

Regular Meeting - September 20, 2022

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 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 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 Representative Charles Graham, Katie Fountain, and Reverend Tyrone Watson.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Reverend Tyrone Watson gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentation

Mayor Kemp introduced Representative Charles Graham, who presented the town with a check for \$500,000 to renovate the old post office into the new Fairmont Library and youth services building.

Public Hearing – CDBG-Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Application

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:12 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut stated this is the second required public hearing for the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. The town is applying for a \$950,000 grant to reconstruct 5-7 homes for low-to-moderate income homeowners within the Town of Fairmont. One of the main requirements of the grant is for the home to be owner occupied and not rental, secondary or vacation. This grant is similar to the NC Rebuild program where it is quicker and cheaper to demolish and rebuild than to remodel. The names of potential applicants have been collected and the grant application is due September 30. The town will be notified by the end of the year if selected.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:16 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Kemp asked the board to add Resolution 22-22, CDBG-NR Grant Application, Citizen Participation Plan and Housing Selection Committee Bylaws as item E of the agenda under new business. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Seibles 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 McNeill it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Strategic Plan Meeting, August 9, 2022, Regular Meeting, August 16, 2022, and Special Meeting, September 6, 2022.
- b. Ordinance 22-217 – Budget Amendment #2 in the amount of \$32,780.

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

ABC Board appointment

Commissioner Evans made a motion to reappoint Dwayne McCormick to a three-year term on the Fairmont ABC Board expiring September 2025. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 22-20 – Regional Rate Study and Rate Education Project, LRCOG Regional Partnership Memo of Understanding and Letter of Support for Merger and Regionalization Feasibility Study

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut explained that having a rate study will help determine the feasibility of potentially establishing a regional sewer authority. This study will be paid for by the state. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-20 – Regional Rate Study and Rate Education Project, LRCOG Regional Partnership Memo of Understanding and Letter of Support for Merger and Regionalization Feasibility Study. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the signed resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 22-21 – Stormwater System AIA grant application

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut asked the board to consider applying for a grant to study the flow of stormwater throughout town. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-21 – Stormwater System AIA grant application. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the signed resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Approval/Disapproval to host Veteran Fellow under the Veterans Local Government Management Fellowship (VLGMF) Program

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut explained the VLGMF program will allow the town to host a veteran to assist with town work. The military will pay for six months of salary at no cost to the town. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to approve hosting a Veteran Fellow under the Veterans Local Government Management Fellowship (VLGMF) Program. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 22-22 – CDBG-NR Grant Application, Citizen Participation Plan and Housing Selection Committee Bylaws

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut asked the board to adopt Resolution 22-22, Citizen Participation Plan and the Housing Selection Committee Bylaws as part of the CDBG-NR grant application. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-22 – CDBG-NR Grant Application, Citizen Participation Plan and Housing Selection Committee Bylaws. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the signed resolution 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. They also thanked Town Manager Jerome Chestnut for his work in finding grants for the town and Representative Charles Graham for the library funds.

Mayor Kemp made the following statement:

“I want to make this statement in front on our board, citizens, and the press. Our town manager, Mr. Chestnut began his duties on August 15th after two weeks dealing with a family death. In the past 1 month and 5 days he has been amazing and involved in many very important matters which are facing our community. Among the issues he has/is tackling are: housing by seeking a \$950k rehab grant, downtown revitalization by reaching out to a company who will write the grants we need for that matter, has had the Army Corp of Engineers come and witness the canal problem we have facing us, worked on a solution to remove an unsightly debris pile from a neighborhood, attended several citizens events and activities, has met with the county manager and an asst. county manager on matters to directly improve our town and has been in the office each and every day from before 8:00 until 5:30 p.m. We are all fortunate to have such a resourceful, dedicated, and knowledgeable public servant such as Mr. Chestnut. Thank you, sir, for all the hard work and dedication.”

Town Manager Comments

Mr. Chestnut thanked the board for their support and is blessed to have a smart, competent staff. He wants the board to consider re-energizing Fairmont’s Code Enforcement Program, effective January 1, 2023. He would like to hold Public Hearings in October/November to hear citizen and property owners concerns and feedback on what the program will look like. Our Code Enforcement Program will be designed to enhance appearance and make the town a safer place to live.

Announcements

Saturday, October 1 - Senior Citizens Bingo - 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m. Heritage Center

Friday, October 7 - FHS Homecoming Parade, 3:30 p.m., Downtown

Saturday, October 8 - Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant- Rosenwald Elementary School E.R. Gause Auditorium 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 12 - Pink Ribbon Lunch- Breast Cancer Awareness Month. UNC Health Southeastern. 12:00 noon, Fairmont Heritage Center

Friday, October 14 - Opening activities Farmers Festival- Fairmont Golf Course, Friday afternoon & evening

Saturday, October 15 - Fairmont Farmers Festival, 10:00 a.m., (parade, food, music, games) Downtown

Tuesday, October 18 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center

Adjournment

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk