

Regular Meeting - August 17, 2021

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Felecia McLean, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Pat Freeman, Brad Lawson 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 Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Ms. Pat Freeman, Woodmen of the World

Ms. Pat Freeman of Woodmen of the World Chapter 225 came before the board proposing to place a bench in the Fairmont Community Park.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Woodmen of the World park bench donation under new business. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting July 20, 2021.

New Business

Ordinance 21-199 – Closing Main Street for Farmers Festival on October 16, 2021.

Commissioner Evans made motion to adopt Ordinance 21-199 - Close Main Street for the Fairmont Farmers Festival on Saturday, October 16, 2021. Commissioner McCallum 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. Mayor Townsend stated the town is cautiously planning for the festival, but the safety of the community is the main priority.

Woodmen of the World – Park Bench Donation

Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the donation of a park bench from Woodmen of the World Chapter 225 to the Fairmont Community Park. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

South Robeson Rescue Input

Mr. Brad Lawson reported that South Robeson Rescue Unit is doing well with two large trucks and two ambulances.

Commissioner Input

The commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Commissioner Evans and McCallum encouraged everyone to stay safe and get vaccinated. Commissioners Seibles, McLean and Kemp praised the recent Stop the Violence back to school event. Many children received needed school supplies and the Robeson County Health Department provided Covid-19 vaccinations. Commissioner McCree had concerns with Waste Management and their below standard service on limbs and leaves pickup.

Manager Input

Town Manger Hank Raper announced the first strategic plan meeting will be Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Heritage Center.

Mr. Raper informed the board the Census 2020 data shows a steep decline of 17% in population for Fairmont. The 2010 population was 2,663 and 2020 is estimated at 2,191. The decrease in population will impact Powell Bill and Sales Tax revenues.

Announcements

Tuesday, September 21 – Regular Town Board meeting, 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 6:23 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk