

Regular Meeting – July 15, 2025

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Jan Tedder-Rogers, Terry Evans, Heather Seibles, Melvin Ellison, and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Police Captain Jonathan Evans, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Reverend Cycachee Scott, Fatima Gales, Brittany Watson, Angie Lovin, Gaines Grantham, Emily Oxendine, Felecia McLean and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Reverend Cycachee Scott of Deeper Truth Deliverance Center in Orrum, NC, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Fatima Gales – Citizen Leadership

Ms. Fatima Gales had concerns about the behavior of one of the town commissioners towards the town's UNCP intern and asked the town to hold them accountable.

Brittany Watson – Commissioner behavior

Ms. Brittany Watson had concerns about the behavior of one of the town commissioners, who had been texting her 12-year-old daughter on the school bus.

Angie Lovin – Town Issues

Mrs. Angie Lovin had concerns about the town not using code enforcement to protect citizens from noise, trash, junk cars and other eyesores.

Gaines Grantham – Town Issues

Mr. Gaines Grantham complained about the poor condition of some town streets as well as how the entrances to town look like junkyards. He said the town needs to work on community development.

Emily Oxendine – Town Hall RFP

Ms. Emily Oxendine wanted to know if the criteria and metrics used to prioritize the contractor decision on the new Town Hall would be made public.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, June 17, 2025, and Special Meetings, June 24, 2025, and June 30, 2025.
- b. Ordinance 25-280 – Close Main Street for Fairmont Farmers Festival on October 18, 2025
- c. Ordinance 25-281 – Project Budget Ordinance – NC Youth Violence Prevention Grant

Signed copies are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Old Business

Resolution 25-06 – Set Public Hearing for Satellite Annexation of 130 Convenient Mart.

Town Clerk Jenny Larson has investigated the petition for satellite annexation of 130 Convenient Mart and has certified that it meets the requirements of G.S. 160A-31. The next step is to set a public hearing for August 19, 2025, on the question of annexation. Commissioner Ellison made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-06 – Set Public Hearing for Satellite Annexation of 130 Convenient Mart. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 4 to 2 as follows:

For:	Commissioners Ellison, Seibles, McNeill and Tedder-Rogers
Against:	Commissioners Evans and McCree

Commissioner Evans voted no because he believes the store only wants to be annexed to sell beer and wine. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 25-07 - Sale of 200 Iona Street to Gaston A. Floyd, Jr.

On May 20, 2025, the Board of Commissioners received a bid of \$1,000 for 200 Iona Street. The property was properly advertised in the newspaper using the upset bid process. After several upset bids, Mr. Gaston A. Floyd, Jr., had the final bid of \$1,940. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-07 – Sale of 200 Iona Street to Gaston A. Floyd, Jr. for \$1,940. Commissioner Seibles 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.

New Business

Town Hall RFP contractor selection

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut stated that five proposals have been received for the new town hall construction. The five entities that submitted RFQs were:

- WHN Architects, Charlotte, NC
- Msquare Construction, Fayetteville, NC
- R/DA Architects, Raleigh, NC
- AWCK Inc., Burlington, NC
- Southeastern General Contractors, Hope Mills, NC

After in-depth reviews by town staff, it is recommended the board approve Msquare Construction for the design and construction of the new town hall. All the companies reviewed were well qualified but Msquare Construction had the best timeline for design and construction to meet the state deadline for spending the \$3.25 million. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to approve Msquare Construction as the architect for the new town hall. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval to submit 2025 CDBG-NR application

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut announced that Fairmont is eligible to submit for the 2025 CDBG-NR application round. The town successfully applied in 2022 and 2024, which has led to the rebuilding and rehabilitation of several homes over the past two years. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve moving forward with the 2025 CDBG-NR application. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Evans stated that roads are bad throughout Robeson County, especially in District 2. He added the \$80,000 received in Powell Bill funds annually is not enough to pave anything.

Commissioners Ellison and Tedder-Rogers thanked the citizens for coming and bringing issues to the board's attention.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp addressed the issue of code enforcement and suggested using judicial due process to combat the problem. He also praised Town Manager Jerome Chestnut for his work ethic and making Fairmont a better place.

Executive/Closed Session – Personnel/Attorney-Client Privilege

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into closed session at 6:52 p.m. to discuss personnel per N.C.G.S. 143-318-11 (a)(6) and consult with an attorney retained by the board to preserve the attorney - client privilege between the attorney and Board of Commissioners for the Town of Fairmont per N.C.G.S. 143-318-11 (a)(3). Commissioner Evans seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The commissioners came out of closed session at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Ellison made a motion to extend the contract with Town Manager Jerome Chestnut for one year. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Saturday, July 19 – Christmas in July Market, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, July 29 – Town Talk Community Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

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

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk