

## **Regular Meeting–September 21, 2021**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 6:00p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Felecia McLean, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Rev. Dr. Leslie Sessoms, Tanisha Frink, Marvin Frink, Madison Davenport, Phillip Wall, Jessica Horne, and several citizens.

### **Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, August 17, 2021, and Strategic Plan Meeting, August 31, 2021.

### **New Business**

#### **Rotary Club – request for Little Free Library at the park**

The Fairmont Rotary Club would like to place a Little Free Library in the Fairmont Community Park near the bicycle rack. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the Fairmont Rotary Club donation of a Little Free Library to the Fairmont Community Park. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ministers for Justice in Robeson County, Rev. Dr. Leslie Sessoms

Rev. Dr. Leslie Sessoms, President of the Ministers for Justice in Robeson County, introduced herself and other members to the board. Ministers for Justice is a group of ethnically, diverse Robeson County ministers promoting unity and justice. The group formed shortly after the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, and they seek to provide prayer and support for local police departments. The group is committed to publicly taking a stand against all forms of injustice as well as publicly praying for our community in pursuit of peace and reconciliation.

Introduction of Festival Pageant Director Madison Davenport by Commissioner Charles Kemp

Commissioner Charles Kemp introduced Fairmont Farmers Festival Scholarship Pageant Director Madison Davenport. Ms. Davenport is taking over from Angie Lovin, who ran the pageant for almost 20 years. Even though the festival itself has been cancelled, the pageant is still scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in the E.R. Gause Auditorium at Rosenwald Elementary School.

Introduction of owners of Briarwood Custom Meats, LLC

Mr. Marvin Frink, the president of Briarwood Custom Meats LLC, and his wife Tanisha Frink, the company's CEO, told commissioners the business on Marion Stage Road will open on February 14, 2022, with 30 jobs in its first year and 30 more the following year. The business is a meat processing facility, which will process cattle and swine for customers. On August 19, the Rural Infrastructure Authority Board approved a \$200,000 grant to support the reuse of the building for the business. Briarwood Custom Meats plans to invest \$1,248,874 in the project. The building, which is 27,432-square-feet, will also have a classroom for students studying animal science at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to learn about meat processing. The company plans to hire those students once they graduate. The company is also reaching out to reentry programs to help employ formerly incarcerated people. The commissioners thanked the Frinks for bringing jobs to Fairmont and hope it will be a spark for more new businesses.

Approval of VC3 contract for managed services

Town Manager Hank Raper presented a managed services contract for IT coverage through VC3. This contract covers any IT challenges the town may face over the next five years. The monthly fee of \$3,221.79 will be sustained through ongoing operating revenues and expenditures. The one-time fee of \$25,930.62 covers expenditures that will improve the water and sewer alarm system as well as protecting from potential hacking and ransomware by outside parties. The fee will be paid out of the American Rescue Plan allocation.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the VC3 contract for managed services. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of CDBG-I contract for Brown Street Pump Station Improvements

Mr. Raper asked the board to approve a Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure contract with the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality for the Brown Street pump station improvements. The initial planning grant is for \$97,000 and the second construction grant is for \$1,903,000.00 for a total of \$2,000,000.00. The project will make improvements to an existing 51,000 LF of discharge force main along NC Hwy 130 by replacing and adding the air valve along this line and provide for the replacement of approximately 800 LF of 18-inch failing gravity sewer outfall.

Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the CDBG-I contract for the Brown Street Pump Station Improvements, CDBG-I 15-I-3158 and 20-I-3608. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the contract is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Approval of LKC Engineering for Grant Administration and Engineering for CDBG-I grant

The Town advertised for Requests for Proposal (RFPs) to provide grant administration and engineering services for the Brown Street Pump Station Improvements, CDBG-I 15-I-3158 and 20-I-3608. After reviewing the proposals, it is recommended that LKC Engineering, PLLC be approved for both grant administration and engineering. Engineering has worked with Fairmont on many past grants and is very familiar with the wastewater system.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve LKC Engineering, PLLC to provide grant administration and engineering services for the Brown Street Pump Station Improvements, CDBG-I 15-I-3158 and 20-I-3608. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-09 – Regionalization Feasibility Study

The Town of Fairmont is interested in joining with the Towns of Boardman, Cerro Gordo, Fair Bluff, Proctorville, and Rowland to move toward the creation of a water and sewer utility authority. Fairmont will need to update its Wastewater Asset Management Plan to evaluate conditions of equipment necessary in the maintenance of wastewater collections systems as well as study the technical and operational issues of forming an authority. The Lumber River Council of Governments is applying for grants on the feasibility of regionalization. A resolution is needed to apply for these grants.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to approve the Resolution 21-09, Viable Utility and Regionalization Feasibility Study. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

ABC Board member appointment

Mr. Raper asked the board to make an appointment to the Fairmont ABC Board. The appointment is for a three-year term expiring September 2024. Mr. Steve Floyd, whose term expires this month, cannot be reappointed.

Commissioner Kemp nominated Butch Lennon and Commissioner Evans nominated Khairalla Aziz (Mr. G). Mayor Townsend asked for a vote on the nomination of Butch Lennon. The vote was 4 to 3 as follows:

For:	Commissioners Kemp, McCree, Seibles and Mayor Townsend
Against:	Commissioners Evans, McCallum and McLean

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

Mayor/Commissioner Input

Mayor Townsend announced Fairmont High School will hold a Homecoming Parade downtown on Friday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m.

The commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Manager Input

Town Manger Hank Rapper announced the next strategic plan meeting will be Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Heritage Center.

Closed Session – Property Acquisition

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into closed session at 6:44p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statue 143-318.10(e) and to discuss real property acquisition as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5). Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Townsend, Commissioners McCree, McCallum, McLean, Kemp, Seibles and Evans along with Hank Raper, Jessica Scott, Jenny Larson and Ronnie Seals were in attendance during closed session.

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

**Announcements**

Tuesday, October 19 – Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk