

Regular Meeting – June 21, 2022

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Heather Seibles, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr., and Jan Tedder-Rogers. Staff present included Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Interim Fire Chief Brian Jacobs. Others in attendance included David Richardson from the Lumber River Council of Governments and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Pastor Douglas Locklear of Trinity United Methodist Church gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentation

Mayor Kemp presented a plaque to the family of Shane Hunt who lost his life during his successful effort to save his son from drowning on Saturday June 4, 2022.

Mayor Kemp presented a certificate to the Hearts and Hands Civitan Club for their "dancing with the stars" prom.

Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:20 p.m. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson stated this budget was a difficult one to craft. The town had to increase sanitation rates by \$5.06, water by \$3.00 and sewer by \$7.00 due to inflation, increased gas prices and other expenses. One of the main reasons for the rate increase is the town is on the Local Government Commission Unit Assistance List and is designated a distressed utility by the state. The budget does not include an increase in property taxes but does include pay raises for employees based on the recently completed pay study. The General fund budget is \$2,273,950, Powell Bill fund is \$111,117, and the Water/Sewer fund is \$1,497,471.

There was no public input on the public hearing for fiscal year 2022-2023 budget.

Commissioner Evans stated this was an excellent budget. He emphasized that rates had to go up or the state would have intervened. He realizes the cost of everything is going up, but the commissioners have to pay the same utility rates as the citizens. Commissioner Evans is also glad the employees are getting raises because we have been losing employees because of their pay.

Mayor Kemp asked the board members to reflect on the Farmers Festival portion of the budget. He spoke with Chairman Kelly Johnson who seems to think that the current allocation is not sufficient. He plans to speak at the July town board meeting on this matter.

Commissioner McNeill made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:27 p.m. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Nathaniel Thompson

Mr. Nathaniel Thompson thanked the board for getting some debris removed from McKoy Street.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, May 17, 2022, and Special Meeting, May 31, 2022

Old Business

No Unfinished business

New Business

Ordinance 22-211- Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget in the amount of \$3,905,681.00. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Adopt 2022-2023 Fee Schedule

Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson stated the fee schedule was the same as last year except for the increase in water, sewer and sanitation rates. Commissioner McNeill made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Fee Schedule. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the fee schedule is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 22-16 – Personnel Policy

Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson stated the personnel policy is the same as presented by Ericka Phillips except for adding Juneteenth to the Holiday schedule. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve Resolution 22-16 Personnel Policy. 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.

Approve tax incentives for Project Fort/Atlantic Building Components

Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson stated the tax incentives must be discussed in a Public Hearing before approval. The Public Hearing has been scheduled for the July 19th regular board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Resolution 22-17-American Flood Coalition membership

Mayor Kemp stated he and Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson met with Tony McEwen, the Carolinas Director of the American Flood Coalition, which is largest lobbyist group advocating for national solutions to flooding issues. Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson added there is no fee associated with becoming a member. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve Resolution 22-17 – American Flood Coalition Membership. 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.

Department Head Input

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals has removed the limbs and leaves debris from McKoy Street. The remaining debris would have to be hauled to the Saint Pauls landfill by a private contractor at a cost the property owner would have to pay.

Police Chief Jon Edwards

Police Chief Jon Edwards mentioned a summer camp group looking to help the elderly and asked for names and address of citizens who need assistance with yard work.

Commissioner Input

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp announced the Summer Business Expo will be held on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. downtown. He stated that demolition work on the new library has begun.

Mayor Kemp invited the board to the Town employees’ quarterly lunch next Wednesday, June 29, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall. He reminded everyone of the town’s annual fireworks show on Sunday July 3 in the park from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Manager Input

Interim Town Manger Jenny Larson announced the Robeson County Municipal Association meeting will be held Tuesday June 28 at 7 p.m. in Saint Pauls. She congratulated Robesonian reporter Jessica Horne on her new position with the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Executive/Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege GS 143-318.11(a)(3,6)

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into closed session at 6:51 p.m. for the purpose of preserving 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 McNeill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Tedder-Rogers, Ellison, McNeill and Seibles along Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Interim Town Manager Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Jacobs, and David Richardson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:12 p.m. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced no action was taken.

Announcements

Saturday, June 23-VBS hosted by Empowering Youth 2 Serve, Fairmont Community Park, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 25 – Summer Business Expo, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Downtown Fairmont.

Tuesday, June 28 – Special Board meeting to adopt Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Wednesday, June 29-Quarterly Town Employee Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 3 – Fairmont’s Fantastic Fourth Fireworks featuring the Pizazz Band. Music begins at 5:00 p.m. with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. in the Fairmont Community Park.

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Monday, July 4 - Town offices closed in observance of Independence Day

Monday, July 11 - J.O.B.S Team Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Heritage Center

Tuesday, July 19 - Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center

Wednesday, July 20 - Job Fair, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Donna Jacobs
Deputy Town Clerk