

## **Citizen Issue Forum Meeting- July 26, 2022**

Mayor Kemp hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Issue Forum meeting on Tuesday July 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Ellison, and Tedder-Rogers were present. Commissioners Evans, Seibles and McNeill were absent. Town staff present were Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Several citizens were in attendance.

Mayor Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Citizen Issue Forum meeting. He stated tonight would be a great opportunity to talk about the recent \$15 million sewer grant Fairmont has been awarded. He read the newspaper article from the press announcing the award, which will come from the state's Viable Utility Reserve.

Mayor Kemp asked Public Works Director Ronnie Seals to share past water/sewer issues and how this grant will assist with them. Mr. Seals stated this project will correct the sewer overflow spills so it does not back up in citizens homes by taking pressure off the force main. He said this will not be done immediately and this project will take a couple of years. This grant will replace sewer lines and manholes in the community as well as clean out the force main going to the sewer plant. Mayor Kemp asked if the recent utility rate increase assisted in the awarding of this grant. Mr. Seals thinks it did because the Town has been denied several grants in the past due to the low rates. Commissioner J.J McCree added the town had to help themselves before the state would provide assistance.

Mayor Kemp announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Issue Forum meeting will be held in October.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Donna Jacobs  
Deputy Town Clerk