

Regular Meeting – April 21, 2026

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Jan Tedder-Rogers, Felecia McLean, and Rasheena Graham. Commissioner Melvin Ellison was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Fire Chief Veronica Hunt and Deputy Police Chief Jonathan Evans. Others in attendance included Bishop H. B. Drake, Meredith Singletary, Reggie Bush, Kim Mitchell, Jerry Neloms, Shea Ann Dejarnette, Terry Evans, Henry Biernacki, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Bishop H. B. Drake, of Word of Life Apostolic Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Presentation – Clean Sweep Proclamation

Mayor Kemp read a Clean Sweep Proclamation naming April 11 through the 25th as “Keep Fairmont Clean and Green” weeks. A signed copy of the proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes. Mayor Kemp recognized the HANDS Junior Civitan Club and the friends and family of Tra Watson for cleaning up the town this past Saturday, April 18.

Mayor's Presentation – Administrative Professionals Day

Mayor Kemp presented certificates of appreciation to the town staff for Administrative Professionals Day.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Reggie Bush – FHS Football Coach

The new Fairmont High School Football Coach Reggie Bush introduced himself and his coaching staff.

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Jerry Neloms

Mr. Jerry Neloms presented pictures of properties on Marvin and Linden Streets that need to be cleaned up.

Shea Ann DeJarnette

Ms. Shea Ann DeJarnette asked the board to consider the implications of annexing the land of the future apartment complex off Church Street.

Terry Evans

Mr. Terry Evans asked the board to remember the elderly citizens when considering raising utility rates during the upcoming budget process.

Henry Biernacki

Mr. Henry Biernacki thinks the board should consider where it spends money and said the town doesn't need another mural.

Kim Mitchell

Mrs. Kim Mitchell is concerned about increasing utility bills and taxes due to the new apartment complex.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, March 17, 2026

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business this month.

New Business

Audit Report FY 2024-2025

Mrs. Meredith Singletary, of S. Preston Douglas & Associates, presented the FY 2024-2025 audit report. Mrs. Singletary said the town had a good, clean audit with no internal control issues. The town's unassigned fund balance for the general fund is 27.46%. The town's tax collection rate is 93%. The unrestricted net position of the Water and Sewer Fund amounted to a negative (\$220,990). Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to approve the FY 2024-2025 Audit Report. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of audit contract for FY 2025-2026 – S. Preston Douglas & Associates

The Town of Fairmont has had a good working relationship with S. Preston Douglas & Associates, who have been the town's auditor for many years. Town Manager Jerome Chestnut recommended the board approve the audit contract for FY 2025-2026 in the amount of \$23,845. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve the Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates in the amount of \$23,845. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 26-05 - Voluntary Annexation request – Michael P. Walters, The Reserve site

Mr. Michael P. Walters has submitted a petition requesting contiguous annexation of property located at Parcel# 050505020, The Reserve apartment site off Church Street, into the city limits. Commissioner McLean made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-05, directing the clerk to investigate an annexation petition received under G.S. 160A-31 from Mr. Michael P. Walters. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Town Manager Updates

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut updated the board on current town projects, including three planned subdivisions on Church, South Main, and Pine Streets; Town Hall plans; development of the future Youth Center; the start of the sewer rehabilitation project; code enforcement plans to demolish two houses; and sediment removal from the Old Field Canal.

Mayor and Commissioner Comments

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and expressing their concerns.

Mayor Kemp asked code enforcement to focus on two former commercial buildings on the north side of Iona Street that need to be demolished, as well as the former warehouse property on South Main Street, which is filled with junk cars and overgrown vegetation.

Announcements

Tuesday, April 28 – Town Talk Citizens Forum, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Thursday, April 30 – Red Cross Blood Drive, 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

Saturday, May 2 – May Day Festival, 10:00 a.m. Downtown

Thursday, May 7 – Fairmont Planning Board, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall.

Saturday, May 9 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, May 19 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Wednesday, May 20 – Town Employees Lunch, 12:30 p.m., Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Seibles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk