

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

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 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 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, and Captain Darren Davis. Others in attendance included Brad Lawson, Eli Salazar, Latonja Fant, 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 Kemp asked the board to add “Summer Enrichment Trip” to the agenda under New Business as Item D. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Evans 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 McLean-Kesler and seconded by Commissioner Evans it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, June 18, 2019 and Special Meeting, June 27, 2019.

### **New Business**

#### **Computer Gaming update**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum reported Commissioner Kemp has asked for an update on computer gaming. An ordinance on computer gaming was adopted in 2009 but the machines that ordinance referred to have been rendered illegal by the state and remain illegal today. There have been lawsuits against towns that charge exorbitant fees for computer gaming machines involving skill. However, the town can change the zoning ordinance to add a new section: Computer Gaming Operation Based on Skill.

Definition: A computer game based on or involving the random or chance matching of different pictures, words, numbers or symbols dependent on the skill or dexterity of the player; where a payout is involved.

This type of operation shall be permitted as a Special Conditional Use only and would stipulate the conditions under which it can be permitted. The town's current Conditional Use fee is \$400 for traditional uses. Ms. Tatum suggested creating a Special Conditional Use Permit fee of \$1,200.00. She plans to develop the changes based on a similar plan in Mount Gilead, North Carolina.

Latonja Fant – Village of Hope (old Bonaventure property)

Ms. Latonja Fant, CEO of Adajo, Inc., presented her plans for Village of Hope to be located on the site of the old Bonaventure property on South Main Street. Her company has secured the property and is looking at acquiring the land across the street where the old Hi Dollar warehouse burned down. Unfortunately, the former Gaston Sealey warehouse was recently sold and is being used for storage. She is looking to develop 23 single family homes on the properties as well as an apartment complex and community career center. She would like to sell a portion of the homes to veterans.

Resolution 19-06–BB&T Check Signatures

Ms. Tatum asked the board to approve Resolution 19-06 – BB&T Check Signatures, which will authorize Mayor Charles Townsend, Mayor Pro Tempore Monte McCallum, Finance Director Jenny Larson and Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs to sign checks on behalf of the town. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-06 – BB&T Check Signatures. 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.

Summer Enrichment Trip

Commissioner Kemp stated the Stop the Violence program would like to take a group of Fairmont kids to the Columbia Zoo on August 3 as a Summer Enrichment Trip. The group would like permission to use the town bus for the trip. Ms. Tatum replied that unfortunately the town's insurance will not cover any trip that is not a town sponsored event.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no old business this month.

**Department Head Input**

South Robeson Rescue – Eli Salazar

Mr. Eli Salazar reported that South Robeson Rescue responded to 63 calls this past month. They have responded to 126 calls so far this year and have exceeded expectations. They plan to run calls 5 days a week with weekends optional. They would like to be stationed at the high school during football games this fall.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and appreciate their support. Commissioner Evans feels the town is moving in a positive direction and looks forward to the development of the Village of Hope. Commissioner McLean-Kesler likes the wonderful numbers from SRRU and is glad to see the ambulance running. Commissioner Kemp thanked Public Works for fixing the leak on Pine Street after someone hit a fire hydrant.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum is continuing to work with FEMA on Hurricane Florence reimbursements. The intern from LEAD for NC will begin August 1. A central mailbox has been set up in the Old Field neighborhood by the postal service. Ms. Tatum is also working on tax foreclosures and researching ways to shorten the process. She introduced Audrey McNeese, the new Fairmont librarian.

**Announcements**

Wednesday, July 17 – Grand reopening of Food Lion, 7:45 a.m.

Tuesday, August 13 – NCDMV, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom.

Tuesday, August 20- Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Monday, August 26 – First Day of School.

Friday, August 30 – Fairmont High School football vs. Gray’s Creek, 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting - August 20, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Cassandra Gaddy, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Charles Kemp and J.J. McCree. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Ryan Fenton from the Lead for NC, Brad Lawson, 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 motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Chalmus Hood asked when the new pharmacy would open in Fairmont. Town Manager Katrina Tatum reported the owner is preparing the plans for the pharmacy/laundromat and hopes to begin construction soon. Mr. Hood also asked if the Town would consider acting as a broker for the community to purchase stand by generators. Mayor Townsend stated they would have to research it and get back with him.

Town Manager Katrina Tatum introduced Lead for NC intern Ryan Fenton to the board. Ryan is from Charlotte and graduated from Appalachian State University.

### **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 July 16, 2019.

### **New Business**

#### **Ordinance 19-190 - Close Main Street for Farmers Festival.**

Commissioner Evans made motion to adopt Ordinance 19-190 - Close Main Street for the Fairmont Farmers Festival. Commissioner Gaddy 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.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business this month.

**Department Head Input**

**South Robeson Rescue – Brad Lawson**

Mr. Brad Lawson advised the City of Dunn donated a small crash truck to SRRU. He asked if the Town would be interested in getting the fire truck that was donated to them back and Ms. Tatum said yes. Mr. Lawson stated there were mechanical issues with the truck they could not afford to repair. Mr. Lawson stated they are currently working 5 days with 12-hour shifts and are attempting to go to 7 days. SRRU will attend the Fairmont High School football games. Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked about the USDA loan on their crash truck. He stated they were trying to have the loan balance of \$244,000 written off and they hope to sell the truck for \$105,000.

**Police**

Police Chief Jon Edwards appreciates everyone’s support and spoke about the new design on the police units.

**Commissioner Input**

The Commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and appreciate their support. Commissioner Evans is excited about the partnership with South Robeson Rescue. Commissioner McCallum invited SRRU to attend the Senior Day cookout scheduled for September 7, 2019. Commissioner McLean-Kelser said the town is moving forward and looking for new businesses to grow.

**Announcements**

Monday, August 26 – First Day of School

Friday, August 30 – Fairmont High School football vs. Gray’s Creek, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 2 - Town Offices and Schools closed in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 10 - NCDMV Driver’s License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall Courtroom.

Sunday, September 15 – River Voices Concert, 3:00 p.m., The Stage.

Tuesday, September 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Friday, September 20 - Fairmont High School Football vs. West Columbus, 7:30 p.m. HOME.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting–September 17, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Charles Kemp and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Cassandra Gaddy was out of town and participated by telephone. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Police Captain Darren Davis. Others in attendance included Ryan Fenton, Brad Lawson, 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 motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans 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 McLean-Kesler and seconded by Commissioner McCallum it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting August 20, 2019.

### **New Business**

#### **Reappoint Dwayne McCormick to the ABC Board.**

Mr. Dwayne McCormick was appointed by the board on June 18, 2019 to fulfill the remainder of Melvin Ellison's term, which expires this month. If reappointed by the board, he will serve a three-year term expiring September 2022. Commissioner Evans made a motion to reappoint Mr. Dwayne McCormick to the Fairmont ABC Board for a three-year term expiring September 2022. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 19-07 - Water AIA application.

The town is applying for a \$150,000 Water Asset Inventory Assessment grant with the assistance of the LRCOG. The money from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality would be used to conduct an assessment and inventory of the town's drinking water system with the goal of identifying problems that need to be fixed or upgrades that need to be made. The town was not funded during the last application because the water rates were not competitive. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-07 – Water AIA grant application. 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.

Water and Wastewater rates.

Town Manager Katrina Tatum advised the board that it will need to consider water and wastewater rate increases soon. Without a rate increase, the town will not be able to compete for grant funding or make improvements to the water and sewer systems. Repairs and improvements are costly, and the town currently has no reserve to make infrastructure improvements. She suggested setting a policy that would allow for smaller, annual incremental increases to avoid a large increase at one time. Ms. Tatum will present a rate increase recommendation at the October board meeting.

Discussion on establishing a Farmer's Market – Commissioner McCallum.

Commissioner McCallum proposed establishing a farmers market in Fairmont to benefit our residents as well as local farmers. Ms. Tatum stated the county is willing to work with the town on holding a trial run on a Tuesday or Thursday to see if it would be viable. A possible location is the lot behind the Fire Hall.

**Old Business**

There was no old business this month.

**Department Head Input**

There was no department head input this month.

**Commissioner Input**

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

**Announcements**

Friday, September 20 - Fairmont High School Football vs. West Columbus, 7:30 p.m. Homecoming.

Saturday, September 28 - Baltimore Baptist Church Fall Festival, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Friday, October 4 - Fairmont High School Football vs. Whiteville, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 12 - Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant, 2:00 p.m., E.R. Gause Auditorium, Rosenwald Elementary School.

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

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

Saturday, October 19 - 33rd annual Fairmont Farmers Festival with parade at 10:00 a.m. followed by food, crafts and car show.

Friday, October 25 - Fairmont High School Football vs. Red Springs, 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

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

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Pro Tempore Monte McCallum presiding. Commissioners present were Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Cassandra Gaddy, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Charles Kemp and J.J. McCree. Mayor Charles Townsend was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Ryan Fenton, Tomeika Munn, Rikki Bullard, the 2019-2020 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens, their parents and several citizens.

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

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

### **Introduction of the 2019-2020 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens**

Mayor Pro Tempore McCallum introduced the 2019-2020 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens. They are Miss Madison Horne, Teen Miss Abby Britt, Junior Miss Kayla McLellan, Tiny Miss Miracle Mitchell, Little Miss Kensley Rogers, Wee Miss Amiyah Leonard, Mini Ambassador Lakyn Rogers, Ambassador Avery Mace, and Royal Ambassador Mahaven Smith.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked the board to add “School Resource Officer” to the agenda under New Business Item B. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda with the addition of “School Resource Officer” under new business. Commissioner McLean-Kesler 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 McLean-Kesler and seconded by Commissioner Evans it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting September 17, 2019.

### **New Business**

#### **United Way of Robeson County.**

Ms. Tomeika Munn, Director of Community Impact with the United Way of Robeson County, came before the board to ask for their support. United Way supports the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for kids ages birth to kindergarten as well as NC 211, where citizens can call an operator for help with various resources. They also helped with disaster relief following Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. The United Way requesting funding from the town in the amount of \$1,000 and would like the employees

to consider an internal campaign where they make contributions through payroll deductions. Mayor Pro Tempore McCallum asked if a \$500 donation was feasible. Town Manager Katrina Tatum replied that it was and that the board could budget for a \$1,000 donation in the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. Commissioner McLean-Kesler also liked the idea of doing an internal campaign among employees. Commissioner Evans made a motion to give a \$500 donation to the United Way of Robeson County. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

School Resource Officer.

Ms. Rikki Bullard, Behavior Specialist with the Public Schools of Robeson County, came before the board to discuss the possibility of hiring a school resource officer for Fairmont. The PSRC is applying for a NC Department of Public Instruction grant that will help fund additional school resources officers. Currently Rosenwald Elementary does not have a SRO and Fairmont Middle shares a SRO with Orrum Middle. The grant would provide \$33,333 per officer with the town providing a match of \$16,000. The grant does not include equipment or vehicles and the application is due October 25. Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated the short notice of the grant application deadline, the town being in the middle of a budget year and the uncertainty of the additional costs involved in hiring a school resource officer makes it impossible for the town to be able to participate.

Old Business

Water and Wastewater rates.

Town Manager Katrina Tatum advised the board that it needs to consider water and wastewater rate increases in order to be competitive for grant funding to make improvements to the water and sewer systems. Repairs and improvements are costly, and the town currently has no reserve to make infrastructure improvements. In order to obtain a 25% grant the minimum bill for 5,000 gallons needs to be over \$33 (6 grant application points) and for a 50% grant that figure is over \$40 (9 grant application points). Ms. Tatum proposed a \$2.00 base rate increase for water, a \$2.00 base rate increase for sewer, a \$1.42 increase per 1,000 gallon rate over the 2,000 gallon minimum for water and a \$1.95 increase per 1,000 gallon rate over the 2,000 gallon minimum for sewer. Currently a resident who pays a minimum utility bill of \$63.94 would see their bill increase \$4.00 to \$67.94. These proposed increases would bring the bill for 5,000 gallons of water to \$33.78 and for 5,000 gallons of sewer to \$40.12.

Commissioner Evans understands the needs of the town but feels an increase will upset the citizens, who are already distrustful of the government. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to table the rate increase until January and Commissioner McCree seconded the motion. Commissioner Evans felt the board should not kick the issue down the road and address it tonight. Town Attorney Rob Price advised the board to vote on Commissioner Kemp's motion. The motion failed with a tie vote of 3 to 3 as follows:

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

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to table the rate increase until next month's meeting in November. Mayor Pro Tempore McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Department Head Input**

There was no department head input this month.

**Commissioner Input**

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

**Manager Input**

Ms. Tatum reported that the town is working on grants to purchase a bypass pump and to replace the generator at the sewer plant. She stated the repair of the sewer plant access road would be a lengthy process due to environmental review procedures.

**Announcements**

Friday, September 20 - Fairmont High School Football vs. West Columbus, 7:30 p.m. Homecoming.

Saturday, September 28 - Baltimore Baptist Church Fall Festival, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Friday, October 4 - Fairmont High School Football vs. Whiteville, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 12 - Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant, 2:00 p.m., E.R. Gause Auditorium, Rosenwald Elementary School.

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

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

Saturday, October 19 - 33rd annual Fairmont Farmers Festival with parade at 10:00 a.m. followed by food, crafts and car show.

Friday, October 25 - Fairmont High School Football vs. Red Springs, 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting-November 19, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6:00p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Charles Kemp and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Cassandra Gaddy participated by telephone. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Town Attorney Robert Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Ryan Fenton and Brad Lawson.

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

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Charles Kemp made the motion to add “Item C - January Job Fair” to the agenda. Commission J.J. McCree second 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 item:

- a. Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting October 15, 2019

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution 19-08-Designation of Applicant’s Agent**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum advised the board that the application has been sent and the last item needed is the resolution to designate agents to communicate with FEMA. She advised the board that with the last Hurricanes Katrina Tatum was primary and Jenny Larson was secondary. She advised the board that they may vote to leave the agents the same or appoint new agents. Commission Kemp made the motion to keep Katrina Tatum as primary and Jenny Larson as secondary. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request for Streetlight-Richard Wheeler

Town Manager Katrina Tatum explained that Mr. Richard Wheeler contacted her about the darkness near his home on 505 Church Street and requested the board to approve a streetlight for Church Street between Pittman and Friendly Streets. Ms. Tatum recommended adding a streetlight onto the existing transformer pole, which would cost the town \$10 - \$12 a month. Commissioner McCallum asked about other citizens who may request lighting. Ms. Tatum replied she would complete a need analysis on any street lighting request. She informed the board that most streetlights in town have been switched to energy saving LED. Commissioner McLean-Kesler made motion to approve adding a streetlight on Church Street between Pittman and Friendly Streets. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

January Job Fair

Commissioner Kemp announced he contacted NC Career Works about hosting a large 20 -25 employer job fair in January. They agreed to host a job fair on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at the Heritage Center in Fairmont. The last job fair was held on June 5, 2019. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to hold a job fair on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 in the Heritage Center. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

Water and Wastewater Rates

Town Manager Katrina Tatum referred the Board to the analysis created by Finance Director Jenny Larson that estimates how the proposed water and sewer rate increase would affect utility customers. Roughly 40.5% of customers would only receive the minimum \$4.00 increase. Commissioner Kemp made a suggestion to postpone voting until Heather Seible stake her seat on the board. Commissioner Evans stated he did not want to keep putting the vote off. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to approve the water and wastewater rate increase of \$2.00 for water base rate, \$1.42 for each additional 1,000 gallons of water, \$2.00 for sewer base rate and \$1.95 for each additional 1,000 gallons of sewer. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and passed with a vote of 5 to 1 as follows:

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

Finance Director Jenny Larson asked what date the rate increase would take effect. Commissioner McCallum made motion to increase water and wastewater rates with the January 2020 billing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McLean-Kesler and passed unanimously.

**Department Head Input**

Chief Jon Edwards invited the board to come out Friday November 22, 2019 at 12:00 noon in the Fire Hall for a fish lunch.

Brad Lawson from South Robeson Rescue thanked the board for their continued support and presented a plaque of appreciation.

**Commissioner Input**

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

Commissioner Kemp asked about the letter placing the Fire Department on probation. Ms. Tatum explained the department is low on personnel with only 19 firemen but they are working on recruiting new members and increasing training. The department also had some software glitches with their fire reporting.

**Manager Input**

Ms Tatum announced the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Ms. Hilda Griffin will be November 20, 2019 at the Fire Hall.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend invited everyone to the Twilight Christmas Parade on December 6, 2019.

**Announcements**

Saturday, November 23 - Lumberton Christmas parade, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 26 - Rotary Club Dinner and Auction, Heritage Center, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27- Friday, November 29 - Town offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

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

Saturday, December 7 - Marietta Christmas Parade, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 7 - Lake View Parade, 3:00 p.m.

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Tuesday, December 10 - North Carolina DMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall courtroom.

Tuesday, December 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Monday, December 23, 2018 to January 7, 2019 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Monday, December 23 to Friday, December 27 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Wednesday, January 1 - Town offices closed in observance of New Year's Day.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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Donna Jacobs, Deputy Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – December 17, 2019**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief John Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs and Lead for NC Intern Ryan Fenton. Others in attendance included Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd and around 40 citizens.

A social with refreshments was provided prior to the meeting in honor of the new commissioners.

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

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Consent Agenda**

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

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

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business this month.

### **Organizational Meeting**

Swearing in of Commissioners by Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd.

Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd swore in Commissioners J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. A copy of their sworn oaths is hereby incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Comments by newly elected officials Commissioners Heather Seibles, J.J. McCree and Charles Kemp

Commissioner Seibles wants to be a voice for the youth in the community, revitalize the town and take care of the aging population. She looks forward to working with the town board and staff.

Commissioner Kemp is proud and honored to be chosen as a representative for the Town of Fairmont. He is humbled to begin his 41<sup>st</sup> year of public service and pledged to always act professionally with integrity and determination. Commissioner Kemp plans to focus on four areas: jobs, youth activities, downtown revitalization and restoring the beauty of the community.

Commissioner McCree thanked the citizens for the opportunity to serve another term. He hopes the board can work together, be positive and move forward for the community. He encouraged the citizens to participate in government by attending town board meetings and contacting commissioners with their issues and concerns.

Set Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to keep the current meeting schedule of the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Select Mayor Pro Tempore.

Commissioner Evans nominated Commissioner McCallum for Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Kemp nominated Commissioner McCree for Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner McLean-Kesler, made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner McCree was named Mayor Pro Tempore by a secret ballot vote of 4 to 2.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

**New Business**

**Youth Center.**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board that the town was unable to get funds through the Legislative Branch to finish the rehabilitation of the Youth Center building. A redrafted letter requesting funds will be sent back to the legislators.

Ms. Tatum has incorporated the rehabilitation requirements into the Youth Center RFQ as was previously discussed by the board. She emphasized that whichever group is chosen to operate the youth center must be self-sufficient and not dependent on the town for resources including utilities adjustments or waivers. Ms. Tatum also recommended that the center operator be able to defer making rent payments to the town in favor of paying renovation expenses. Renovations include painting, installation of carpet/tile and minor electrical work. The town will send out the request for qualifications in January and will receive bids from interested renters until April.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to amend the Youth Center RFQ to allow deferral of rent payments in lieu of paying renovation expenses. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the Youth Center RFQ as amended. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner Evans feels confident in moving forward with the new board.

Commissioners McCallum and McLean-Kesler thanked the citizens for coming, congratulated the new board members and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Kemp thanked the citizens for the enormous trust placed in the board and encouraged them to give guidance on what the board does right and wrong.

Commissioner McCree wished everyone safe and happy holidays. He hopes the town can move forward with the youth center in an expedient manner.

**Manager Input**

Ms. Tatum asked for help in identifying elderly residents in Fairmont who are living in damaged homes as a result of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. NC Rebuild is constructing ten new homes in Fairmont as part of the Robeson County CDBG Disaster Recovery Program.

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She also reported the town will receive \$315,000 from the Golden LEAF Foundation to help repair the access road leading to the town's sewer plant. The town needs \$440,000 more to complete the project.

**Announcements**

Monday, December 23, 2019 to January 7, 2020 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Friday, December 20 - Town offices closed at 11:30 a.m. for annual Employee Christmas luncheon.

Monday, December 23 to Friday, December 27 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 - Town office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Monday, January 20 - Town Hall and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – January 21, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief John Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs and Lead for NC Intern Ryan Fenton. Others in attendance included John Masters, Jessica Horne and several citizens.

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

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **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**

There was no public comment this month.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, December 17, 2019.

### **New Business**

#### **Audit Report for FY 2018-2019 presented by John Masters, S. Preston Douglas and Associates**

Mr. John Masters, of S. Preston Douglas and Associates, presented Fairmont's 2018-2019 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 19 years. The town's tax collection rate is 93%. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the FY 2018-2019 Audit Report. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 20-01 – BB&T Bank Signatures.

Town Manager Katrina Tatum asked the board to approve Resolution 20-01 – BB&T Check Signatures, which will authorize Mayor Charles Townsend, Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree, Finance Director Jenny Larson and Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs to sign checks on behalf of the town. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-01 – BB&T Check Signatures. 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.

**Unfinished Business**

Code Enforcement – Housing Demolition.

Commissioner Kemp inquired about the 11 abandoned homes chosen last year for demolition. No action has been taken due to budget constraints since nuisance abatement funds were not placed in the current 2019-2020 budget. Ms. Tatum stated funds for demolition will be considered when drafting the upcoming 2020-2021 budget. She indicated that code enforcement is important in order to protect neighborhoods.

**Department Head Input**

Police

Police Chief Jon Edwards thanked everyone who assisted and donated for Shop with a Cop.

Public Works

Fairmont Public Works Director Ronnie Seals informed the commissioners a sewer lift station near Fairmont High School on Old Stage Road needs to be repaired. The repair will add a submersible pump to the lift station to make it less susceptible to flooding. The estimated the cost of repairing the lift station is between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Mr. Seals also stated that repairs are needed for the water well located at Public Works.

**Commissioners Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and the town staff for their hard work and dedication.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum and Commissioner McCree attended a state meeting about our water/sewer system and our regional partners. The state cannot guarantee funds to the town regardless of whether a water/sewer authority is formed or not. A water/sewer authority would mean the town would be responsible for the repair and maintenance of all the lines and equipment in Boardman, Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff. She added that our existing debt with USDA cannot be retired or refinanced. Due to the town's critical infrastructure needs, she encouraged the board to consider annual water/sewer rate increases of \$.50 to \$1.00.

Ms. Tatum also reported the town has requested \$440,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program grant money to repair the sewer plant access road.

**Announcements**

Friday, January 24 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. St. Pauls, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 31 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. East Bladen, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. South Columbus, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, February 7 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. Red Springs, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 17 - Schools closed in observance of President's Day.

Tuesday, February 11 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. East Columbus, 4:00 p.m.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – February 18, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief John Edwards, Captain Ralph Vieux, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs and Lead for NC Intern Ryan Fenton. Others in attendance included Elaine Brown, Sharon Townsend, Ann Hughes, Key McKee, Jessica Horne and several citizens.

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

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **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**

#### **Elaine Brown, LRCOG program update**

Ms. Elaine Brown, with the Lumber River Council of Governments, reported on upcoming events. The 2020 Census will be held on April 1, 2020. She emphasized the importance of every citizen being counted. The Lumber River Regional Senior Games begin on April 16. Fundraisers include a 5k on March 14 in Pembroke and a Cornhole Tournament on April 4 in Lumberton. A Family Caregiver Retreat will be held on April 22 in Parkton. Finally, there will be an Elder Abuse Walk on June 12 in Pembroke.

#### **Sharon Townsend, Utility Bill rate increase question**

Ms. Sharon Townsend asked if the town had any other options before raising the utility bill rates. Town Manager Katrina Tatum explained that the town has not increased rates since 2013. The town has aging water and sewer lines and in order to qualify for repair grants, the town's rates had to be increased. The town has also lost revenue from Fair Bluff following the recent hurricanes. Ms. Townsend also asked about the accuracy of meter readings. Ms. Tatum replied that unusual readings will be reread and if problems still exist, the meter will be tested, and a new meter installed as a last resort.

Ann Hughes, ReBuild NC housing question

Ms. Ann Hughes asked about the new homes being built in Fairmont. Ms. Tatum replied the new homes are being constructed through the ReBuild NC program with CDBG-DR funds from Hurricane Matthew. Funds from Hurricane Florence have not come down yet. She encouraged interested residents to go by the Disaster Recovery office in Lumberton.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, January 21, 2020.
- b. Ordinance 20-191 – Close Main Street for May Day Fun Festival on May 2.

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

**New Business**

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Kemp asked to place the Pledge of Allegiance on tonight's agenda. He made a motion for the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited at all future meetings beginning in March following the invocation. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NCDOT Vision Statement

Town Manager Katrina Tatum stated the board has been asked by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to approve a vision statement for the future of the town's transportation needs. Ms. Tatum presented the following vision statement for the board's consideration:

**Transportation for Fairmont**  
VISION, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

VISION:

A safe, efficient, environmentally responsible and seamless multi-modal transportation system integrated with sustainable land use patterns to serve the mobility and accessibility needs of our residents, businesses and pass thru-traffic.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

**1. Advocate for and provide an efficient, seamless and reliable transportation system:**

- Provide funding priority to preservation and maintenance activities.
- Address safety and security concerns in all transportation projects and programs.

**2. Advocate for the improved performance and operation of the existing and future transportation system for all modes and all users:**

- Promote efficient management and operation efforts to lessen traffic congestion.
- Promote and assist in providing access to the transportation system to enhance mobility.
- Accommodate increasing truck volumes and minimize conflict with passenger vehicles.
- Expand opportunities for intermodal connections.
- Identify and address conflicts between various modes, focusing on the needs of youth, elderly, low-income persons and individuals with disabilities.
- Bicyclists and pedestrians on the Walnut St., Leesville Road, Church, Iona, Hwy 41
- Construction of pedestrian improvements along Leesville Road, Hwy 41 at Park

**3. Expand transportation choices:**

- Channel transportation funds toward alternate modes.
- Increase group ridership and carpooling.
- Facilitate increased travel by bicycle and pedestrian modes.
- Encourage innovative transit solutions including SEATS System, autonomous vehicles and upgrades.

**4. Improve quality of life, promote human health and provide a safe experience for all users:**

- Encourage user sensitive design (aesthetics, construction, signage, etc.) along transportation corridors.
- Promote a full range of transportation choices concurrent with development.
- Identify and pursue innovative opportunities to enhance bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

**5. Reduce environmental impacts:**

- Promote a more direct link between the transportation planning process at local and regional levels, project development and environmental enhancement while addressing environmental protection.
- Advocate for and encourage increased use of alternate modes of travel and reduced incidences of single occupancy vehicle use.

**6. Encourage livable communities and efficient land use:**

- Focus transportation infrastructure capacity in areas planned for growth.
- Promote land use patterns that encourage or support walking, biking and access to transit.

**7. Advocate and promote efficient utilization of existing transportation funds and work with others in the region to pursue other funding opportunities for transportation improvements:**

- Participate in seeking additional, non-traditional transportation funds for our region.
- Distribute information regarding innovative funding sources and strategies.

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to approve the NCDOT vision statement written by Town Manager Katrina Tatum. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Youth Center**

Commissioner Kemp had requested a selection process for the Fairmont Youth Center director to be placed on this month's agenda. He since discovered that his proposed dates conflict with the dates in the RFP for the youth center and withdrew his request.

### **Department Head Input**

#### **Police**

Police Chief Jon Edwards introduced Captain Ralph Vieux, who has 21 years of experience in law enforcement. Captain Vieux has been visiting businesses and hopes to implement more community policing.

#### **Public Works**

Fairmont Public Works Director Ronnie Seals informed the board they plan to slip line the Morro Street well. If that doesn't work, the town will have to dig a new well, which would cost over a million dollars.

#### **South Robeson Rescue Unit**

Key McKee reported that the South Robeson Rescue Squad is growing. They currently have 27 members, 5 with advanced life support training. SRRU currently operates advanced life support four days a week.

### **Commissioners Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and giving feedback as well as the town staff for their hard work and dedication.

### **Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum plans to revive the Senior Citizen's Awareness Network (SCAN), a program where senior citizens volunteer to call each other two to three times a week for a wellness check.

**Announcements**

Monday, March 16 - Schools closed for Teacher Workday.

Tuesday, March 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – March 17, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Staff present included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief John Edwards, Fire Chief Woody Woodall and Lead for NC Intern Ryan Fenton. Others in attendance included Niquay Byrd, Samuel Shropshire, Michelle Bethea, Huel Faulk, Maurice Townsend, Brandon Oxendine, Jessica Horne and several citizens.

### **Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Samuel Shropshire, of Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of closed session. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Mayor Presentation**

Mayor Charles Townsend recognized Niquay Byrd as a hero for rescuing Mr. Ernest Page from his burning house on McKoy Street on February 28.

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

#### **Michelle Bethea – Request for curfew**

Ms. Michelle Bethea, an educator, was concerned about youth getting into mischief with no school. She suggested a curfew for teenagers after 8:00 p.m. unless accompanied by a guardian.

#### **Chief John Woodall – Fire Department update**

Fire Chief John Woodall informed the board that the fire department is currently on probation due to incomplete training records. The department is actively recruiting new members, working on getting new equipment and possibly a brush truck for quick responses in order to keep our ISO insurance rating.

#### **Huel Faulk**

Mr. Huel Faulk, a former town commissioner, personally thanked Town Manager Katrina Tatum for her hard work and all she has accomplished for the Town of Fairmont.

Brandon Oxendine

Mr. Brandon Oxendine owns a food truck called Budda's BBQ & Burgers and plans to set up next to Lewis & Brady Builders Supply.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, February 18, 2020.

**New Business**

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Protocol

Town Manager Katrina Tatum suggested the following Coronavirus protocol:

- Follow the actions of Robeson County as it relates to the virus.
- Restrict rentals of public buildings to less than 100 guests.
- Limit one customer in the Water Department lobby at a time effective Wednesday and increase cleaning.
- Utility cut-offs for nonpayment will be reviewed on a case-by case basis.
- Declare a State of Emergency.
- Enforce curfew for children 17 and under beginning Thursday. The curfew will be from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and will not apply to children accompanied by a parent or guardian or teenagers going to and from work.

Commissioner McCallum made a motion to accept the Coronavirus protocol. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no old business this month.

**Department Head Input**

Public Works

Fairmont Public Works Director Ronnie Seals informed the board the slip line casing for the Morro Street well has been ordered.

**Commissioners Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and as well as the town staff for their hard work and dedication during this uncertain time.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum announced that Fairmont was given an award for our water fluoridation quality.

Ms. Tatum announced that no bids were received for the Youth Center.

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

This agenda item was removed by the board during the approval of the agenda.

**New Business Part Two**

**Town Manager Contract**

Commissioner McCree made a motion to terminate the town manager's contract effective immediately. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion. Commissioner McCallum asked why they wanted to terminate the contract. Commissioner Kemp stated the Town of Fairmont has had a town manager since 1972 and he has never seen the need for a contract. Ms. Tatum said she would never have come back to work for Fairmont without the protection of a contract.

Mayor Townsend called for a vote on the motion to terminate the town manager's contract. The motion passed with a vote of 4 to 3 as follows:

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

At this point in the meeting Commissioners Evans, McCallum and McLean-Kesler left the room. Commissioners McCallum and McLean-Kesler remained in the hallway and eventually returned to their seats.

Town Attorney Rob Price informed the board that their motion effectively terminates Ms. Tatum as Town Manager and invokes the severance clause of her contract. Commissioners Kemp and Seibles stated their intention was to terminate the contract not Ms. Tatum. Mr. Price strongly encouraged the board to reverse their motion to terminate the contract. After discussion, Commissioner McCree made a motion to rescind the motion to terminate the town manager's contract. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Page 4 – Regular Meeting, March 17, 2020

Commissioner McCree made a motion to terminate Ms. Tatum as town manager but the motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to review the town manager's contract at the April board meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – April 21, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. using the Zoom digital meeting website with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners participating in the digital meeting were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Commissioner Felecia McLean-Kesler did not participate. Staff participating included Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Police Chief John Edwards, and Lead for NC Intern Ryan Fenton. Others in attendance included Bill Lester, Jessica Horne and several citizens.

### **Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McCree 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 McCallum and seconded by Commissioner Kemp it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, March 17, 2020.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution 20-02 – ASADRA grant application for Sewer Pump station relocation**

Town Manager Katrina Tatum informed the board of a grant application for the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (ASADRA). This grant would be used to relocate the Walnut Street sewer pump lift station out of a floodplain and protect the Happy Hill pump station from future flooding. Initially, the Town's affordability calculation for the ASADRA funds put it in a 50-50 category; 50% Town Match and 50% Grant. Under this scenario, the town's water/sewer fund would not support the match requirement. However, in the unlikely event the state doesn't receive enough requests to spend the allocated funds; there may be a window for towns like Fairmont to become eligible for a 100% grant, or at least a lower match percentage. Ms. Tatum encouraged the board to take the risk of applying for these funds. If the town is

selected at the 50-50 award, the board can turn down the grant. However, putting in an application puts the town in a position to possibly receive a higher award. Resolution 20-02 is required in order to submit an application. Mr. Bill Lester, of LKC Engineering, stated the total cost of the project is \$1,938,000.00. Mr. Lester said there should be other grant opportunities in the fall as well.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-02 – ASADRA grant application for Sewer Pump station relocation. Commissioner McCree 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.

Town Manager search discussion and naming of Interim Town Manager effective May 7, 2020.

On April 6, Town Manager Katrina Tatum gave notice of her intent to retire effective May 6, 2020. The board needs to name an Interim Town Manager effective May 7, 2020. Mayor Townsend talked to the LRCOG and received a list of six names of potential candidates. After calling everyone on the list, retired County Manager Ricky Harris agreed to take the position. Commissioner McCree made a motion to appoint retired County Manager Ricky Harris as Fairmont's Interim Town Manager effective May 7, 2020. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed with a roll call vote of 4 to 1 as follows:

For: Commissioners McCree, McCallum, Kemp and Seibles

Against: Commissioner Evans

Absent: Commissioner McLean-Kesler

**Unfinished Business**

There was no old business this month.

**Commissioners Input**

The commissioners thanked retiring Town Manager Katrina Tatum for her dedication to the Town of Fairmont and its citizens and wished her a wonderful retirement.

They also gave their condolences to the family of part time Public Works employee James Moore, who passed away on April 17.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Special Meeting – May 4, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. using the Zoom digital meeting website with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners participating in the digital meeting were J.J. McCree, Monte McCallum, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Commissioner Terry Evans did not participate. Staff participating included Town Attorney Robert Price, and Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Others in attendance included Jessica Horne.

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

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **New Business**

#### **Approval of Interim Town Manager contract**

Mayor Townsend presented the employment contract for Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris. Mr. Harris will work 24 to 26 hours a week for a weekly salary of \$1,000. He will start work on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the employment contract for Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – May 19, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. The meeting was broadcast on Facebook Live for the public @fairmontnorthcarolina. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Police Chief Jon Edwards, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Lead for NC Intern Ryan Fenton. Others in attendance included Brad Lawson with South Robeson Rescue.

### **Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **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**

There was no public comment this month.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, April 21, 2020 and Special Meeting, May 4, 2020.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution 20-03 – Authorizing the Advertisement of an offer to purchase 606 North Main Street**

Ms. Reshelle Johnson has made an offer to purchase 606 North Main Street for the sum of \$2,500. She understands that only a modular or stick built home is allowed on this land. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-03 – Authorizing the advertisement of an offer to purchase 606 North Main Street. Commissioner Seibles 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. The offer will be advertised for upset bids and if none are received the board can officially sell the property at the next board meeting.

Approve Audit Contract for FY 19-20 – S. Preston Douglas & Associates

Finance Director Jenny Larson said the audit contract for Fiscal Year 19-20 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates will cost the town \$13,900, the same as last year. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to approve the audit contract for FY 19-20 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fairmont Planning Board appointments

Commissioner Kemp nominated Gary Deese to fill the unexpired term of out of town member Terry Hunt. Commissioner McCree made a motion to appoint Gary Deese to fill the unexpired term of Terry Hunt expiring May 2022. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Seibles nominated Marcus Thompson to the Planning Board. Commissioner McCree nominated Willie Grissett and Phostenia McCrimmon. Commissioner McCallum nominated Michelle Bethea. The board voted for each nominee and the following were appointed to the Fairmont Planning board for a three year term expiring May 2023: Marcus Thompson, Willie Grissett and Phostenia McCrimmon.

Consulting Services Agreement – Southern Resource Advisors

Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris presented a consulting services agreement with Southern Resource Advisors. Mr. Phillip Huffman is the president of the company and has worked with the county in the past to find lost revenue and cost savings. Mr. Huffman will review the town's utility invoices and sales tax reports. Any costs savings discovered will be split 50-50 with the consulting firm. Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the consulting services agreement with Southern Resource Advisors. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 2 as follows:

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

**Unfinished Business**

There was no old business this month.

**Department Head Input**

South Robeson Rescue Unit President Brad Lawson gave the board a status update. The Town of Fairmont contributed \$14,000 to South Robeson Rescue last May to help purchase a used ambulance. Since that time, SRRU has used the ambulance to respond to over 900 calls in the community. Mr. Lawson stated the ambulance has helped reduce the average response time by 40%. SRRU now has 12 paid part time employees on call 24 hours a day. They have also recently purchased a used rescue truck. Mr. Lawson thanked the town for their continued support.

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals said work to repair a well on Morro Street and a sewer lift station on Old Stage Road near Fairmont High School has been paused because of COVID-19. Work crews from Charles R. Underwood Inc. are unable to travel to the sites to make the repairs.

Fairmont Police Chief Jon Edwards reported the police department is fully staffed with 10 full-time and four part-time officer positions.

**Commissioners Input**

The commissioners thanked the staff and welcomed Mr. Harris. They also congratulated SRRU on their achievements.

**Announcements**

Monday, May 25 - Town offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Tuesday, June 2 - Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Tuesday, June 16 - Regular Town Board meeting and Budget Public Hearing, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Thursday, June 30 - Special Town Board meeting, Adoption of 2020-2021 Budget, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Budget Workshop – June 2, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 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, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, Heather Seibles and Felecia McLean-Kesler. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris, Town Clerk/Finance Director Jenny Larson, Deputy Finance Director Donna Jacobs, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards.

### **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**

Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris presented the follow Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget overview:

- General Fund Revenue & Expenditure Estimate \$2,055,487 (Decrease of \$47,650 from 19-20 due to conservative revenue forecast due to COVID-19)
- Population of Fairmont: 2,589
- Powell Bill Revenue Estimated at \$126,148 (Rev \$81,268) (Fund Balance \$44,880) - Funds will be used to lease a Street Sweeper
- Water Sewer Fund Revenue & Expenditure Estimate \$1,333,525 (Increase of \$242,025)
- COLA Adjustment of 1% equaling 2% raise effective January 1, 2021
- Bonus Stipend for All Employees - \$350/Full-time - \$175/Part-time (same as last year)
- Increase in property/liability Insurance - 5%
- Increase in Health Insurance - 8%
- Increase in State Retirement Contributions - General 1.16%, Law 1.14%
- 401k Retirement 5% (Same as last year)
- No Fees or Tax Increase
- No Fund Balance Appropriation for General Fund
- \$2,000 Increase for South Robeson Rescue fuel allotment to \$5,000

Page 2 – Budget Workshop, June 2, 2020

- \$500 Increase for United Way to \$1,000
- Highway Safety Grant - Police \$34,892
- Senior Citizen Conservation Fund Grant \$13,500
- \$1,500 Increase for Board Training

Commissioner Kemp would like to increase the line item for nuisance abatement in order to demolish more than one house. The current proposed budget is only \$4,000.

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 2020-2021 budget will be held at the regular board meeting on June 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – June 16, 2020**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. The meeting was broadcast on Facebook Live for the public @fairmontnorthcarolina. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Felecia McLean-Kesler, Terry Evans, Monte McCallum, Heather Seibles and Charles Kemp. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Police Chief Jon Edwards, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Lead for NC Fellow Ryan Fenton and UNCP intern Fatimah Salman. Others in attendance included Tara Ivey and several citizens.

### **Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget**

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris said there have been no changes since the budget workshop except for an increase in nuisance abatement. The tax rate will remain at 73 cents per \$100 of property value, no increase in water and sewer fees and a 2% cost of living raise for employees in January. There was no public comment on the budget.

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner McCallum asked to add “Police Reform discussion” as Item F under New Business. 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**

Mr. Tate Johnson, Executive Director with United Way of Robeson County, sent an email requesting the town budget \$1,000 for the program. The new budget includes the \$1,000 appropriation for United Way.

Ms. Wendy Worley sent an email concerning the sewage leak on Marvin and Stafford Streets. The town has received a lot of rain in recent months causing the problem. Public Works is working with the town’s engineers and the state to mitigate the issue.

Tara Ivey – 706 Church Street

Ms. Tara Ivey, of 706 Church Street, was concerned about the condition of two neighboring lots that were recently logged. She was upset with how the lots were left. She feels the town needs to do a better job enforcing the town codes.

**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 19, 2020 and Budget Workshop, June 2, 2020.
- b. Set Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center as location for town board meetings.

**New Business**

Resolution 20-04 – Authorizing sale of property - 606 North Main Street

Ms. Reshelle Johnson made an offer to purchase 606 North Main Street for the sum of \$2,500. The offer was properly advertised and no upset bids were received. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-04 – Authorizing the sale of property - 606 North 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.

Resolution 20-05 – Declare fire truck surplus and advertise for sealed bids.

The town has a 1990 Ford Fire Truck that no longer runs and needs to be declared surplus. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-05 – Declare fire truck surplus and advertise for sealed bids. 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.

Youth Enrichment Center – Commissioner McCallum

Commissioner McCallum introduced the owner of New Beginnings Learning Center located at 111 West Thompson Street. Ms. Lachardon Moore invited the board to the grand opening on June 26. The center will offer a summer camp from June 29 to August 5 and will provide an after-school tutoring program in the fall.

ABC Board salary increase request

Commissioner Monte McCallum asked the board to consider approving a salary increase for the ABC Board members. Currently, Cynthia Dudley and Dwayne McCormick receive \$80 a month and Chairman Steve Floyd receives \$105 a month. They are the lowest paid ABC board in the county. Town Attorney Rob Price stated the town board sets the salary for the ABC board. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to increase the ABC Board salary to \$125 a month for board members and \$150 a month for the board chairman. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 2 as follows:

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

Town Attorney resignation and hiring of new attorney

Town Attorney Rob Price submitted a letter of resignation to the board after Mr. Harris called him to say the board wanted to hire a new attorney. Commissioner Evans, McCallum and McLean-Kesler said they were not part of the decision to hire a new attorney. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to accept Town Attorney Rob Price's resignation. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 3 as follows:

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

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to hire Jessica B. Scott, of Hunt & Brooks, Attorneys at Law, as the town's new attorney. The contract is for one year and the town will pay the firm \$600 a month to attend monthly board meetings and provide legal guidance. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 2 as follows:

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

Police Reform discussion

Commissioner McCallum stated the recent incidents nationwide have brought to light the need to reform police department policies to protect black citizens from police brutality. Police Chief Jon Edwards appreciated Commissioner McCallum's concerns and indicated the department is currently reviewing policies concerning excessive force. The department is following the model of "8 Can't Wait," which provides suggested guidelines to be used by law enforcement agencies. The guidelines include banning chokeholds and strangleholds, require de-escalation, require warning before shooting, require exhausting all alternatives before shooting, duty to intervene, ban shooting at moving vehicles, require use of force continuum and require comprehensive reporting. Chief Edwards added that body cams are to be turned on whenever there is interaction with the public.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no old business this month.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner Evans stated he was going to vote no on the 2020-2021 budget because he feels more money should be spent on public works than police.

Commissioner Kemp asked Mr. Harris to use his knowledge and experience to find a solution to the logging debris problem on Church Street.

The board thanked Ryan Fenton, Lead for NC Fellow, for his service to the town this past year. Mr. Harris introduced Fatimah Salman, a summer intern from UNCP.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend announced the Robeson County Church and Community Center can provide citizens with utility and rent assistance.

He also stated the need for internet in our community and suggested looking for ways to set up access for citizens in places like the park and downtown.

**Announcements**

Tuesday, June 30 - Special Town Board meeting, Adoption of 2020-2021 Budget, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## Special Meeting – June 30, 2020

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp, Felecia McLean-Kesler, J.J. McCree, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Heather Seibles was absent. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Ricky Harris, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Deputy Clerk Donna Jacobs.

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Write Off Uncollected Water Accounts for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$4,015.25.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to write off uncollected water accounts for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$4,015.25. Commissioner McLean-Kesler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2019-2020 uncollected water accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### Write Off 2009 Property Taxes in the amount of \$15,688.29.

Commissioner McCallum made a motion to write off the 2009 property taxes in the amount of \$15,688.29. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2009 released property tax accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### Ordinance 20-192 - Fiscal Year Budget 2020-2021

Commissioner McLean-Kesler made a motion to adopt Ordinance 20-192 - Fiscal Year Budget 2020-2021 in the amount of \$3,690,599.00. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1 as follows:

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

A signed copy of the 2020-2021 budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### Ordinance 20-193 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2019-2020

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 20-193 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2019-2020 in the amount of \$3,789,765.00. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the 2019-2020 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 6:21 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk