

## **Regular Meeting – April 19, 2022**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr., and Jan Tedder-Rogers. Commissioner Heather Seibles was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Fire Chief Woody Woodall and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Rev. Rex Anderson, Lorenzo Currie, Channing Jones, Jessica Horne, Landon Boeshore, Sam Tracy, Mark Lacy, Youth Council members and several citizens.

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

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Rex Anderson, of First Baptist Church North Main Street, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor Presentations**

#### **Introduction of Fairmont Youth Council**

Mayor Kemp introduced the recently formed Fairmont Youth Council. The 25 members elected the following as their officers: President Jonathan Huggins, Vice President Lee Pate, Corresponding Secretary Helen Boeshore, Recording Secretary Kaitlyn Callahan, and Treasurer Christian Hunt. Mayor Kemp will serve as their sponsor and help them learn how to be effective leaders and serve our community. The Youth Council is hosting a yard sale fundraiser in the Town Hall parking lot on May 7, a dance on May 13 and assisting the FMS Beta Club with trash pickup on May 21.

#### **Introduction of Landon Boeshore, Volunteer Assistant for Youth Affairs/Activities**

Mayor Kemp introduced Landon Boeshore, a student at UNC Pembroke, as the Volunteer Assistant for Youth Affairs/Activities.

#### **Plaque presentation to outgoing Town Manager Hank Raper**

Mayor Kemp presented a plaque of appreciation to outgoing Town Manager Hank Raper for his outstanding work during his year with the town. Mr. Raper is leaving May 6 to become the town manager of Siler City, North Carolina.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to add increasing employee pay and water and sewer rates to the agenda as Item F under new business. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Ellison 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 McNeill, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, March 15, 2022, Strategic Plan Meeting, March 22, 2022, and Comprehensive Plan Meeting, March 29, 2022
- b. Ordinance 22-207 – Budget Amendment #2 in the amount of \$24,107.00 for the Governor’s Crime Commission grant to purchase radar signs and mobile radios.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Resolution 22-05 – Fixing date for Public Hearing on Voluntary Annexation request from Grandma’s Snack Shack/Veronica Elvir**

Town Manager Hank Raper informed the board that Veronica Elvir’s petition for voluntary annexation of Grandma’s Snack Shack is sufficient and asked the board to adopt a resolution setting a public hearing on the annexation for May 17 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-05 – Fixing date for Public Hearing on Voluntary Annexation request from Grandma’s Snack Shack/Veronica Elvir. Commissioner Ellison 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.

### **New Business**

#### **Proclamation – Spring Clean and Green**

Mayor Kemp read a proclamation naming the weeks of April 11 through April 30 as “Keep Fairmont Clean and Green” weeks. A signed copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

#### **Lorenzo Currie – proposal for SC/NC Road March in September 2022**

Mr. Lorenzo Currie presented a proposal for a SC/NC Road March and Fun Run in September 2022. He hopes to coordinate with the military, Fairmont and Lake View, SC for a two-day event involving a fun run/march at the state line and vendors in downtown Fairmont.

Resolutions 22-06 to 22-12 adopting Policies for the American Rescue Plan

Town Manager Hank Raper asked the board to adopt the following resolutions adopting policies for the American Rescue Plan:

- Resolution 22-06 – Conflict of Interest Policy
- Resolution 22-07 – Record Retention Policy
- Resolution 22-08 – Eligible Project Policy
- Resolution 22-09 – Allowable Costs and Cost Principles Policy
- Resolution 22-10 – ARP/CSLFRF Nondiscrimination Policy
- Resolution 22-11 – Property Management Policy
- Resolution 22-12 – Program Income Policy

These policies will allow the town to use the American Rescue Plan funds for general services. Future plans include purchasing new trucks for the police department and an Alamo mower for public works. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolutions 22-06 to 22-12, adopting policies for the American Rescue Plan. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Signed copies of the resolutions and policies are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 22-13 - Approving Juneteenth as a paid holiday for town staff

Town Manager Hank Raper asked the board to adopt a resolution approving Juneteenth as a paid holiday for town staff. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-13, Approving Juneteenth as a paid holiday for town staff. Commissioner McNeill 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.

Resolutions 22-14 and 22-15 – Fairmont Collection System Rehabilitation grant application

Mr. Mark Lacy, with LKC Engineering, informed the board that they are applying for a \$15,000,000 grant for rehabbing Fairmont's sewer collection system through the American Rescue Plan funds allocated to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolutions 22-14 and 22-15 – Fairmont Collection System Rehabilitation grant application. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Signed copies of these resolutions are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Pay Study Employee Raises and Utility Bill Increase**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to support adopting the pay study giving all employees raises and increasing water/sewer/sanitation rates effective July 1, 2022. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion. Commissioner Evans explained adopting the pay study and giving employees raises was needed to show how much they are appreciated. The last time the town adopted a pay study was in 2001. Commissioner Evans stated water/sewer/sanitation rates also needed to be increased due to rising inflation and the cost of providing services to the citizens. Fairmont has been designated as a distressed utility by the state and addressing rates is one of the main concerns. Town Manager Hank Raper said the estimated 25% increase would raise the current base bill from \$67.94 to around \$85.00. The pay study raises and the utility rates will not be finalized until the budget is adopted in June. With no further discussion, the board voted unanimously to support the motion.

**Department Head Input**

The department heads thanked the board for looking after the employees and expressed how much they enjoyed working with Mr. Raper.

**Commissioner Input**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting. They also expressed their gratitude and well wishes for Mr. Raper.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Kemp announced the second quarterly Citizen Issue Forum will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. He also invited everyone to attend the Motown & More Concert on Friday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Hank Raper thanked the board for addressing both the pay study and the rate increases. He has truly enjoyed working with everyone in Fairmont and is proud of the progress the town has made in the last twelve months.

**Executive/Closed Session – Industry/Personnel GS 143-318.11(a)(4,6)**

Commissioner McNeill made a motion to go into closed session at 6:51 p.m. for the purpose of discussing industry and personnel per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(4,6), and to consult with the attorney retained by the board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Fairmont per N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1)(3). Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Tedder-Rogers, Ellison, and Evans along with Robeson County Economic Development Director Channing Jones, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Town Manager Hank Raper were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner McCree made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:27 p.m. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced that industry was discussed but no action was taken.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to appoint Jenny Larson as the Interim Town Manager effective May 7, 2021, and that she receives the same salary as Mr. Raper. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Announcements**

Tuesday, April 26 – Citizen’s Issue Forum, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Friday, April 29 – Motown & More Concert, 8:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

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

Saturday, May 28 – May Day Fun Festival, 10:00 a.m., Downtown.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk