

Regular Meeting – December 16, 2025

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 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, Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Jan Tedder-Rogers, Felecia McLean, and Rasheena Graham. Commissioner Clarence McNeill, Jr., was absent due to illness. 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, and Police Chief Jon Edwards. Others in attendance included District Court Judge Krystle Melvin, Jonathan Hill, and many citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Missionary Jonathan Hill, Released-Time Director at Camp Grace, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Ellison and seconded by Commissioner Tedder-Rogers, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes –Regular Meeting, November 18, 2025.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business this month.

Organizational Meeting

Comments from outgoing Commissioner Terry Evans.

Commissioner Evans thanked the citizens for their support for the past 12 years.

Swearing in of Mayor and Commissioners by District Court Judge Krystle Melvin.

District Court Judge Krystle Melvin swore in Mayor Charles Kemp and Commissioners Melvin Ellison, Felecia McLean, and Rasheena Graham. A copy of their sworn oaths is hereby incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Comments by newly elected officials Commissioners Melvin Ellison, Felecia McLean, Rasheena Graham, and Mayor Charles Kemp

Commissioner Ellison thanked the citizens for electing him and recognized his wife, family, and members of his campaign.

Commissioner Graham is deeply honored and grateful for the trust the citizens have put in her. She recognized her family and friends for their support and looks forward to being an advocate on behalf of the people.

Commissioner McLean recognized her family, said it was a privilege and honor to serve and wants to do her part to see Fairmont prosper.

Mayor Kemp thanked the citizens, his wife and campaign staff for allowing him to serve his 13th term in office. He recognized the board's majority is female for the first time in Fairmont's history. Mayor Kemp presented his goals - the "Big 10 for the Fairmont Win":

1. Youth Center.
2. Support/encourage additional housing.
3. Aggressive downtown business development & recruitment with building restoration & repair.
4. Refurbish and enhance Heritage Park. (located across from the Heritage Center on Main Street)
5. Continuing job fairs each quarter.
6. Appoint "Clean Sweep" team to study/suggest methods on improving town appearance and make recommendations to town board monthly.
7. Transparency - continue weekly and monthly emails, weekly radio show, weekly "Focus on Fairmont" YouTube videos, and quarterly "Town Talk" citizen meetings.
8. Continue senior citizens monthly social gatherings/trips.
9. Develop and produce new and innovative events and activities to bring the community closer together. (ex. February 7th Love Fairmont day, July 4th 250th celebration & golf cart rodeo, Lite Th' Nite home Christmas decoration contest & lots more)
10. Promote industrial business recruitment by selecting recruiters to seek such businesses.

Set Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to keep the current meeting schedule for the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Select Mayor Pro Tempore.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers nominated Commissioner Heather Seibles as Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Ellison seconded the nomination, and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 25-21 – PFAS Grant application

The Town of Fairmont is partnered with four other towns in a regionalization effort to combine water (distribution) and sewer (collections) systems. Part of this regionalization effort is to identify any potential contaminants to our drinking water. The Town of Fairmont plans to partner with other towns to get our groundwater and bulk water sources to be tested, and if needed remedied. This grant application allows us to apply for funding to reduce/eliminate costs to local taxpayers to have our water sources tested and remedied, if needed. The town plans to apply for up to \$400,000 in funding to test the water sources across our geographical region – Fairmont, Proctorville, Boardman, Cerro Gordo, and Fair Bluff. The grant application is due in January.

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-21, PFAS Grant application. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 25-22 – Designation of Applicant’s Agent, NC Division of Emergency Management Grant

LKC Engineering is applying for a NC Division of Emergency Management Grant for sewer. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-22, Designation of Applicant’s Agent, NC Division of Emergency Management Grant. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

There was no public comment this month.

Announcements

Saturday, December 20 – Senior Bingo, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Monday, December 22 thru Friday, December 26 – Town offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Wednesday, December 24 – Santa Visits the Kids, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1 – Town offices closed in observance of New Year’s Day.

Saturday, January 10 - Senior Bingo, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Monday, January 19 - Town offices closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Monday, January 19 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, 12:00 noon, Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Tuesday, January 20 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Wednesday, January 21 – Quarterly Job Fair, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner McLean made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A social with refreshments was provided following the meeting in honor of the new mayor and commissioners.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk