

Regular Meeting – February 17, 2026

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Melvin Ellison, J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Jan Tedder-Rogers, Felecia McLean, and Rasheena Graham. 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 Terry Evans, Angie Lovin, Winona Gause, Elaine Nance, Toni Grimsley, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and Commissioner Melvin Ellison gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to approve the agenda removing the Public Evidentiary Hearing on the Zoning Variance and Item E - Subdivision Approval under New Business. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Terry Evans

Mr. Terry Evans is disappointed that Fairmont lost the chance to run sewer to Exit 10 off I-95, stating the Lumbee Tribe bought the land for \$6 to 8 million. He also complained that Robeson County District 2 is the largest in the county covering Fairmont, Rowland and Maxton, meaning that we don't get as much money from our county commissioner as other districts do since each county commissioner gets an annual allocation of \$40,000 to spend in their district.

Angie Lovin

Mrs. Angie Lovin would like the board and town staff to review concerns and resolve them in a timely manner.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, January 20, 2026
- b. Ordinance 26-289 – Closure of Main Street for May Day Fun Festival – May 2, 2026

A signed copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Unfinished Business

Regionalization Update

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut provided the following updates on the Regionalization Plan since the last board meeting:

Fair Bluff's meeting was held on February 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Fair Bluff. Fair Bluff's position is in alignment with Fairmont. They voted 4-1 in hopes of consolidating systems effective July 1, 2026. More staff planning and assistance will be needed to make it happen prior to then.

Cerro Gordo's meeting was held on February 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Cerro Gordo recessed their meeting until February 12, 2026, without voting on the Regionalization Plan.

Boardman's monthly meeting was canceled because of the weather.

Proctorville's meeting was held on February 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Proctorville discussed the matter, leaning towards turning the sewer system over to Fairmont, but will not vote on the measure until March 2, 2026.

New Business

Clean Sweep Team report

The Mayor's Clean Sweep Team has met twice and they are working on documenting issues and concerns, identifying resources and establishing goals. They want to make Fairmont prettier and better.

Resolution 26-04 – Tentative Award for the Pittman Mill Sediment Removal project to Simmons Public Utility Site Work Inc.

Bids were received for the Streamflow Rehab Assistance Program (StRAP) Pittman Mill Sediment Removal project on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026. The project includes approximately 4,550 LF of sedimentation removal and streamflow rehabilitation. A total of six bids were received for the work, and the table below summarizes the bids received.

CONTRACTOR	LOCATION	BID AMOUNT
Simmons Public Utility Site Work Inc.	Whiteville, NC	\$114,000.00
Apex Construction Group, LLC	Tabor City, NC	\$125,000.00
Driven Contractors, LLC	Maxton, NC	\$128,000.00
Driggers Construction, LLC	Hamer, SC	\$180,500.00
Columbus Utilities, Inc.	Fair Bluff, NC	\$247,000.00
Franke Horne Construction Inc.	Fair Bluff, NC	\$276,000.00

POST BID PROJECT BUDGET

ITEM	COST
Construction	\$114,000.00
Engineering	\$17,100.00
Contingency	\$18,900.00
Total	\$150,000.00

Based on the amount of funding received and the work involved in the project, LKC Engineering recommends that tentative award be made to Simmons Public Utility Site Work Inc., for their original bid amount of \$114,000.00 and that the board authorize execution of the construction contracts by the appropriate individuals.

Commissioner McLean made a motion to Resolution 26-04 – Tentative Award for the Pittman Mill Sediment Removal project to Simmons Public Utility Site Work Inc. in the amount of \$114,000.00. 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.

2024 CDBG-NR Asbestos Services – Recommendation of Award to Keenan Construction & Consulting

The Adams Company, the Grant Administrator for our \$950,000 2024 CDBG-NR Grant we were awarded for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 4-6 homes here in Fairmont, properly solicited and received bids on January 29, 2026, for Asbestos Services. The Adams Company recommends that the asbestos services contract be awarded to Keenan Construction & Consulting at a cost of \$725 per property.

Commissioner Ellison made a motion to award the 2024 CDBG-NR Asbestos Services to Keenan Construction & Consulting. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2024 CDBG-NR Surveying Services – Recommendation of Award to Drigger’s Land Surveying.

The Adams Company, the Grant Administrator for our \$950,000 2024 CDBG-NR Grant we were awarded for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 4-6 homes here in Fairmont, properly solicited and received bids on January 29, 2026, for Surveying Services. The Adams Company recommends that the surveying services contract be awarded to Drigger’s Land surveying at a cost of \$650.00 per property.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to award the 2024 CDBG-NR Surveying Services to Drigger’s Land Surveying. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor and Commissioner Comments

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming and encouraged them to contact them if they have any issues or concerns. A moment of silence was held in memory of Reverend Jesse Jackson and Fairmont resident Anita Ford.

Mayor Kemp expressed his deep gratitude to the Clean Sweep Team and his Downtown Revitalization Team.

Announcements

Saturday, March 14 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, March 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Sunday, March 29 – Easter Egg Hunt, 3:00 p.m., Community Park.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner McLean made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk