

Regular Meeting – August 18, 2026

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 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, Melvin Ellison, Rasheena Graham, and Felecia McLean. Commissioner Jan Tedder-Rogers was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Police Captain Joshua Harris, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, and Fire Chief Veronica Hunt. Others in attendance included Reverend Tyrone Watson, Sr., Josh Outlaw, Derrick Vaught, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Reverend Tyrone Watson, Sr. gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentation

Mayor Kemp read a proclamation naming September 7-13, 2026, as Fairmont Town Employee Appreciation Week. A signed copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Golden Ambassadors will be introduced at the September meeting.

Public Hearing – 2026 CDBG-NR Application

Commissioner Ellison made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:11 p.m. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to advise and receive feedback from the citizens of the Town of Fairmont on applying for the 2026 CDBG-NR Grant Program. The Town of Fairmont applied for this grant in 2023 and 2024 and were successful in both applications. Mr. Josh Outlaw of the Adams Company presented the following:

- First of 2 public hearings to gather community input
- Community Development Block Grant-Neighborhood Revitalization
- Maximum grant amount of \$950,000
- Total of approx. \$12 million funding available with approx. \$5 million of that set aside for Rural Community Development Fund which does not require a housing activity
- Eligible activities
 - Housing
 - Infrastructure related to housing
 - New utility services
 - Streets
 - Flood and Drainage improvements
 - Sidewalks/pedestrian ways

- Public facilities
 - Parks, Shelters, community center, recreation center
- Must meet 1 of 3 national objectives
 - Benefit LMI persons
 - Prevent or eliminate slums or blight
 - Meeting other urgent needs (often storm/disaster related)
- Homes must be owner occupied LMI, real property
- Can include rehabilitation of housing or demo/rebuild
- 2nd public hearing will be held in September prior to submitting application
 - Activities to be included in application will be announced at this public hearing.
- Applications due October 13, 2026

Mr. Terry Evans encouraged the town to pursue the grant.

Commissioner Ellison made a motion to come out of the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Derrick Vaught – 5-Star Elite

Mr. Derrick Vaught and his wife founded 5-Star Elite, a youth basketball organization that teaches life skills, builds leadership, strengthens character, and creates positive opportunities. The 16U boys recently won a championship in Columbia, South Carolina, and the 14U boys finished as runners-up at the Carolina Stars 2026 Liberty Bowl Invitational in Greensboro. Coach Vaught encouraged the town to become a community partner in the program.

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, July 21, 2026.

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

New Business

Ordinance 26-302 – Amending Chapter 92 Fire Department

Fire Chief Veronica Hunt attended a meeting of all the fire chiefs in Robeson County in May, and they advised all fire departments to update their organization charters to be more in line with current operations. Since Fairmont is a municipal fire department, Chapter 92 of the Fairmont Code of Ordinances can be amended to reflect the revised changes. Town Attorney Jessica Scott asked the board to table the ordinance until next month so she can have more time to review it. Commissioner Graham made a motion to table Ordinance 26-302 – Amending Chapter 92 Fire Department until the September board meeting to give the Town Attorney time to review it. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FY 2024 CDBG-NR Housing Reconstruction Bid Awards

FY 2024 CDBG-NR home construction bids for three properties were opened on August 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., at the Fairmont Town Hall. The Adams Company is recommending that At Home Companies, LLC (Owner Bobby Jolley), the second lowest responsible bidder, be awarded the contract to build Unit 24-01 (Eddie Jackson, 503 Benjamin Street) at the bid price of \$134,886.00, and that the lowest responsible bidder, Rescue Construction Solutions (President Shelia Brewington) be awarded the contracts to build Unit 24-02 (Pattie Campbell, 601 W. Benjamin Street) at the bid price of \$123,908.40, and Unit 24-04 (Billy Ray Clark, 305 S. Powell Street) at the bid price of \$131,672.20.

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to award the FY 2024 CDBG-NR Construction contracts to At Home Companies, LLC to build Unit 24-01 at the bid price of \$134,886.00, and to Rescue Construction Solutions to build Unit 24-02 at the bid price of \$123,908.40, and Unit 24-04 at the bid price of \$131,672.20. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Code Enforcement update

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut discussed on-going code enforcement cases, actions and procedures. He presented a list of 87 properties that have no power or water and are uninhabitable. Beginning September 1, 2026, with the support of the Board of Commissioners, staff will increase efforts to bring properties into compliance with town ordinances. Town Attorney Jessica Scott stated that code enforcement can be a challenging, complicated process with the numerous heir properties in town.

Town Manager Contract Renewal

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut's contract is set to automatically renew on September 8, 2026. Mr. Chestnut is willing and able to continue to perform managerial duties under this agreement and does not request any changes. Commissioner Ellison made a motion to renew Town Manager Jerome Chestnut's contract for another year. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner and Mayor Comments

The board thanked the citizens for coming and advised them to stay hydrated during this heat wave. Commissioners Graham and McLean thanked everyone who participated in the Stop the Violence Back-to-School event at the park.

Mayor Kemp is concerned about the apathy of building owners downtown letting their buildings fall apart. He announced Janice Thompson has been appointed to the Fairmont Housing Authority board.

Announcements

Wednesday, August 26 – Town Employee Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Heritage Center.

Thursday, September 3 – Fairmont Planning Board, 6:00 p.m. Town Hall Courtroom.

Monday, September 7 – Town offices closed in observance of Labor Day.

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

Tuesday, September 17 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Ellison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk