

## **Regular Meeting - October 18, 2022**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 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, and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Commissioner Jan Tedder-Rogers 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. J. Gentile Everette, and the FHS Cheerleaders.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Dr. J. Gentile Everette of Mill Branch Baptist Church gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor Presentation**

Mayor Kemp recognized the Fairmont High School Cheerleaders for winning the Robeson County Fair Cheerleading Competition.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ellison 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 – Strategic Plan Meeting, September 13, 2022, and Regular Meeting, September 20, 2022
- b. Ordinance 22-218 – Budget Amendment #3 in the amount of \$42,250.
- c. Ordinance 22-219 – Close Main Street for Twilight Christmas Parade on December 2, 2022.

The signed ordinances are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business this month.

### **New Business**

#### **Approval/Disapproval for Public Hearing on Code Enforcement on November 15, 2022**

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut asked the board to consider holding a Public Hearing on Code Enforcement at the next town board meeting. The purpose of the hearing is to educate the public on the code enforcement process and gain input. Commissioner McNeill made a motion to approve holding a Public Hearing on Code Enforcement on November 15, 2022. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Commissioner and Mayor Comments**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Kemp made the following statement:

As we all know from previous conversations and most recently the communication you received from Mr. Chestnut on Monday evening a major focus in our future plans is code enforcement. The time has come in Fairmont for improving our commercial and residential properties and the only workable solution is having enforceable codes in place and then taking appropriate action against violations of the code. Step one is being undertaken now with revision and updating our codes by the LRCOG. Step two will come with acceptance of the revisions by this board. Step three will be enforcement. Our town manager is focused on codes enforcement, proven by the email he sent us on Monday. We all know the direction he wants to travel. He will be asking us to support him in this effort. We must if we ever intend for our town to be better, cleaner, safer, and more up to date. For all these reasons I am sending this message out to our citizens to attend our next quarterly issue forum to be held here in our Heritage Center next Tuesday evening at 6:00 to have them receive vital information on the topic of codes enforcement and to also get their ideas, input, and suggestions on this vital subject. Let's spread the word and fill this room with citizens who can be better informed about what is to come. Fairmont can be and look better but it will take all of us to make that happen. Let's us start this effort together right now.

### **Town Manager Comments**

Mr. Chestnut is thankful for a competent staff that cares about the citizens. He really enjoyed the Fairmont Farmers Festival. He looks forward to working with the board and citizens on code enforcement to make the town a cleaner, safer place to live.

### **Announcements**

Saturday, October 22 - Community trash/litter pick up 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Tuesday, October 25 - Issue Forum, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Saturday, October 29 - Community trash/litter pick up 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Monday, October 31 – Drive Thru Trunk or Treat, Town Hall Parking Lot, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

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Friday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day Program, 11:00 a.m., Heritage Center.

Saturday, November 12 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, November 15 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center

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.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Jennifer H. Larson  
Town Clerk