

Regular Meeting – November 15, 2022

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 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, Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Jan Tedder-Rogers, and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Commissioner Heather Seibles was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Police Chief Jonathan Edwards. Several citizens were also present including Dr. Sharon Ellerby, Farmers Festival Queens and HANDS Junior Civitan Club.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Dr. Sharon Ellerby of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentation

Mayor Kemp introduced the 2022-2023 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens. They are Wee Miss Kiyah Hicks, Little Miss Presley Jackson, Tiny Miss Avery Mace, Junior Miss Halona Locklear, Teen Miss Lauren Brown, and Miss Kaylee Chavis.

Mayor Kemp presented a certificate of appreciation to the HANDS Junior Civitan Club for their assistance in cleaning up the town during a recent trash pickup.

Public Hearing – Code Enforcement

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into Public Hearing to discuss Code Enforcement at 6:18 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut is working with the N-Focus company to update the town's building and junk car code ordinances. The goal is to present the updated ordinances for public input and board approval in Spring 2023. A couple of citizens came forward with concerns about junk behind stores, junk cars in people's yards and the type of animals you can have in town. The board thanked the manager for working on code enforcement and improving the community.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. Commissioner Ellison second the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

There was no Public Comment this month.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, October 18, 2022, and Quarterly Issue Forum, October 25, 2022.
- b. Ordinance 22-221 – Budget Amendment #4 in the amount of \$6,500.

The signed ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

New Business

Ordinance 22-220 – Allowing Sunday Alcohol Sales to start at 10:00 a.m.

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut informed the board that a local convenient store owner had asked about the possibility of selling alcohol starting at 10:00 a.m. The NC General Assembly passed a law in 2017 that gives local governments the ability to allow restaurants and stores to start selling alcohol at 10:00 a.m. instead of 12:00 noon. Mayor Kemp went on record that he was against the ordinance. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 22-220 – Allowing Sunday Alcohol Sales to start at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers 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.

Commissioner and Mayor Comments

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Kemp invited the board to a Thanksgiving employee luncheon on Monday, November 21 at 12:00 noon in the Heritage Center.

Mayor Kemp announced that he reappointed Sandra Pridgen to the Fairmont Housing Authority.

Town Manager Comments

Mr. Chestnut said 2023 will be a busy year updating codes and zoning ordinances and hoping for good news from grant applications.

Closed/Executive Session Location or Expansion of Industry/Business GS 143-318.11(a)(4)

Commissioner Ellison made a motion to go into closed session at 6:46 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the location or expansion of industry or business per N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Kemp, Commissioners McCree, Evans, Tedder-Rogers, Ellison, and McNeill along Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, and Town Clerk Jenny Larson were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced no action was taken.

Announcements

Wednesday, November 16 – Job Fair, Heritage Center, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 23 – Friday, November 25 – Town offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Friday, December 2 – Holiday on Main Twilight Christmas. Tree Lighting, 6:00 p.m., Parade, 6:30 p.m. and Entertainment, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 8 – Planning Board Meeting to discuss Comprehensive Plan, Heritage Center, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 9 – Motown Christmas Concert, Heritage Center, Meal, 6:30 p.m., Concert 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20 – Regular Town Board Meeting, Heritage Center, 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk