

Regular Meeting – February 15, 2022

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, and Jan Tedder-Rogers. Commissioner Clarence McNeill, Jr. was absent due to a school event. 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, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included Pastor Carter McNeese, Jessica Horne, Phostenia McCrimmon, Winona Gause, Melody Wilson, Justin Hempstead, Nathaniel Thompson, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and asked everyone to remember the family of former Commissioner Eric Thompson, who passed away today. Pastor Carter McNeese, of Fairmont First 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. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Justin Hempstead

Mr. Justin Hempstead, who has purchased land off Industrial Drive and N.C. Highway 41, gave an overview of his plans. The housing development will utilize 4 acres of land to construct a contemporary apartment complex of approximately 60 – 72 workforce residential housing units. Mr. Hempstead would like to annex the property and asked for the town's assistance in applying for infrastructure and economic development grants.

Nathaniel Thompson

Mr. Nathaniel Thompson thanked Mayor Kemp for responding to his request concerning the possibility of a commissioner residing outside of the town's city limits. Mr. Thompson is still concerned about the situation and plans to do his own research.

Melody Wilson

Ms. Melody Wilson also spoke about the rumors concerning the commissioner and she didn't understand why it was an issue if the work was getting done.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Strategic Plan Meeting, January 11, 2022, Regular Meeting, January 18, 2022, and Issue Forum, January 25, 2022.

New Business

Resolution 22-02 - Adopt Revised Record Retention Schedule.

Town Manager Hank Raper asked the board to adopt the revised General Standards and Program Records Retention and Disposition Schedules updated by the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in October 2021. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-02 - Adopting the General Standards and Program Records Retention and Disposition Schedules. 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.

Ordinance 22- 205 – Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Amendment #1

Town Manager Hank Raper asked the board to approve General Fund Budget Amendments in the amount of \$168,064 and Water Fund Budget Amendments in the amount of \$2,206,472 for a combined total of \$2,374,536. These amendments reflect increased revenues from unbudgeted FEMA reimbursements, sale of fixed assets, increased ABC revenue and the refinancing of the town’s sewer loan. The funds will be spent to repair the Public Works boom truck, purchase a loader for the landfill, pay off the tractor loan a year early, cover salary, election, fuel, and phone costs as well as payout the USDA Sewer Bond. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to adopt Ordinance 22-205 – Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Amendment #1. Commissioner Evans 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.

Request by George Alliss to purchase portion of town owned lot.

Town Manager Hank Raper informed the board of an offer by Mr. George Alliss to purchase a small, wooded portion of the town owned lot where the Brown Street Sewer lift station is located. Mr. Alliss would like to offer \$8,000 for 1.67 acres of the 5.7 acres of Parcel# 050803015. He will pay for the land to be surveyed and attorney fees for preparing the legal transaction of this land sale. Mr. Alliss wants to clear the lot and possibly use it to grow crops. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve selling 1.67 acres of the 5.7 acres of Parcel# 050803015, located off Brown Street. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business this month.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp announced there would be a job fair for Harbor Freight on Thursday, February 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Town Hall parking lot.

Commissioner Input

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting.

Manager Input

Town Manager Hank Raper announced that Tuesday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center has been set for a community wide meeting on the town's Comprehensive/Future Land Use Plan. All citizens, business and community leaders are encouraged to attend.

Announcements

Tuesday, February 22 – Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Tuesday, March 15 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center

Tuesday, March 22 – Strategic Plan Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Tuesday, March 29 – Comprehensive/Future Land Use Plan Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Closed Session - Personnel

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into closed session at 6:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(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 Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Seibles, Tedder-Rogers, Ellison, and Evans along with Jessica Scott, and Hank Raper were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:34 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced that no action was taken in closed session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Seibles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk