

## **Regular Meeting – December 21, 2021**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayors Charles Townsend and Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr. and Jan Tedder-Rogers. Commissioners Felecia McLean and Monte McCallum were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Town Attorney Jessica Scott attended by telephone. Others in attendance included District Court Judge Vanessa Burton, Karan Kemp, Chalmus Hood, Jessica Horne, A.J. Johnson, Steven Maynor, Mindy Lee, Terry Smith, Lilliana Locklear, Dr. George Hogan, Edward Smith, Lucretia Blakeney, and many citizens.

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

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Strategic Plan, November 9, 2021, Regular Meeting, November 16, 2021 and Special Meeting, November 30, 2021.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business this month.

### **Organizational Meeting**

Comments from outgoing Mayor Charles Townsend.

Mayor Townsend thanked the citizens for their support during his 8 years as mayor and he plans to continue to help Fairmont move forward.

Swearing in of Mayor and Commissioners by District Court Judge Vanessa Burton.

District Court Judge Vanessa Burton swore in Mayor Charles Kemp and Commissioners Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr. and Jan Tedder-Rogers. A copy of their sworn oaths is hereby incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Comments by newly elected officials Commissioners Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr., Jan Tedder-Rogers and Mayor Charles Kemp

Commissioner Evans thanked the citizens for the opportunity to serve for a third term.

Commissioner Ellison thanked the citizens for electing him. He looks forward to working for the people and being their voice.

Commissioner McNeill thanked the citizens, and he plans to work hard to the best of his ability for the people of Fairmont.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers is thankful for the opportunity to serve. She is a business person and her priority will be finding jobs for Fairmont.

Mayor Kemp introduced Lilianna Locklear, who sang two Christmas songs before his speech. He thanked the citizens and recognized several people. Mayor Kemp has four major pillars in his platform. They are Jobs/Economy, Downtown Revitalization, Community Appearance and Transparency. He will be restarting the J.O.B.S. Team (Job Opportunities and Business Support). The members of the team are Bob Moore, RCC Small Business Director; Beth Wilkerson, Regional Director of the State Business Technical Assistance Center; A.J. Johnson, Manager of NC Works Career Center; Dr. George Hogan, Retired Army Command Sgt. Major and Business Owner of ALB3; Sally Kennedy, local real estate agent, Angie Lovin, downtown business owner; Town Manager Hank Raper; Edward Smith, a local homeowner; and Evan Davenport, Mayor's Advisor for Industrial Recruitment. Mayor Kemp announced that Angie Lovin will be the Mayor's Advisor for Downtown Revitalization. He appointed First Lady Karan Kemp as Mayor's Advisor for Community Enhancement and Beautification. He also appointed Lucretia Blakeney and First Lady Karan Kemp to be the official greeters to all new residents in town.

Set Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to keep the current meeting schedule of the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Select Mayor Pro Tempore.

Commissioner Evans nominated Commissioner J.J. McCree as Mayor Pro-Tempore. Commissioner Ellison seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

**New Business**

Resolution 21-11 – Bank Signatures

Mayor Kemp asked the board to adopt Resolution 21-11, Bank Signatures for the town's checking account with Truist Bank. He noted the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, Finance Director and Deputy Finance Director are the authorized signatures. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 21-11, Bank Signatures. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Manager evaluation – for review/study

Mayor Kemp thanked Town Attorney Jessica Scott for developing a manager evaluation form, which was distributed to the board to review and study over the next month for discussion in closed session at the January board meeting.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

Chalmus Hood, 1006A East White Pond Road

Mr. Chalmus Hood congratulated the new mayor and commissioners. He hopes the new board will think more about the Town of Fairmont than their own personal agendas.

**Manager Input**

Town Manager Hank Raper thanked the citizens for coming and he looks forward to working with the new board.

**Announcements**

Thursday, December 23 – Town Offices closed at 12:00 noon.

Friday, December 24 to Friday, December 31 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Tuesday, January 11 – Strategic Plan Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

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Monday, January 17 - Town offices closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Monday, January 17 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, 12:00 noon, Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Stop the Violence is organizing the event and Rev. Tyrone Watson, Sr. will be the guest speaker.

Tuesday, January 18 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A social with refreshments catered by Mrs. Mindy Lee was provided following the meeting in honor of the new mayor and commissioners.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk