

Regular Meeting - July 20, 2021

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree presiding. Commissioners present were Felecia McLean, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Mayor Charles Townsend and Commissioner Heather Seibles were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Police Chief Jon Edwards, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Recreation Director Mickey Williamson. Others in attendance included Rev. Frank Saunders and Maurice Townsend.

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Frank Saunders, Pastor of St. John AME Church, 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.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Rev. Frank Saunders thanked the commissioners on how they have helped the citizens and welcomed him to the city. He asked about the ARP funding the town was expecting and Town Manager Hank Raper replied the town is still waiting on guidelines from the state. Rev Saunders said the town looks great with the streets being swept. He requested the town make sure all the streets in the town are being swept. He also spoke about abandoned properties in the community that do not meet code. He suggested the owners be contacted to cut down trees and bushes. He asked if it could be put on the agenda to contact the owners of the run down and abandoned properties and offer an incentive for someone to purchase them. He asked when the town received the ARP funds to investigate sewage issues and sewage backing up into citizens homes.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting June 15, 2021 and Special Meeting June 29, 2021.

New Business

Fairmont Fee Schedule

Town Manger Hank Raper reported the town needs to adopt a comprehensive fee schedule. This schedule includes all fees the town currently charges for services in one document for easy access. The only increase in fees recommended is charging \$1,000 each for new water and sewer taps to cover installation costs and to increase the rental fee for the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Mr. Raper said the Heritage Center was currently being rented per room and suggested changing it to one price for the entire building. He proposed charging \$250 for residents and \$300 for non-residents for the first three hours and \$20 each hour afterwards. He added these rates are lower than other communities and still affordable for our residents. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt the fee schedule, seconded by Commissioner McLean, and it passed unanimously. A copy of the fee schedule is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Mayor Pro Tempore McCree advised citizens a copy of the adopted fee schedule will be available at Town Hall in the Water Department.

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

Department Head and South Robeson Rescue Input

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Recreation Director Mickey Williamson stated they had nothing to report. Police Chief Jon Edwards stated the fireworks were a success and thanked everyone for their help.

Mayor Input

Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree thanked everyone for coming and thanked Rev. Saunders for his observation and advised him that it would not go unaddressed.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Evans thanked everyone for coming out and getting involved. He also spoke on the need for unity in our country.

Commissioner McCallum thanked everyone for coming and asked that they continue to come and to pray for decisions being made. He looks forward to addressing the communities' concerns.

Commissioner McLean thanked everyone for coming and is thankful for a town that comes together. She thanked Rev. Saunders for seeing the potential in our town. She stated that when the ARP funds are available, they will be put to good use like fixing sewage problems.

Commissioner Kemp thanked everyone for coming and thanked Rev Saunders for being extra eyes in the community. He had planned to request moving the board meetings back to Town Hall but with the current spike in the Covid virus he decided to wait until a later date.

Attorney Input

Town Attorney Jessica Scott did not have anything to report.

Manager Input

Town Manger Hank Raper reported the paperwork on the sewer bond refinancing was completed and funds transferred. He informed the board that the finance department is going to start payroll direct deposit after training is completed. He announced the first strategic plan meeting will be Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Heritage Center.

Announcements

Tuesday, August 17 - 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 6:30 p.m.

Donna Jacobs
Deputy Town Clerk