form of a cashier’s check. The suggested loan terms are as follows:

<u>Total Loan Amount</u>	<u>Loan Term</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Monthly Note</u>
\$4,500.00	12 Months/1 Yr.	3%	\$382.15

At the end of the term:

Total Principal Paid:	\$4,500.00
Total Interest Paid:	\$85.77

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-10 – Stanley Stephens offer for 603 South Main Street. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Fundraiser at the park – Commissioner McCallum

Mayor Pro Tem Monte McCallum asked for this item to be tabled until August since the Town Manager was not in attendance.

**Department Head Input**

Police Chief Jon Edwards

Police Chief Jon Edwards introduced new officers, Captain Darren Davis and Officer Donte Locklear. Officer Locklear is a rookie and Captain Davis is a 17-year veteran of the Maxton Police Department.

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals advised the board and citizens that Leesville Road may be closed for a couple weeks due to the sewer line rehab project.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Charles Townsend welcomed the new employees and thanked them for joining a great team.

Mayor Townsend informed the commissioners that the town bought a bus for senior citizen and youth transportation. The cost was \$5,500, and it is being serviced.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners welcomed the new employees and thanked the police and public works department for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Kemp reminded everyone of the Select Staffing job fair for Harbor Freight on Wednesday, July 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

**Announcements**

Thursday, August 2 - Back to School Celebration, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Southeastern Agricultural Center, Lumberton, NC.

Tuesday, August 14 - NCDMV Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom.

Friday, August 17 - Fairmont High School Football vs. Douglas Byrd, 7:00 p.m. HOME.

Tuesday, August 21 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Monday, August 27 - First Day of School.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – August 21, 2018**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Town Hall Courtroom with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Cassandra Gaddy, Charles Kemp and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Finance Director Denise Whitley, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Elaine Brown, Rita Rogers, Fred Rogers, Kathy Trimble, Glenda Jackson, Jeffrey Sural, Tameka Sinclair and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Elaine Brown – Lumber River Council of Governments Aging Agency**

Ms. Elaine Brown, with the LRCOG Aging Agency, informed the board that the Aging Conference will be held on October 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Southeastern NC Agricultural Center in Lumberton. She stated that Fairmont has one of the biggest sites for the senior nutrition program with 55 meals served.

#### **Rita Rogers, Fred Rogers, and Kathy Trimble - Complaints about mobile homes on Bradshaw Street**

Ms. Rita Rogers, Mr. Fred Rogers and Ms. Kathy Trimble had concerns about the trailers on Bradshaw Street. Mr. Joseph Arnette and the Mildred Haggins family wrote letters against the mobile homes on Bradshaw Street and changing any zoning laws that would allow them.

#### **Glenda Jackson – House on Pine and Holly Streets**

Ms. Glenda Jackson wanted to know the status of tearing down the burned-out house on Pine and Holly Streets.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Evans, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, July 17, 2018.

**Unfinished Business**

Fundraiser at the park – Commissioner McCallum

Mayor Pro Tem Monte McCallum would like to raise money for the fire department, senior citizens and children’s programs by hosting functions at the Fairmont Community Park similar to Lumberton’s Alive After Five. He has connected with an entertainment manager to help book acts including gospel, R&B and country. Commissioner McCallum explained that the town would pay the deposit on the bands and the tickets sales would cover the cost of booking. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to allow fundraising concerts in the Fairmont Community Park. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 5 to 1 as follows:

For: Commissioners Evans, Gaddy, Kemp, McCallum and McLean-Kesler  
Against: Commissioner McCree

Code Enforcement/Nuisance Abatement issues.

Commissioner Kemp has contacted the homeowner of the burned-out house on Pine and Holly Streets. The owner is fully prepared to accept the lien amount based on the cost of demolition and work out a repayment plan. Commissioner Kemp made a motion that the board decide upon three structures to demolish, including the burned house at the corner of Pine and Holly Streets, and follow that with requests for sealed bids from qualified demolition companies for the structures demolition and debris removal. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion.

Commissioner Kemp suggested bundling the demolition of 3 or 4 houses together, so it would be cheaper for the homeowners than tearing down one house at a time. He feels a contractor would give a lower price per house if doing more than one at a time. After discussion, the motion failed with a vote of 4 to 2 as follows:

For: Commissioners Kemp and McCree  
Against: Commissioners Evans, Gaddy, McCallum and McLean-Kesler

Town Attorney Rob Price and Town Manager Katrina Tatum will work on drafting a policy for determining which properties are in most need of demolition.

**New Business**

Introduction of new Library Manager Caroline Locklear.

Ms. Caroline Locklear was not in attendance, but she is the new manager at the Fairmont library.

Broadband discussion – Mr. Jeffrey R. Sural.

Mr. Jeffrey Sural, director of the North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office, gave a presentation about the importance of giving students Internet access outside of school.

Resolution 18-11 – Authorizing sale of 603 South Main Street.

Ms. Tatum stated that 603 South Main Street has been properly advertised and no upset bids were received. She added the board must consider Mr. Stanley Stephen's request for an Economic Development loan in the amount of \$4,500. Ms. Tatum has met with Mr. Stephens and considering the condition of the building, Mr. Stephens has requested an 18 month note. Mr. Stephens would like to renovate the building and operate a replacement window business.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-11 – Authorizing sale of 603 South Main Street and approving a \$4,500 Economic Development loan for Mr. Stanley Stephens. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 18-12 – Water Shortage Response Plan.

Ms. Tatum specified that a Water Shortage Response Plan is required by the state of North Carolina. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-12 – Water Shortage Response Plan. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Budget Amendments – Recreation and Senior Programs.

Finance Director Denise Whitley has requested the following budget amendments for Fiscal Year 2018-2019: decrease Buildings, Maintenance Repair & Grounds by \$7,500; create line items for Recreation Capital Outlay, Vehicle Maintenance & Repair and Auto Supplies for the new bus in the amount of \$7,500 and create line items for Senior Programs (revenue and expenditure) in the amount of \$2,000. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments for Recreation and Senior Programs in the amount of \$9,500. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this budget amendment is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Zoning – requested by Commissioner McCallum.

Commissioner McCallum dispelled the rumor that he is starting a mobile home park on Bradshaw Street. He has temporarily placed two mobiles on a piece of property his family owns on the street in order to rehab them. He was later told by Town Manager Katrina Tatum that the area is not zoned for mobile homes. Commissioner McCallum felt it is spot zoning and discriminatory that you can put mobile homes in certain parts of town but not others.

Ms. Tatum explained that the town's zoning areas were decided many years ago and were established based on the predominant use in each area. Zoning also affects tax value. Ms. Tatum said the trailers on Bradshaw Street will need to be removed as soon as possible.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Charles Townsend reiterated that broadband is the wave of the future and we should work together to provide internet access for those who cannot afford it.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and expressing their concerns.

Commissioner Kemp reported that 34 people (22 from Fairmont) attended the Select Staffing/Harbor Freight job fair and 8 people, all from Fairmont, were hired.

**Manager Input**

Ms. Tatum reported that repairs are still ongoing on the Youth Center building. She encouraged residents to take part in "S.N.I.P.", the discount spay and neutering program for pets, being held at Robeson County veterinarians.

**Announcements**

Tuesday, August 21 - Rabies Clinic, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Fairmont Fire Hall.

Monday, August 27 - First Day of School.

Monday, September 3 - Town Offices and Schools closed in observance of Labor Day.

Friday, September 7 - Fairmont High School Football vs. West Bladen, 7:30 p.m. HOME.

Tuesday, September 11 - NCDMV Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom.

Tuesday, September 18 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Wednesday, September 19 - Half Day of School released at 11:30 a.m.

Friday, September 21 - Fairmont High School Football vs. St. Pauls, 7:30 p.m. HOME.

Friday, September 28 - No School, Teacher Workday.

Saturday, September 29 - Baltimore Baptist Church Fall Festival, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting - September 18, 2018**

The regular board meeting of the Fairmont Board of Commissioners scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2018 was cancelled due to the aftermath and recovery following Hurricane Florence.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – October 16, 2018**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Cassandra Gaddy, Charles Kemp and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Finance Director Denise Whitley, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Alyssa Roper, Mark Madden, Kathy Trimble, Pauline Campbell, Angie Lovin, the 2018-2019 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

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

### **Mayor's Presentations**

#### **Introduction of 2018-2019 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens**

Mayor Townsend introduced the 2018-2019 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens. They are Miss Rachel Sealy, Teen Miss Mahaven Smith, Junior Miss Ella Floyd, Tiny Miss Addyson Hunt, Little Miss Charley Lowery, Mini Miss Avery Mace, Wee Miss Lakyn Rogers, Mini Ambassador Eideen Johnson, Ambassador Jaylyn Johnson, Royal Ambassador Ivey Cox, and Majestic Ambassador Alexis Lowery. Mayor Townsend also recognized Rachel Sealy for being the only person to hold all six of the queen titles.

#### **FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs – Alyssa Roper**

Ms. Alyssa Roper, with FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs, encouraged residents ask questions and to apply for assistance at the Robeson County Disaster Recovery Center located at the Soaring Eagle Community Center, 442 Norment Road, Lumberton. Citizens can also apply for low interest loans from the Small Business Administration by calling 1-800-659-2955.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Mark Madden, Fairmont Chamber of Commerce**

Mr. Mark Madden gave an update on the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce 3<sup>rd</sup> annual SFC Matthew McClintock Memorial Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Friday, October 19 with an opening ceremony at 10:10 a.m., a parachute jump at 11:00 a.m. and a shotgun start at 12:00 noon. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Green Beret Foundation.

Ms. Kathy Trimble – Mobile Homes on Bradshaw Street

Ms. Kathy Trimble asked for an update on when the two mobile homes on Bradshaw Street will be removed. Commissioner McCallum responded that the homes are only located there temporarily and is waiting for people to purchase and move them.

Mrs. Pauline Campbell – Requesting support for filling Berlester Campbell’s seat on the County Board of Commissioners

Mrs. Pauline Campbell thanked the board for their outpouring of love following the passing of her husband, County Commissioner Berlester Campbell. Mrs. Campbell would like to continue his legacy and asked for the board to support her efforts to be appointed to her husband’s vacant seat.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Gaddy, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, August 21, 2018.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business this month.

**New Business**

Robeson County Community in Schools – Dencie Lambdin.

Dencie Lambdin, with Robeson County Community in Schools, was unable to attend the board meeting.

Multi-employer Job Fair – NC Works Career Center.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion for NC Works Career Center to hold a job fair on Wednesday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion for Two Hawk Employment Services to hold a job fair on Wednesday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Town Hall Courtroom. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ABC board appointment.

Mr. Steve Floyd, whose term expired in September, has expressed interest in being reappointed to the Fairmont ABC Board. Commissioner Evans nominated Mr. Mark Madden and Commissioner Kemp nominated Steve Floyd for reappointment. Mr. Steve Floyd was reappointed to the Fairmont ABC Board for a three year term expiring September 2021 with a vote of 4 to 3 as follow:

Mark Madden: Commissioners Evans, McCallum and Gaddy  
Steve Floyd: Commissioners Kemp, McCree, McLean-Kesler and Mayor Townsend

Resolution 18-13 – Water AIA project grant application.

The Lumber River Council of Government is in the process of developing an Asset Inventory Assessment for sewer. The NC DEQ has announced an AIA grant opportunity to cover water in the same fashion as our current grant for sewer. Due to the storm, the deadline for the application submission was changed from September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 28, 2018. Jean Kline, with the LRCOG, met with Public Works Director Ronnie Seals on Monday, September 10, 2018 to perform inspections of our water system and iron down some last-minute questions that must be addressed prior to application submission.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-13 – Water AIA project grant application. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Selection of Engineer – Sewer AIA project.

The Lumber River Council of Government advertised for engineer services on September 8, 2018. One response was received; LKC Engineering, LLC, Bill Lester, Principle. The LRCOG is recommending that we proceed with the selection process and place LKC under contract to perform the engineering services. LKC is very familiar with the water and sewer system and are capable of the completing the deliverables needed to meet all grant expectations. Commissioner Evans made a motion to select LKC Engineering as the engineer for the Sewer AIA project. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 18-14 – Approving Administrative Plans and Policies - CDBG Infrastructure Program 14-I-2657.

The town has requested an extension to the CDBG No. 14-I-2657 Infrastructure Grant. Because of the extensions, we must make sure that nothing has changed with respect to compliance plans and policies. The following is a list of those plans and policies and with respect to the Town of Fairmont; nothing has changed for the following:

- Equal Opportunity and Procurement Plan
- Section 3 Plan (Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low Income Persons)
- Language Access Plan
- Complaint/Grievance Policy
- Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan
- Citizen Participation Plan
- Excessive Force Provision
- Fair Housing Plan
- Floodplain Certification

Ms. Tatum asked the board to approve the Resolution 18-14 which replaces Linda Vause with Katrina Tatum and extends the effective date of the compliance plans and policies that were adopted in 2014 until December 31, 2018.

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-14 – Approving Administrative Plans and Policies - CDBG Infrastructure Program 14-I-2657. Commissioner Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Ordinance 18-185 – Declaring a road closure for the Fairmont Holiday on Main Twilight Christmas Parade.

The NCDOT requires a town to adopt an ordinance whenever it is going to close a state highway for a parade or festival. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 18-185– declaring a road closure for the Fairmont Holiday on Main Twilight Christmas Parade on November 30, 2018. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporate by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend thanked everyone for pulling together during and after Hurricane Florence. He encouraged the citizens to use all the recovery services available to them. Mayor Townsend also hopes everyone will enjoy the Farmers Festival this weekend.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and expressing their concerns. They also thanked the town employees for their dedication to keeping the town safe and running during Hurricane Florence.

Commissioner Kemp made the following statement on the youth center progress:

Two months from tonight, on December 18, one year will have passed since this board unanimously accepted the donation of the old post office building to be a youth center. That was a very important moment in our town and this board's history because we will never get such a perfect opportunity again. Since that time, we have heard a groups presentation regarding directorship of the center and some rehab work has been done on the building. In the past month or so our manager asked us, by email, to tour the facility, see its current condition, and suggest funding for its completion. I spent one hour in early September with Public Works Director Ronnie Seals inside the center and noted the large amount of work left to be done. I then sent an email to our manager outlining my tour and making my fund-raising suggestion. I urged her to contact Sen. Danny Britt and ask for his assistance due to a conversation we have had in which he told me of funds he obtained for a youth center in a Columbus county town. I have also contacted several other state officials in the same vein and expressed our needs. They have all shown interest. I bring this matter forward to tell you exactly how I feel about our youth center effort and what I intend to do for my part as a member of this board. First, I ask our clerk Mrs. Larson to place youth center funding on our December 18 agenda. Second, tomorrow morning I will call our manager and inquire about the funding progress for the remaining work at the center and the amount needed to make the building ready for use. Third, I will then begin personally lobbying all sources I have to obtain those funds in as quick a time frame as possible to complete the rehab. I do not plan to limit my requests to just state legislators, but business interests, and private concerns as well. Funds for this need are out there and they will be found.

I take these steps and this stand for 2 very important reasons. First, we have let a year pass without providing the youth of Fairmont a much-needed youth center for their use. Second, in my many conversations with the buildings former owner I gave him my word that not only would his building be converted to a much-needed facility for our youth but that it would be done in a timely manner. I intend to keep my word and starting tomorrow I plan to do everything in my power to help generate the needed funds for the building's completion and the earliest possible use of it for our youth.

### **Manager Input**

Ms. Tatum reported that all town owned buildings sustained damage from the hurricane. She commended the town employees for their hard work and dedication during the storm. She also thanked the State of North Carolina and the National Guard for delivering a part by helicopter to keep the sewer plant's generator running.

Ms. Tatum stated that the town has spent \$50,000 on the youth center building and that it will take another \$80,000 to completely rehab the building.

### **Executive/Closed Session –Economic Development GS 143-318.11(a)(1,4)**

Commissioner McCallum made a motion to go into closed session at 7:09 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 economic development as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1,4). Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Mayor Townsend, Commissioners McCree, McCallum, McLean-Kesler, Kemp, Gaddy and Evans along with Rob Price, Katrina Tatum, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Gaddy made a motion to come out of closed session at 8:25 p.m. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend announced that information was shared and no action was taken.

### **Announcements**

Saturday, October 20 – Fairmont Farmers Festival, all day event with parade starting at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, October 26 – Fairmont High School Football vs. East Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 31- Halloween Trick or Treat hours – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 3 – Bethesda UMC Bazaar, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 6 - Election Day – Fire Hall, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 10 – Baltimore Baptist Church Fall Festival, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monday, November 12 – Town offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Tuesday, November 13 – NCDMV Driver’s License, Town Hall Courtroom, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 20 – Regular Town Board meeting, Council Chambers, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 21 to Friday, November 23 – Town offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Friday, November 30 – Holiday on Main, Tree lighting at 6:00 p.m. in the park followed by Twilight Christmas Parade at 6:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – November 20, 2018**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Cassandra Gaddy, Charles Kemp and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Commissioner Terry Evans was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Elaine Brown, Kathy Trimble and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Ms. Elaine Brown – LRCOG update**

Ms. Elaine Brown, with the LRCOG, announced that a Snowball Softball Tournament will be held on Saturday, December 1 at 8:00 a.m. at the Pembroke Recreation Complex. The co-ed team registration fee is \$150 and all proceeds benefit the 2019 Lumber River Regional Senior Games. She stated the LRCOG is looking forward to working with the town on the AIA water and sewer projects.

#### **Ms. Kathy Trimble – Mobile Homes on Bradshaw Street**

Ms. Kathy Trimble asked for an update on when the two mobile homes on Bradshaw Street will be removed. Commissioner McCallum responded that hopefully they will be moved by next month.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner McCallum and seconded by Commissioner McLean-Kesler, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, October 16, 2018.

**Unfinished Business**

**Code Enforcement – Pine and Holly Street House**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that Commissioner Kemp has been able to secure two sealed bids for the demolition of the Pine Street property; both at \$4,500. According to Commissioner Kemp, the owner, Ms. Stacey Oxendine has indicated that she would be willing to pay a monthly amount toward retiring the debt if the demolition is approved by the Board. Ms. Tatum researched the property tax activity on this property with the following results:

Tax Year 2015 – Partially Paid – Amount Owed - \$32.67  
Tax Year 2016 – Unpaid – Amount Owed - \$214.80  
Tax Year 2017 – Partially Paid – Amount Owed - \$165.10  
Tax Year 2018 – Unpaid – Amount Owed - \$237.00  
Total Owed - \$814.67

Ms. Tatum checked with the town’s auditor, who is concerned because they are not up to date on their taxes and suggested doing a credit check. Ms. Tatum has called Ms. Oxendine to find out what amount she is capable of paying on a monthly basis to give the Board an idea of the time frame for payment. However, she has not returned any of her calls to date.

Commissioner Kemp made the following statement for the record:

I was taught the phrase “patience is a virtue” from an early age and have tried to honor it throughout my life but once in a while I have felt challenged to hold fast to this phrase. The current house demolition issue we face is a prime example of being patient but mine is wearing thin. Since we have begun the process of demolishing houses 9 such structures have vanished and neighborhoods near them are cleaner and better looking for sure. But we haven’t finished the job yet. There are more to go. One of them is located on the corner of Holly and Pine streets and has sat there, a burned relic and eyesore for the past 4 years. After much discussion and 2 successive attempts to obtain support from my colleagues on this board failed I proceeded to take further Action to resolve this matter. I met with and received independent bids from two separate contractors who specialize in house removal and have provided those quotes to both Mrs. Tatum and the house owner. Mrs. Tatum was to call and talk to the owner regarding a payment reimbursement plan to the town for our assistance in having the house demolished but has been unsuccessful. I have spoken to the owner twice within the past two weeks, the latest was Saturday afternoon. I informed the owner of the property tax liability on the house and urged it be paid to show good faith to the town prior to a demolition reimbursement payment plan being discussed. The owner is willing to engage in these discussions and arrangements. All that remains is a conversation and agreement between Mrs. Tatum and the owner which I am more than happy to coordinate. As to the back taxes owed by the owner I am going to request that a report be prepared and offered to all board members showing the pay back of owed taxes on any or all of the previously demolished 9 houses completed over the past 2 years starting with The house on McCoy Street in September, 2016, and ending with the former Mercer property on North Main Street. Surely the members of this board have the fairness and wisdom to see that if the owner of the house on Holly and Pine must pay back taxes then the others must have to as well. Again I know that this board is going to balk at authorizing the demolition of the said house tonight and I fully understand the financial matters involved but I also want each board member to know that I personally am not going to stop my efforts to get this house down. The neighbors who live near it and the children who daily stand by it and walk past it with school bus activity deserve it to be gone. If the town can tear down and remove 9 other houses which were eye sores in some cases charging little or nothing for that work then surely we can show that a double standard does not exist and help make this eyesore go away. In closing let me add that with the exception of Commissioner Kesler all 6 of us who are elected by the voters live within 300 yards of this house. Would we want it to be next door to ours?

Commissioner Gaddy did not understand why it was so important to tear down the Pine and Holly Street house. She also believes the board has not failed but has made a lot of progress in removing dilapidated properties. Ms. Tatum would like to handle all future demolitions in the correct, right way. She would like to find out which properties have been vacant the longest and get them down first. Commissioner McLean-Kesler suggested that the dilapidated properties that are visible from the main streets in town should be addressed first in order to attract new businesses.

### **New Business**

#### **Land acquisition**

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the Town of Fairmont owns 2.62 acres of cleared land on Woodrow Road leading into the Fairmont Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant. The lot directly in front of the Woodrow Road entrance is .83 acres and is owned by Mr. Rayford Inman. Mr. Inman has agreed to sell the lot to the Town of Fairmont for \$800. It will give the Town the acreage needed to embark upon an economic development venture requiring at least 3 acres of land. The combined total will be 3.45 acres. This purchase was discussed in closed session at our last meeting. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to purchase the Woodrow Road lot from Mr. Rayford Inman for \$800. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatum reminded the board that the Town owns the FCX Building located on Morro Street. She has been talking with the Public Works staff and they see great potential for the land located directly behind that building. There are two lots involved, a 1.54 acre piece of land assessed at \$23,100 and an .83 acre site assessed at \$18,800; amounting to a total assessed value for both at \$41,900. One of the lots has a razor wire fence around it and the other has a thick concrete pad suitable for construction staging or moving property to higher ground. The lots are owned by Ms. Rosie Norton and is the former Blown Rite Insulation Co. site. Ms. Tatum has negotiated a price of \$30,000 for both lots with a donation of \$1,000 to our Senior Citizens Program for a savings of \$12,900. The sites can also be used for Economic Development purposes in the future if needed. One of the problems with bringing businesses into the town has been the extraordinarily high prices being asked for prime lots. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to authorize the negotiation and purchase of the two lots on Morro Street. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **Department Head Input**

Police Chief Jon Edwards is hoping to restart the Community Watch program. A town wide interest meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6 in the courtroom. Chief Edwards also hopes to reestablish the Police Explorers program. He announced that “Shop with a Cop” will be held on December 21 and they plan to take 12 children with them.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend thanked the Police Department for the wonderful fish lunch provided to all the town employees today. Mayor Townsend attended the Rural Assembly forum last week in Raleigh and learned of many programs that the town can participate in.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Kemp reminded everyone to attend the Holiday on Main celebration coming up on Friday, November 30. It will involve a tree lighting ceremony in the park, Twilight Christmas parade and entertainment in the Heritage Center.

**Announcements**

Wednesday, November 21 to Friday, November 23 – Town offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Saturday, November 24 - Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the HANDS Junior Civitan Club, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Cukabury Farms. Tickets are \$5.00.

Friday, November 30 - Holiday on Main Twilight Christmas Tree lighting in park at 6:00 p.m., Followed by Twilight Parade at 6:10 p.m., and concluding with entertainment in the Heritage Center at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 1 - Marietta Christmas Parade, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 1 - Lake View Parade, 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11 - North Carolina DMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall courtroom.

Tuesday, December 18 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Thursday, December 20, 2018 to January 2, 2019 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Friday, December 21 - Town offices closed at noon for annual Employee Christmas luncheon.

Monday, December 24 to Tuesday, January 1 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – December 18, 2018**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Pro Tempore Monte McCallum presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Commissioner Cassandra Gaddy participated by telephone. Mayor Charles Townsend was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Jon Edwards and Police Captain Darren Davis. Others in attendance included John Masters and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Pro Tempore McCallum called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. A moment of silence was held in memory of Hubert Sealey and Ila Granger. Town Manager Katrina Tatum explained that Mayor Charles Townsend was unable to attend tonight's meeting because he is assisting Communities in Schools in Robeson County host a dinner for 60 families and their children who are still living in shelters. The dinner, entertainment, activities and gifts were funded through the North Carolina Community Foundation.

### **Public Hearing – CDBG Closeout**

Mayor Pro Tempore Monte McCallum opened the public hearing. Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to solicit public participation in the closeout of the Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 2 CDBG Infrastructure Project by gathering citizen views and comments prior to the submission of the closeout documentation to the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

Manager Katrina Tatum stated the CDBG Infrastructure Grant provided \$1,753,838 to provide repair and replacement to a total of approximately 9,575 LF of sewer mains and manholes throughout the Town of Fairmont. The project will reduce inflow and infiltration into the collection system and the project has repaired and replaced infrastructure that has exceeded its useful life. The project provided a benefit to 152 households, totaling 374 occupants (98% of the occupants being of low and/or moderate income).

Mayor Pro Tempore Monte McCallum then extended an invitation for the public to comment on the closeout of the CDBG Infrastructure Grant. With no comments, Commissioner Evans made a motion to close the public hearing and authorize the Mayor to proceed with the execution of all closeout documentation required of NCDEQ with a second made by Commissioner McLean-Kesler. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore McCallum called for a short recess at 6:09 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:11 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

**Mrs. Jones – Sewer spill on Marvin Street**

Mrs. Jones asked about the sewer spill on Marvin Street. Ms. Tatum explained that three sewer pumps were under water and the town has hired two companies to drain the water off so repairs can be made. The state has been notified of the problem.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner McLean-Kesler and seconded by Commissioner Evans, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, November 20, 2018 and CDBG Closeout Public Hearing, December 18, 2018.

**New Business**

**Audit Report for FY 2017-2018 presented by John Masters, S. Preston Douglas and Associates**

Mr. John Masters, of S. Preston Douglas and Associates, presented Fairmont’s 2017-2018 audit report. Mr. Masters commended the town for being disciplined and showing improvement. There were no findings or violations in this year’s audit. The town’s unassigned fund balance is 29% (LGC has estimated it at 32%), which is the highest it has been in 18 years. The town’s tax collection rate is almost 93%.

**Interlocal Agreement between Robeson County and Town of Fairmont for CDBG Disaster Recovery Program.**

Ms. Tatum asked the board to adopt an interlocal agreement between the town and Robeson County for the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program grant. Town Attorney Rob Price requested the following changes to the agreement:

- Page 13: Section 5. Change Paragraph IX to read Paragraph VIII.
- Page 16: Section 5c. the reference to paragraph (d) does not exist.
- Page 16: Section 6. Change “representative” to “representation” and change “with” to “when” in first sentence.
- Page 19: Section XXIII. Change “and” to “, which” in first sentence and change “GRANTEE” to “GRANTOR” in the third sentence.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt the Interlocal Agreement between Robeson County and Town of Fairmont for CDBG Disaster Recovery Program as amended by the attorney. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Golden LEAF Disaster Recovery Grant Agreement and Project Management Plan.

Ms. Tatum informed the board the Golden Leaf Foundation has awarded the town a sum of \$450,000 for improvements at the Fairmont Regional Waste Water Sewer Plant. The town was funded for rebuilding the road at the sewer plant; which washed out with Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. The funding line items are as follows:

**Road Repair Costs**

Mobilization:	\$5,000
Clear and Grub:	\$15,500
Compacted Fill:	\$141,750
Geotextile Matting for Road Bed:	<u>\$85,500</u>
Total:	<b>\$297,000</b>

Engineering Design:	\$45,000
Construction Management & Inspection:	\$28,000
Environmental/Permitting:	<u>\$80,000</u>
Total:	<b>\$153,000</b>

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the Golden LEAF Foundation Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement and designate the town manager to sign the agreement. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 18-15 – Health Insurance for Retirees, Sick Leave amendment.

Ms. Tatum asked the board to amend the resolution on health insurance for retirees by allowing an employee to use creditable sick leave in qualifying for the required years of service to obtain retirement benefits. She estimates the maximum sick leave amount an employee would use would be 1.5 years. Town Attorney Rob Price asked to remove the language “1 and” from the paragraph following 2e. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-15, Health Insurance for Retirees, Sick Leave amendment with the suggested change. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Archive Social – Request for consideration.

Ms. Tatum has had two sessions with Archive Social, which is a social media archive company. Archive Social would like for the board to consider their archive business to protect the town’s interest and store all comments from our Facebook account in the event that a public records request for historic data on that site is received. All media sources are subject to public information requests and the town is obligated to submit it when asked. However, the town must

disclose or allow access to records for which we have access. Therefore if someone goes on our Facebook account, makes a comment, and then erases it we no longer have access to it and we therefore are not obligated to provide that data.

To make sure the town is in compliance, Ms. Tatum sought the help of the School of Government and Professor Frayda S. Bluestein responded as follows:

“The standards for social media are pretty much the same for any other type of public record. So you can delete comments and messages that do not have any lasting value based on the records retention schedules. You do have to be careful not to just delete messages you don’t like. Depending on your comment policy, social media can be considered to be a public forum for free speech.

But in terms of providing access, you would refer to your retention schedule and your comment policy to determine whether you can delete messages. I don’t know of anything that requires you to archive everything so the standard would depend upon the content of the record being sought.”

In light of Ms. Bluestein’s comments and the cost of archiving (\$2,388/yr-small #records package, \$4,788/yr-medium #records package, \$7,188/yr-large #records package), it is Ms. Tatum’s opinion that it is not advisable to purchase this protection. The town only has one active social media source; Facebook and the town clerk does a fine job of protecting the town’s interest. Ms. Tatum asked that the board render a decision on this matter. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to reject Archive Social’s proposal. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Land acquisition update**

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the .83 acre lot on Woodrow Road owned by Mr. Rayford Inman cannot be purchased at this time and the offer has been withdrawn. Mr. Inman has a \$17,693.20 judgement against him in the favor of the Coastal Federal Credit Union. The judgment must be paid prior to any land transfers or sales.

The manager was instructed to contact the owner of the land adjacent to the FCX property on Morro Street to try to negotiate a better price. There are two lots involved, a 1.54 acre piece of land assessed at \$23,100 and an.83 acre site assessed at \$18,800; amounting to a total assessed value for both at \$41,900. One of the lots has a razor wire fence around it and the other has a thick concrete pad suitable for construction staging or moving property to higher ground. The lots are owned by Ms. Rosie Norton and is the former Blown Rite Insulation Co. site.

Ms. Tatum went back to Ms. Norton and she is willing to sell both lots for \$28,000, with a donation of \$1,000 to our Senior Citizens Program or to the Fire Department. Since the Fire Department has gotten assistance from the Mocksville Woman’s Club, Ms. Tatum recommends a donation to our Senior Citizens. This amounts to a savings of \$14,900 including the donation. Commissioner Evans made a motion to purchase the two lots of Morro Street for \$28,000, with a donation of \$1,000 to our Senior Citizens Program. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Housing Demolition – Pine and Holly Street House

Ms. Tatum reminded the board that Commissioner Kemp secured two sealed bids for the demolition of the Pine Street property; both at \$4,500. The property owner, Ms. Oxendine, owes over \$650 in back taxes to the county and she does not currently have a payment arrangement with them in place. Ms. Tatum has communicated with Ms. Oxendine since the last meeting to find out what amount she can pay on a monthly basis and she relayed the following:

Demolition: \$4,500 – no income - \$100.00/month with 3.75 years to pay off.

Taxes - \$50/month until paid

Commissioner Kemp stated that it has been four months and still no movement on the demolition of the Pine and Holly Street house. He made four observations: 1. a legitimate sealed bid to demolish the house has been offered, 2. owner has agreed to pay back town, 3. structure is a neighborhood disgrace and 4. six months into the fiscal year with no demolitions yet.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion for the town manager to secure the proper and legal documentation from the owner of the house on the northeast corner of Pine and Holly Streets, assuring the town in writing of a reasonable reimbursement timeline and that the board accept the sealed demolition bid in January and begin demolition after the January board meeting. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion. Town Attorney Rob Price requested the portion on accepting the sealed bid be removed from the motion. Commissioner Evans rejected the offer, stating there are other, older, more visible houses that need to be demolished first. Commissioner McCallum wants to weigh the cost of removing one house versus three or four. Commissioner Kemp feels that a double standard exists on nuisance abatement and housing demolition and doesn't understand the opposition to tearing down this house. The motion failed with a voted of 4 to 2 as follows:

For: Commissioners Kemp and McCree  
Against: Commissioners Evans, McCallum, Gaddy and McLean-Kesler

Youth Center

Commissioner Kemp has reached out by letter, phone, and email to 25 groups, businesses, corporations, and legislators asking for their financial assistance in completing the renovations to the youth center building. Commissioner Kemp and Ms. Tatum have also met with a representative from Pepsi regarding a donation. He also plans to lobby state legislators for financial help in completing the building repairs.

**Department Head Input**

Police Chief Jon Edwards announced that “Shop with a Cop” will be held on December 21 and they plan to take 12 children with them.

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals gave an update on the sewer problem at the lift station/old sewer plant on Brown Street. Three pumps are down due to the excessive rain and the town’s sewer is currently being pumped using a diesel bypass. There was some spillage on Marvin Street due to the high water. The state was notified and the town has asked for assistance.

Mr. Seals invited the board to eat with the town employees for the annual Christmas luncheon on Thursday at 12:00 noon at the Fairmont Civitan Hut.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Evans announced his intent to run for the Robeson County Board of Commissioners District 2 seat.

Commissioner Kemp reminded everyone about Santa Visits the Kids and asked help to get the word out to parents to participate.

**Closed/Executive Session – Personnel G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)**

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to go into closed session at 7:39 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 Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore McCallum, Commissioners McCree, McLean-Kesler, Kemp, and Evans along with Rob Price, Katrina Tatum, and Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:46 p.m. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tempore McCallum announced that information was shared and no action was taken.

Approval of Town Manager employment contract

Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the employment contract for Town Manager Katrina Tatum. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 3 to 2 as follows:

For:	Commissioners McCallum, McLean-Kesler, and Evans
Against:	Commissioners Kemp and McCree
Absent:	Commissioner Gaddy

A signed copy of this contract is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Announcements**

Thursday, December 20, 2018 to January 2, 2019 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Monday, December 24 to Tuesday, January 1 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Tuesday, January 15 - NC DMV Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town Hall Courtroom.

Tuesday, January 15 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Monday, January 21 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – January 15, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, Cassandra Gaddy and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Captain Darren Davis. Others in attendance included Brady Lawson, Brandon Stone, Kathy Buie, Melissa Pittman, Alexandria Locklear and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Kathy Buie– Robeson County Disaster Recovery**

Ms. Kathy Buie, with Robeson County Disaster Recovery, presented the town with 10 space heaters to be given out to residents that need heat.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner McLean-Kesler, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, December 18, 2018.

### **New Business**

#### **Hope 4 NC presentation.**

Ms. Melissa Pittman and Ms. Alexandria Locklear, Crisis Counselors with RHA and Hope 4 NC, were present to inform the board and citizens of the services they offer. RHA offers crisis counseling to address the mental and behavioral health needs of those affected by Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. They also provide mental illness and substance abuse counseling.

Resolution 19-1 - Declare fire truck surplus and transfer to South Robeson Rescue Squad.

South Robeson Rescue Unit Assistant Chief Brady Lawson and Chief Brandon Stone appeared before the board to request transfer of the 1990 Ford KME F800 fire truck previously given to them. Ms. Tatum explained that after the fire truck was originally donated to the rescue squad, the previous leaders of the rescue squad later tried to transfer the truck to Fairmont Rural Fire but the town took back possession of the truck instead. Mr. Lawson stated South Robeson Rescue is under new leadership and reorganizing under their original name. The fire truck would be used as a crash truck. Commissioner McLean-Kesler expressed interest in serving on the rescue squad's Board of Directors.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-1 - Declare fire truck surplus and transfer to South Robeson Rescue Squad. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Street light request – Ames Acres.

Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that a resident has requested an additional street light in the Ames Acres subdivision. Ms. Tatum received an analysis from Duke Energy and the town's cost for an additional street light would be between \$7.50 and \$10.21 a month and if needed, a new pole could cost \$1,000.

Ordinance 19-186 – Non-Domestic Animals.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that a citizen has approached the town with a request to have livestock. Our current ordinance prohibits non-domestic animals inside the city limits and within 100 feet of the city limits. This citizen has sufficient land to insulate his neighbors from any negative effects of having livestock and there are several lots in and within 100 feet of the city limits that could benefit from an ordinance that allowed non-domestic animals under the right conditions. The amended ordinance allows residents to have no more than 10 chickens and only three kinds of livestock regardless of species, except for hogs and swine.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 19-186, Non-Domestic Animals. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Zoning – General Discussion (Commissioner Kemp)

Commissioner Kemp asked Commissioner McCallum when the two mobile homes on Bradshaw Street will be moved. Commissioner McCallum stated the homes had been sold but are waiting for the ground to dry out so they can be moved.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Code Enforcement – Nuisance Abatement.**

Commissioner Kemp, after trying for four months to get board approval to remove a dilapidated house on Pine and Holly Street, suggested that everyone on the board come together with a list of all the homes in the town that need to be torn down, and he would support taking action to make it happen. Town Attorney Rob Price said town staff should prioritize the list based on the severity of need.

### **Department Head Input**

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals gave an update on the pump breakdowns at the lift station/old sewer plant on Brown Street. Ms. Tatum has filed with FEMA because the hurricane was a factor in the pump breakdowns.

Captain Davis thanked Commissioner McCallum and all those who participated in Shop with a Cop.

### **Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming.

Commissioner Evans vowed to never sit in another executive session during a board meeting. His vow was in response to a letter by Commissioner Kemp, published in The Robesonian, alleging foul play during an executive session that took place in December.

Commissioner Kemp presented the board with a \$1,000 donation from O2 Energies, which will go toward making the town's youth center a reality.

### **Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that the town has received \$270,000 from the insurance company for Hurricane Florence damage. The final project for Hurricane Matthew is the cemetery and a check will be arriving soon for \$105,709.64. LKC Engineering has signed their contract with the Lumber River Council of Governments and the data is being compiled to begin work on the sewer asset inventory assessment. Ms. Tatum is working on a grant to purchase a generator and bypass pump for the Brown Street lift station. The Town was approved for a \$450,000 Golden Leaf Grant to rebuild the road at the Fairmont Regional Sewer Plant.

### **Announcements**

Monday, January 21 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Page 4 – Regular Meeting, January 15, 2019

Friday, February 8 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. Red Springs, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 12 - NC DMV Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town Hall Courtroom.

Friday, February 8 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. South Robeson, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

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

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Special Meeting – January 24, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Commissioners Charles Kemp, Terry Evans and Cassandra Gaddy were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Kim Colson, Francine Durso, Amy Simes, Jeff Hughes, Austin Thompson and Sharon Edmundson.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

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

### **Report on the Water and Wastewater Utilities study completed for the Towns of Fair Bluff, Fairmont, Boardman, Cerro Gordo and Proctorville**

Mr. Kim Colson, Director of the NC Division of Water Infrastructure, gave the board a brief background on the purpose of the study. The State wanted to look at the financial issues of Fair Bluff, Fairmont, Boardman, Cerro Gordo and Proctorville following Hurricane Matthew. The study took an in-depth look at the water and sewer infrastructure, finances and how the utilities are run. The year and a half study has helped the State better understand infrastructure conditions and costs to repair; future costs to keep the infrastructure in good operating condition; operations staff that may be needed; and what the monthly bills to customers would have to be to run the utility the way it needs to be run for the long-term. The findings show that all of the town's water and sewer systems have significant issues.

Ms. Francine Durso, Senior Project Manager with the NC Division of Water Infrastructure, presented pictures of the town's assets and explained the asset condition ratings. The condition ratings are very good, good, fair, poor and very poor. 9% of Fairmont's assets are very good, 21% are good, 17% are fair, 39% are poor and 14% are very poor. Assets that are poor or very poor have a high risk of failure, require excessive maintenance and will need major rehab or repair in the next 1 to 5 years. Ms. Durso estimated that the cost to repair the failing assets would cost \$44 - \$64 million over the next 20 years. She estimated annual operating costs at \$1.3 - \$1.6 million including the addition of 3 more full time employees. Fairmont's current sewer bill for 3,500 gallons a month is \$28.87 and the state average is \$35. Fairmont's current water bill for 3,500 gallons a month is \$24.40 and the state average is \$28.

Ms. Sharon Edmundson, Director of the Fiscal Management Section of the NC Department of State Treasurer Local Government Commission, thanked the board for getting the 2018 audit in on time. She reported the town's general fund balance is growing at 43%. She noted the town does not have a lot of working capital in the water/sewer fund to repair and replace failing assets. Ms. Edmundson stated that overall the town's finances are pretty good but cautioned there would be challenges if the town needed to borrow money. It would be hard for the town to take on significant debt without substantial rate increases.

Mr. Colson understands that rural communities tend to defer major repairs in order to keep rates affordable for their citizens, especially since the economy in rural areas is not as good as urban areas. Ms. Durso went over possible sewer bills for years 1-10 if the systems are upgraded. With the state providing 50% capital costs and no changes are made to current practices, the sewer bill would be \$57-\$64. With an integrated wastewater utility, the sewer bill would be \$78-\$87 and if the town merged with Lumberton, it would be \$67-\$81 for 3,500 gallons a month. The numbers increase significantly by year 10 ranging between \$93 to \$230 a month between all the options. If the state provides 100% capital costs, the sewer bill for 3,500 gallons would be \$64 a month for an integrated wastewater utility or \$53 a month if merged with Lumberton. At year 10, the integrated utility cost would be \$97-\$114 month and Lumberton between \$65-\$75.

Mr. Jeff Hughes, Director of the Environmental Finance Center at UNC-CH School of Government, advised that Fairmont is not alone in struggling to provide water and wastewater. The main problems are increasing costs, stagnant revenue, loss of customer base/industry and the recent hurricanes. Mr. Hughes mentioned the option of merging with the City of Lumberton, which is 13 miles from Fairmont. Lumberton has a bigger customer base and a plant that can treat up to 20 million gallons a day. He advised having a good, strong agreement if Fairmont decides to let Lumberton treat their wastewater. Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked if the state had looked at the condition of Lumberton's assets and the answer was no. Ms. Tatum is not convinced that merging with Lumberton is the best solution for Fairmont. Mr. Colson advised that regardless of the decision the town makes, rates will have to go up in order to qualify for grant money.

### **Adjournment**

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

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – February 19, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, Cassandra Gaddy and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Brady Lawson, Brandon Stone, Justin Elk, Lori Chavis, Lipi Majumdar and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

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

### **Public Hearing – CDBG Closeout Amendment**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to solicit public participation in an amendment of the Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 2 CDBG Infrastructure Project by gathering citizen views and comments prior to the submission of the Program Amendment to the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

Ms. Tatum stated the CDBG Infrastructure Grant provided repair and replacement to a total of approximately 9,795 LF of sewer mains and manholes throughout the Town of Fairmont. NCDEQ requires a formal Program Amendment to more accurately reflect the amount of linear footage of sewer improvements that was completed. The original grant application stated the Town would provide approximately 16,700 LF of rehabilitated sewer lines; however, due to the amount of grant funds available and after a more detailed inspection of the existing sewer lines, the Town identified the sewer lines that were in need of more immediate repair. Therefore, the Town was able to provide a reduced scope of work to meet the allowable grant budget and provide sewer rehabilitation to 9,795 LF of sewer lines throughout Fairmont. The project provided improved sewer service to 152 households (a total of 374 persons). Of the 374 persons, 369 were of low and moderate income (98.6% LMI). This reduced scope of work was reflected in the Preliminary Engineering Report which did receive approval by NCDEQ.

Mayor Charles Townsend then extended an invitation for the public to comment on the proposed amendment of the CDBG Infrastructure Grant. With no comments, Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to authorize the Mayor to proceed with the execution of the Program Amendment required of NCDEQ. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend called for a brief recess at 6:03 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 6:06 p.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Lori Chavis –Cheer Excel**

Ms. Lori Chavis came before the board requesting a donation for Cheer Excel's trip to Orlando, Florida.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner McCallum and seconded by Commissioner Evans, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, January 15, 2019, Special Meeting, January 24, 2019 and CDBG Public Hearing, February 19, 2019.

Before the vote on the minutes, Commissioner Kemp wanted to read a statement into the minutes. Town Attorney Rob Price informed him that was not in order. After discussion, Commissioner Kemp agreed to wait and read his statement during Commissioner Input.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution 19-2 – Designation of Applicant's Agent, NC Division of Emergency Management**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that designating an applicant's agent was required to get Hurricane Florence relief from the state and FEMA. Ms. Tatum would be the primary designated agent for the town. Commissioner Gaddy made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-2 – Designation of Applicant's Agent, NC Division of Emergency Management. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

#### **Donation requests – Project Graduation and Rezz Church Ministries Life Group**

Ms. Tatum informed the board that she received two requests for donations, one from Project Graduation and the other from Rezz Church Ministries Life Group. Town Attorney Rob Price said the church request was unconstitutional because of the separation of church and state but that individual board members could donate if desired. Mayor Townsend suggested for the upcoming budget preparation the town allocate \$1,000 for ten school related requests at \$100 each. The board agreed in consensus with this suggestion.

Request for Economic Development Loan – Carvelli’s Textiles.

Ms. Tatum reported that Ms. Lipi Majumdar opened Carvelli Textiles, located at 805 South Main Street (Old Mitchell Warehouse) in August 2018. The business makes pillows and currently employees 5 people. The 49,226 square foot warehouse was in fair condition upon purchase and the owner has already expended over \$50,000 in repairs. Ms. Majumdar is seeking a RBEG loan to repair, upgrade and increase the load capacity of the entire building and build a 10’x 10’ Dock at the front of the building. The dock will allow the owner to lease out space to the rear of the building and still run the pillow operation at the front of the building. The total cost of the upgrades and the construction is \$25, 875.

The revolving loan fund has two businesses with outstanding loans; Stephen’s Construction and DayStar. The total unobligated balance is \$38,691.55. If the loan is granted at the total amount, it would be based on a 3%, two year term.

Ms. Majumdar passed out pillows as examples of her factory’s work. The company is getting new pillow contracts with Roses and Family Dollar and plans to double the factory’s workforce to 8 to 10 people by 2020. Mayor Townsend had concerns about depleting the revolving loan fund when some of those funds could be used to revitalize businesses on Main Street. Commissioner McCallum asked Ms. Majumdar if an \$18,000 loan would be sufficient with a one year payback and she agreed. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to loan Carvelli Textiles \$18,000 out of the town’s RBEG fund with a 12 month payback term at 3% interest. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 2 as follows:

For:	Commissioners Evans, Gaddy, McCallum and McLean-Kesler
Against:	Commissioners Kemp and McCree

Wheelchair swing donation – Hearts N Hands Civitan Club.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the Hearts N Hands Ladies Civitan Club of Fairmont would like to donate a wheel chair swing for installation in the Fairmont Community Park. They are prepared to donate the sum of \$2,227.99 and would like to partner with the town to include the ramp and shipping. The swing is specially designed to be used with a wheelchair making it possible for everyone to have playground fun. The swing platform is best for use with wheelchairs and the molded swings are safe for use by physically and mentally challenged children ages 2-12. Ms. Tatum asked the board to accept this donation and authorize staff to make the purchase of all accessories. She expects to match their purchase and expend no more than \$3,000. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to accept the wheelchair swing donation from the Hearts N Hands Civitan Club. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Code Enforcement – Housing demolition update**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that she has received lists of potential house for demolition from Commissioners Kemp and McCallum. She also had a list of vacant and dilapidated properties from Town Clerk Jenny Larson that she compiled while working on address verification for the 2020 Census. There are close to 200 houses within the city limits that are unoccupied or in terrible shape. Ms. Tatum said the visible, abandoned homes on the main entrances to town on Main, Walnut, Cottage, Iona and Leesville roads should be targeted first for demolition. Mayor Townsend suggested that abandoned houses with drug activity be prioritized as well. Ms. Tatum cautioned the process for taking down these houses could take time if the owners cannot be easily found. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to move forward with the demolition process of houses located on the main entrances to town as well as any abandoned homes with drug activity. Commissioner Evans seconded her motion and it passed unanimously. Ms. Tatum will report back to the board next month with a list of potential houses to address first.

### **Youth Center funding update.**

Ms. Tatum has sent letters to our state representatives asking for \$60,000 to complete repairs and upgrades for the Fairmont Youth Center. Commissioner Kemp reported that he has received three donations totaling \$2,300 for the project. Commissioner Kemp would like the town to establish a Go Fund Me page for the Youth Center to help collect more donations. Ms. Tatum said Town Clerk Jenny Larson would activate the page and monitor it along with Commissioner Kemp and that there would be no cost to the town. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to move forward with the establishment of a Go Fund Me page for the Fairmont Youth Center with a donation goal of \$60,000. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **Department Head Input**

Assistant Fire Chief Justin Elk asked the board to be patient as the fire department gets reorganized. The department is meeting tonight and one of the main priorities will be recruitment of firefighters and improvement in communication.

South Robeson Rescue Unit Assistant Chief Brady Lawson reported that SRRU responded to ten calls last month including four inside the city limits. They hope to have enough volunteers soon to operate 24/7. SRRU is still dealing with financial struggles and have planned a spaghetti plate sale for Friday, May 3. Members have been paying out of pocket for gas and cleaning supplies. Commissioner Evans made a motion to allocate \$1,000 for South Robeson Rescue Unit for fuel effective immediately. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming.

Commissioner Kemp read the following statement:

“In our board packet are minutes from the December meeting taken and offered by our town clerk. Under Commissioner Input Commissioner Evans stated his intention to never attend another closed session and offers as his reason a letter I wrote to the editor of the Robesonian which appeared in that paper several days following the meeting. I did in fact write a letter to the paper because the Robesonian reporter assigned that night was not in our presence when we reconvened after our closed session and had no idea what transpired during the open session and vote which occurred. He was not summoned to rejoin us and I felt he needed the necessary information divulged in the open session. Should anyone have read the letter which I wrote and was printed they would clearly see that at no time did I divulge what transpired in closed session but gladly and openly offered the events which occurred in open session which was needed in the absence of the press. Further, if any similar event such as this occurs again and the press is not present when they should be I will use my 1st amendment rights granted to any citizen to inform the citizens and the press exactly what occurred under the provisions and regulations of the N. C. Open meetings law which I have fully read and understand.”

### **Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum gave the following report to the board:

Asset Inventory Assessment (AIA) - NCDEQ – SEWER: The Start-Up meeting was held on February 6, 2019; those present included the Town Manager, Ronnie Seals, Jean Klein, Bill Lester and Jim Perry. The purpose of the meeting was to outline and define duties of each entity. The projected end date of this grant is April 30, 2020.

FY 2018 PDM and/or FMA grants: The Mitigation portion of the grant, which was specifically to purchase a by-pass pump has been reviewed by the state and the town has been asked to submit a full application. I have not received an invitation to submit a full application for the 600KM generator grant application.

FEMA Update - Cemetery Drainage Improvements: Contractor, Frank Horne Construction, has moved materials to the site, installed erosion control measures, and are installing the piping and headwalls. The final site work and cleanup should be complete this month. We should be ready for final inspection and closeout of this project within the next few weeks.

Golden Leaf Access Road – Sewer Plant: The Town was approved for \$450,000 to rebuild the road at the Fairmont Regional Sewer Plant. At this point, we are working on administrative requirements. LKC Engineering is in the process of preparing an Engineering Contract for this project and also completing the Project Management Plan to be returned to Golden Leaf. LKC will be coordinating the wetland delineation and initial design activities. The executed grant agreement has been sent to the Golden Leaf Office.

Golden Leaf – Lift Station Modification and Replacement Grant: LKC Engineering prepared and submitted a grant application to the Golden Leaf Program to mitigate flood activity with respect to several lift stations. Golden Leaf has confirmed receipt of the application and confirmed that all elements of the application were complete.

Lead for North Carolina: On Thursday and Friday of last week, I attended the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual North Carolina City and County Management Seminar. Session IV on the second day was the Lead for North Carolina Focus Group. I was asked to attend this session because students from the UNC system had expressed an interest in interning at the Town of Fairmont upon graduation. This would be a prelude to obtaining their Masters. We reviewed the cost to local governments with respect to participating in this program and for Fairmont, which is located in a Tier 1 County the cost would be as low as \$6,000-\$8,000 or lower; all other costs and benefits would be paid by the project partners. The interns would actually be our employees and the total value of the offer would be around \$40,000. I took the liberty of signing an intent to participate list at the seminar. This is a great opportunity for the Town of Fairmont to have home grown leaders, who are interested in coming back to this community to serve.

North Carolina Office of Recovery & Resiliency: The State has launched the State Recovery Grants & Loans for Local Governments. To that end, with the help of Bob Taylor, we are submitting a grant and loan proposal to help the town transition through loses of income as a result of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. One of the categories will allow us to fund through a no interest loan, an economic development planner as suggested by Sharon Edmundson during the Fair Bluff, Fairmont Initiative meeting. At this point, if the funds are approved, we may be able to hire a planner at no cost to the town.

### **Announcements**

Thursday, February 28 – Fairmont hosts the Robeson County Municipal Association meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Guest speaker is D.A. Matt Scott.

Tuesday, March 12 - NC DMV Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town Hall Courtroom.

Wednesday, March 13 – Half day of school with early release at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting –March 19, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, Cassandra Gaddy and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Captain Darren Davis and Fire Chief Woody Woodall. Others in attendance included Brady Lawson, Eli Salazar, Kelly Johnson, Elaine Brown, Kaci McLellan, Demetrus Locklear, David Pollard, Joe Williams, Kathy Trimble, Maurice Townsend and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### Elaine Brown, Lumber River Council of Governments

Ms. Elaine Brown, with the Lumber River Council of Governments, updated the board on the Senior Nutrition program, the upcoming Senior Games in April as well as the Workforce Development Board's Finish Line Grant for community college students.

#### Kelly Johnson, Fairmont Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Kelly Johnson, with the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, informed the board about a clinic with PGA golfer William McGirt on April 30. The event is free but there will be a drawing for three lucky winners to play 9 holes of golf with Mr. McGirt. Proceeds from the drawing will benefit the Fairmont High School Golf and Baseball teams. Mr. Johnson also presented the town with a check for \$500 for the Fairmont Youth Center.

#### John Woodall

Mr. John Woodall would like to know what the town can do to help clean up all the trash in town. He would like Fairmont to be known as the cleanest town in the county. Robeson County is hosting a county wide cleanup day on April 19.

#### Kathy Trimble

Ms. Kathy Trimble thanked Commissioner McCallum for moving the trailers on Bradshaw Street. She stated it is very dark on her street at night and she has seen a suspicious person walking around. She asked how often the police patrol North Fairmont at night.

Joe Williams

Mr. Joe Williams, a Fairmont native, plans to build a pharmacy and laundromat across from the Food Lion shopping center.

Maurice Townsend

Mr. Maurice Townsend plans to revitalize the Happy Hill area of town by tearing down an abandoned property and building a convenient store. He is also buying and renovating homes.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Gaddy, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, February 19, 2019.
- b. Ordinance 19-187 – Close Main Street for May Day Fun Festival.

A signed copy of Ordinance 19-187 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**New Business**

There was no new business this month.

**Unfinished Business**

Code Enforcement – Housing demolition update

Town Manager Katrina Tatum presented the board with 11 possible properties for demolition and a list of seven contractors to contact to do the work. Seven of the eleven properties owe back taxes. Ms. Martine Spencer would like her property on 608 Stafford Street to be demolished and is willing to pay her share of the demolition costs. Commissioner Kemp suggested concentrating on the properties that do not owe taxes. Ms. Tatum hopes to vet 4 to 5 properties for demolition by the next meeting.

**Department Head Input**

Fire Chief Woody Woodall

Chief Woodall is working on recruitment of new firefighters and increasing moral. He stated that turnout gear and dress uniforms would need to be purchased for the new volunteers.

South Robeson Rescue – Brady Lawson

Mr. Brady Lawson announced that South Robeson Rescue will be hosting a spaghetti plate sale on May 3 for \$7.00 a plate. They are also selling raffle tickets for a rifle at \$10 a ticket or 6 tickets for \$50. The SRRU has adopted a two mile stretch of highway on South Main Street/Highway 41 starting at Cottage Street for trash pickup. EMS Captain Eli Salazar reported that SRRU responded to 12 calls last month, four inside the city limits. They thanked the town for the fuel allocation.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and appreciate their support.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum introduced Kaci McLellan and Demetrus Locklear who are working through the LRCOG.

Ms. Tatum announced that Town Clerk Jenny Larson has agreed to be the town's Finance Director and the town is looking for a Deputy Finance Director/Clerk.

Ms. Tatum encouraged the redevelopment of Community Watch. She stated the citizens have to help the government and be its eyes and ears.

**Announcements**

Sunday, March 31 – River Voices: Bella Venti Woodwind Quintet, 2:00 p.m., The Stage, 205 West Thompson Street, Fairmont, NC.

Tuesday, April 9 - NC DMV Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town Hall Courtroom.

Tuesday, April 16 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Friday, April 12 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hearts N Hand Civitan Golf Tournament. Registration 11:00 a.m., Lunch 12:00 p.m. and Shotgun Start 1:00 p.m., Fairmont Golf Club.

Saturday, April 13 - Town Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m., Fairmont Community Park.

Saturday, April 13 – Run for your Life Marathon 5k run and 3k walk, 9:30 a.m., South Walnut Street. Sponsored by Jonesville Baptist Church and the Rural Fitness Initiative. Cost \$15.

Sunday, April 14 - Fairmont Women's Club Dinner, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Masonic Lodge.

Friday, April 19 and Monday, April 22 - Town offices closed in observance of Easter.

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Saturday, April 20 – Cukabury Farms Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

April 19 - April 26 - Schools closed for spring break.

Saturday, May 4 - Sixth Annual Fairmont May Day Fun Festival, Main Street, all day with parade beginning at 10:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – April 16, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Commissioner Cassandra Gaddy participated by telephone. Staff present included, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Town Manager Katrina Tatum was absent due to illness. Others in attendance included Demetrus Locklear, Samuel Shropshire, Carlos Moya, Scott Walston, Sam Jefferies, Janet Robertson and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Pastor Samuel Shropshire, of Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner McCallum asked the board to add the NCDOT Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan under New Business as Item E. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

Gloria Smith, Mail Delivery issues at 619 Stafford Street

Gloria Smith informed the board that she has not received mail on Stafford street since August, when a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier was injured on the job after being shot with a pellet gun. Commissioner Monte McCallum looked into the matter and was informed that the Postal Service will stop carrying to Canal Street on Wednesday, which is adjacent to Stafford. He said a community mailbox will be set up in the neighborhood. The board agreed to investigate why the Postal Service has taken such drastic measures.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner McLean-Kesler and seconded by Commissioner Evans, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, March 19, 2019.

### **New Business**

Swear in Jenny Larson as Finance Director

Mayor Charles Townsend swore in Town Clerk Jenny Larson as the town's new Finance Director.

NC Career Works Job Fair

Commissioner Charles Kemp reported that the NC Career Works Center would like to have a large 20-25 employer job fair on Wednesday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the NC Career Works Job Fair on June 5. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 19-03 – Adopt General Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies.

Town Clerk Jenny Larson informed the board that the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and Records, Government Records Section has asked all municipalities to adopt the 2019 General Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-03 – Adopt General Records Schedule for Local Government Agencies. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 19-04 – Adopt CDBG-DR-CRI-155-0001 Administrative Plans and Policies.

The Town of Fairmont is a sub-recipient of a \$500,000 CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program grant for infrastructure and storm water improvements. Several compliance plans and policies must be adopted as part of the state and federal administrative guidelines until April 2023. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-04 – Adopt CDBG-DR-CRI-155-0001 Administrative Plans and Policies. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

NCDOT Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Mr. Carols Moya, Project Engineer with the NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, came before the board to discuss the Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The last county plan was completed in October 2011, but Fairmont did not participate. Fairmont's last Thoroughfare Plan was adopted in 1995. Mr. Moya asked for board consensus to move forward with the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and to appoint a CTP Steering Committee of local stakeholders. Commissioner Evans made a motion to proceed with the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and to appoint a six-member steering committee. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

Code Enforcement – Housing demolition update

Mrs. Larson presented the board with a list of owner information for the properties identified for the housing demolition project. No action was taken.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and appreciate their support.

Commissioner Kemp announced that he is engaged to Karan Bullock and they are getting married on July 28.

**Announcements**

Friday, April 19 and Monday, April 22 - Town offices closed in observance of Easter.

Saturday, April 20 – Cukabury Farms Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

April 19 - April 26 - Schools closed for spring break.

Saturday, May 4 - Sixth Annual Fairmont May Day Fun Festival, Main Street, all day with parade beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 14 - NC DMV Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town Hall Courtroom.

Tuesday, May 21 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Monday, May 27 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 28 - Town Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers

**Adjournment**

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

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting –May 21, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, and Cassandra Gaddy. Commissioner Felecia McLean-Kesler was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk/Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Jon Edwards and Fire Chief Woody Woodall. Others in attendance included Brady Lawson, Eli Salazar, Elaine Brown, and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked the board to add “Lead for North Carolina Fellow Employment Contract” to the agenda under New Business as Item D. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

Elaine Brown, Lumber River Council of Governments

Ms. Elaine Brown, with the Lumber River Council of Governments, announced there will be an Elder Abuse Awareness Walk on Friday, June 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pembroke Recreation Complex.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner McCallum, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, February 19, 2019.

### **New Business**

Swear in Donna Jacobs as Deputy Finance Director/Deputy Town Clerk

Town Clerk Jenny Larson swore in Donna Jacobs as Fairmont’s Deputy Finance Director and Deputy Town Clerk.

Approve Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 19-20 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates

Ms. Tatum said the audit contract for Fiscal Year 19-20 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates will cost the town \$13,900, a slight increase from last year's audit due to OPEB reporting requirements. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 19-20 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates. Commissioner Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fairmont Planning Board Appointments

Ms. Tatum announced that current planning board members Winona Gause, Dwayne McCormick and Terry Hunt are willing to serve again. Commissioner Evans made a motion to reappoint Winona Gause, Dwayne McCormick and Terry Hunt to the Fairmont Planning Board for a three-year term expiring May 2022. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Lead for North Carolina Fellow Employment Contract

Ms. Tatum provided details about the local government's costs for Lead for North Carolina and the School of Government's subsidy payment to the local government. For year one of the fellowship, the total estimated cost for employing a fellow and paying the School of Government to cover training and support for the fellow during the fellowship term, is \$38,200 plus employment taxes. The cost breaks down as follows:

- \$25,200 base salary - Fellow salary paid over 11 months.
- \$2,157 employment taxes (FICA 7.65%).
- \$3,000 salary stipend (added to the fellow's total salary) if the local government does not offer the fellow health insurance.
- \$10,000 Local government contribution towards training/support/grad credits for fellow.

TOTAL: \$40,357 per fellow or \$80,715 for two fellows

As a Tier I local government with a population of less than 10,000, Fairmont will only be responsible for a total of \$10,000 of these costs each year per fellow. However, the town will employ the fellows and initially pay the full costs. The town will receive a reimbursement from the School of Government for up to \$30,357 per fellow.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the Lead for North Carolina Fellow Employment Contract. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Kemp asked what the fellows would be doing while employed with the town. Ms. Tatum said they would be working on two projects, one of which will be on opiate substance abuse.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no old business this month.

### **Department Head Input**

#### **Public Works - Ronnie Seals**

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals announced that the pumps are back on at the Brown Street lift station. The pumps at the old WWTP were down due to Hurricane Florence.

#### **South Robeson Rescue – Eli Salazar**

Mr. Eli Salazar, with South Robeson Rescue, announced the Robeson County Sheriff's Department has opened a substation at the rescue building. The County EMS ambulance will also be stationed there between calls. The unit's spaghetti plate sale was very successful. They debuted their new SRRU logo and thanked the town for their assistance in purchasing a used ambulance from the NC surplus that has working air conditioning.

#### **Fire Department - Chief Woody Woodall**

Fire Chief Woody Woodall announced that the fire department will be receiving new turnout gear using FEMA funds since the department's current gear was damaged during the hurricane.

### **Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and appreciate their support.

Commissioner Evans thanked South Robeson Rescue for being open with the town and committed to the citizens. He also congratulated Commissioner McCallum for a successful May Day Festival.

Commissioner Kemp asked for updates on state funding for the Youth Center as well as housing demolition. Ms. Tatum replied she is waiting to see if the state budget funds for the Youth Center. She added there is a long process involved with housing demolition but the town will start with homes where the taxes are paid.

Commissioner McCallum announced that Rosenwald Elementary School will host a Fun Day on Tuesday, June 11 and they need \$500. South Robeson Rescue agreed to donate \$250 and the other \$250 will come from the remainder of the May Day Festival budget.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum announced the town is partnering with UNC Pembroke and hopes to get some volunteers from the university to help with events like the Farmers Festival.

Ms. Tatum announced the upcoming budget would be tight with decreasing state revenues and increasing expenses including increases in state retirement, health insurance and an extra payroll. Due to these increased expenses there will not be a cost of living raise for the employees this year.

**Announcements**

Monday, May 27 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Memorial Day. There will be a ceremony at the Heritage Center at 1:00 p.m. and Caleb Malcolm will be the guest speaker.

Tuesday, May 28 - Town Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Tuesday, June 11 - NCDMV, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom.

Tuesday, June 18 - Regular Town Board meeting and Budget Public Hearing, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Thursday, June 27 - Special Town Board meeting, Adoption of 2019-2020 Budget, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Sunday, June 30 - Fairmont Fantastic Fourth celebration.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Budget Workshop –May 28, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Commissioner Cassandra Gaddy was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk/Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Maurice Townsend.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Proposed Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum presented the follow Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget overview:

- General Fund Revenue and Expenditures estimated at \$2,092,456.
- Powell Bill Revenue and Expenditures estimated at \$85,824, a reduction of \$1,486.
- Water/Sewer Fund Revenue and Expenditures estimated at \$1,091,500. Reduction in revenue due to Fair Bluff.
- Bonus Stipend for all employees - \$350/Full Time and \$175/Part Time.
- Increases in State Retirement System - General 9.15% and Law Enforcement 9.70% for a total of \$12,972.
- Health Insurance increase of \$33,359.
- Worker's Compensation Insurance increase of \$20,000 due to payout of previous and ongoing claims.
- Twenty-seven payrolls due to leap year, extra payroll cost of \$38,781.
- Lead for North Carolina fellows - \$20,000 plus \$60,715 reimbursable salary for a total budget of \$80,715.
- No COLA raise.
- No Capital Outlay Expenditures.
- No increase in property taxes or utility fees but the board may need to consider an increase in water/sewer fees at a later date in order to apply for grants and to make up for the loss of revenue from Fair Bluff. Ms. Tatum suggested \$0.60 for sewer and \$0.50 for water.

The board agreed not to hold any more budget workshops unless major tweaks to the budget are needed. The public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget will be held at the regular board meeting on June 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – June 18, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Monte McCallum, J.J. McCree, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, Felecia McLean-Kesler and Cassandra Gaddy. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk/Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Jon Edwards and Captain Darren Davis. Others in attendance included Brad Lawson, Eli Salazar, Chalmus Hood, Latonja Fant, Melvin Stephens, Bobby Huey, Dawn Owens, Alicia Moore and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Katrina Tatum said there have been no changes since the budget workshop. The tax rate will remain at 73 cents per \$100 of property value, no cost of living raises and no increase in water and sewer fees.

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked the board to add “Mayor Youth Enrichment Summer Camp” to the agenda under New Business as Item E. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Gaddy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Chalmus Hood- Town Improvements**

Mr. Chalmus Hood had three questions. One was about a recent fender bender in the Food Lion parking lot and why there were no security cameras. The second question was about the proposed truck stop at Exit 10 and the third question was about the possibility of solar energy for private homes. Ms. Tatum replied that it was up to the property owner whether to have security cameras at Food Lion. The town is still working on developing Exit 10 and the property is listed on a realtor’s website. She encouraged Mr. Hood to talk to Robeson County regarding solar energy for homes.

Latonja Fant – Bonaventure property

Ms. Latonja Fant, CEO of Adajo, Inc., is interested in the old Bonaventure and Gaston Sealey Warehouse sites. She is looking to develop single family homes on the properties as well as a community career center. She plans to present her proposed project to the board during the July meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner McLean-Kesler it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, May 21, 2019 and Budget Workshop, May 28, 2019.

**New Business**

ABC Board member appointment.

Mr. Melvin Ellison, whose term on the Fairmont ABC Board expires September 2019, has resigned to take over as manager of the store. The board needs to appoint an interim ABC board member to complete the remainder of his term. Commissioner Evans nominated Dwayne McCormick and with no further nominations, the board unanimously approved his appointment to the Fairmont ABC Board.

Youth Center Proposal.

Stephens Outreach Center, Inc. has approached Commissioner McCallum seeking to rent the Youth Center Building to operate his business. Their "Safe Space" afterschool program for children within the community will include assistance with homework, computer time, fun day/movie night and groups focus on social skills (peer pressure, bullying, drugs, violence, etc.) They would like to rent the building to also provide their adult mental health services. Ms. Tatum reminded the board that the building still needs \$60,000 in renovations before requests for proposals (RFPs) can be sent out to potential youth center operators. Commissioner Evans made a motion to award operation of the youth center to Stephens Outreach Center, Inc. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it failed with a vote of 4 to 3 as follows:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| For:     | Commissioners Evans, McCallum and Gaddy                      |
| Against: | Mayor Townsend, Commissioners Kemp, McCree and McLean-Kesler |

Selection of Solid Waste Contractor.

On April 4, 2019, the Town of Fairmont issued an RFP for Sanitation Services. Four contractors attended the required pre-bid conference on April 29, 2019: Jordan Waste, Waste Industries, Pembroke Waste and Waste Management. The town received two bids from Jordan Waste and Waste Management. Waste Management of Carolinas is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder and staff recommends that they be awarded the Sanitation contract for the Town of Fairmont to be executed on July 1, 2019.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to select Waste Management of Carolinas as the Town of Fairmont’s Solid Waste Contractor. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

I-95 Billboard.

Ms. Tatum informed the board that the town initially erected the first “Shortest Route to the Beach” I-95 billboard in July 2013 and another location was established in March 2016. Since that time, the town has spent \$27,450 to generate beach traffic, currently \$525 a month. The traffic patterns show that results of the effort have not been positive. The traffic coming into town from the Lumberton area is almost four times that coming into Fairmont off I-95. A NCDOT study indicates that since 2012, there has been an increase of only 400 vehicles coming into town from I-95. The results are clear; the billboard has had no effect on diverting the beach traffic. Ms. Tatum recommends that the billboard be discontinued to save valuable economic development money.

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to discontinue the “Shortest Route to the Beach” I-95 billboard. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 5 to 1 as follows:

For:	Commissioners McLean-Kesler, McCallum, McCree, Evans and Gaddy
Against:	Commissioner Kemp

Mayor Youth Enrichment Summer Camp

Mayor Townsend would like to include his youth enrichment summer camp as a town sponsored event so the use of the town bus will be covered under the town’s insurance when transporting children to Pembroke for swimming lessons. Commissioner Evans made a motion to include the Mayor’s Youth Enrichment Summer Camp as a town sponsored event. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

**Resolution 19-05 - Support for LRCOG, Utilization of Regional Councils of Governments for the Delivery of State Services.**

The Lumber River Council of Governments is asking its member governments to adopt a resolution of support regarding the utilization of regional councils of governments for the delivery of state services and to submit a copy to their North Carolina General Assembly members.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-05 - Support for LRCOG, Utilization of Regional Councils of Governments for the Delivery of State Services. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Ordinance 19-188 – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 19-188 – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget in the amount of \$3,395,022. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Department Head Input**

**South Robeson Rescue – Brad Lawson**

Mr. Brad Lawson, with South Robeson Rescue, reported that South Robeson Rescue has received many compliments on its new ambulance. Last month they responded to 29 calls. They are planning an eight-week pilot program to pay EMTs \$50 a day for four days a week.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend allowed Denise Cozart to have his time since she was at another meeting and was unable to make it in time for Citizen’s Appearance. Ms. Cozart is with S.W.E.L.L., a group that did a youth center presentation in 2018. Her group would like to be considered when RFPs for the youth center are ready to be sent out.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and appreciate their support.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum announced that Dollar Tree will be coming to the unfinished Family Dollar site on Walnut Street by the end of July. She also announced that Mr. Zach Schwarz is planning to develop the old Munsingwear/N-7 building into five distinct sections for occupancy.

**Announcements**

Thursday, June 27 - Special Town Board meeting, Adoption of 2019-2020 Budget, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Sunday, June 30 - Fantastic Fourth Fireworks Celebration, Concert from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., Fireworks at 9:30 p.m., Community Park

Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 - Town offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

Tuesday, July 9 - NCDMV, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom.

Tuesday, July 16 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## Special Meeting – June 27, 2019

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioners Charles Kemp, Cassandra Gaddy and Felecia McLean-Kesler were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Deputy Clerk Donna Jacobs.

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

### Write Off Uncollected Water Accounts for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$9,169.28.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to write off uncollected water accounts for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$9,169.28. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2018-2019 uncollected water accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### Write Off 2008 Property Taxes in the amount of \$12,379.94.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to write off the 2008 property taxes in the amount of \$12,379.94. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 200 property tax accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### Ordinance 19-189 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2018-2019

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 19-189 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2018-2019 in the amount of \$4,737,648.34. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the 2018-2019 amended budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk