

Special Meeting – June 23, 2026

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 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, Jan Tedder-Rogers, and Felecia McLean. Commissioner Rasheena Graham was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Fire Chief Veronica Hunt, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Several citizens were also in attendance.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and gave the invocation.

Executive/Closed Session – Personnel/Attorney-Client Privilege

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into closed session at 6:05 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 Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:19 p.m. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mayor Kemp announced that no action was taken.

Consider adopting Ordinance 26-298 - Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and Fee Schedule

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut stated the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget includes a 2.5% cost of living pay raise for employees, no property tax increase, sanitation base rate increase of \$1.50, water base rate increase of \$1.05, sewer base rate increase of \$1.35, increasing the minimum gallons from 1,000 to 2,000 and increasing the price per thousand step rate tier by \$0.25 each for water and sewer. The fee schedule includes raising the utility bill late fee to \$15 and the non-payment fee to \$40. The General fund budget is \$2,995,993, Powell Bill fund is \$97,380, and the Water/Sewer fund is \$1,779,843.

Commissioners Ellison and Seibles had concerns about the state legislature limiting local government's property tax authority.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to approve Ordinance 26-298 - Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget and fee schedule. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 3 to 2 as follows:

For:	Commissioners Ellison, McLean and Tedder-Rogers
Against:	Commissioners McCree and Seibles
Absent:	Commissioner Graham

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Ellison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk