

Issue Forum – January 25, 2022

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special Issue Forum meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Melvin Ellison and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Butch Lennon, Pat Lennon, Doreen McNeill, Fonniesmith, and Carter McNeese.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation. There was no quorum of the board present but since no action was needed, the meeting proceeded.

Issue Forum – Downtown Revitalization

Mayor Kemp stated the purpose of the issue forum is to discuss downtown revitalization.

Some of the suggestions/concerns discussed:

- Most of the downtown buildings are in dire need of repair or are being used for storage.
- The need for updated stronger codes to hold property owners responsible for keeping up their buildings. The process for updating codes could take up to a year or more.
- Business suggestions included restaurants, ice cream parlor and a bowling alley.
- Renovating the old post office into a larger library/youth center.
- Downtown is beautiful, walkable and could be a big draw if renovated.
- Mixed use with apartments on second floor and retail on first floor.

The next issue forum will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk