

Budget Workshop – June 9, 2026

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Rasheena Graham, Felecia McLean, and Heather Seibles. Commissioners Jan Tedder-Rogers and Melvin Ellison were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Fire Chief Veronica Hunt. 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.

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget discussion

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut explained this version of the budget includes utility rate increases and a 2.5% salary increase for town employees.

For the General Fund raising the base rate for sanitation by \$1.50 and billing nonprofits creates a revenue increase of \$19,323. Two part-time employees were moved from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer fund. The General Fund still needs \$150,000 in fund balance to balance the budget, but hopefully it will not be needed.

For the Water Fund:

- Late Fee increase from \$12.50 to \$15.00 creates additional revenue of \$6,450. An average of 215 customers pay a late fee each month.
- Non Payment Fee increase from \$35 to \$40 creates additional revenue of \$4,070. An average of 74 customers pay a non payment fee each month.
- Water
 - \$0.25 increase per step tier rate - \$22,896
 - Increase minimum gallons from 1,000 to 2,000 gallons – loss of (\$6,034.50)
 - Increase base rate by \$1.05 - \$15,094.80
 - Bill 12 nonprofit accounts - \$1,328.40
 - Total Revenue \$33,285
- Sewer
 - \$.025 increase per step tier rate - \$22,896
 - Increase minimum gallons from 1,000 to 2,000 gallons – loss of (\$7,241.40)
 - Increase base rate by \$1.35 - \$19,326.60
 - Bill 12 nonprofit accounts - \$1,701.00
 - Total Revenue \$36,682
 - Contingency of \$10,331 in the water/sewer fund to balance the budget. This can be used if expenses end up higher than budgeted.

	Current	X 3.8% CPI	New Bill
WATER RES. IN TOWN	\$27.60	\$1.05	\$28.65
SEWER RES. IN TOWN	\$36.15	\$1.35	\$37.50
SANITATION RES. IN TOWN	\$25.50	\$1.50	\$27.00
MINIMUM BILL 2,000 GALLONS	\$89.25	\$3.90	\$93.15

0 - 2,000 Base Rate	Water	\$ 28.65		
	Sewer	\$ 37.50		
		<u>\$ 66.15</u>		

2,100 - 3,000 Step rate 1	Water	\$ 3.75	0.375	Per hundred
	Sewer	\$ 4.50	0.450	gallons
		<u>\$ 8.25</u>	0.825 cents	

3,100 - 5,000 Step rate 2	Water	\$ 4.00	0.400	Per hundred
	Sewer	\$ 4.75	0.475	
		<u>\$ 8.75</u>	0.875	

5,100 - 7,000 Step rate 3	Water	\$ 4.25	0.425	Per hundred
	Sewer	\$ 5.00	0.500	
		<u>\$ 9.25</u>	0.925	

7,100 - 10,000 Step rate 4	Water	\$ 4.50	0.450	Per hundred
	Sewer	\$ 5.25	0.525	
		<u>\$ 9.75</u>	0.975	

10,100 & up Step rate 5	Water	\$ 4.75	0.475	Per hundred
	Sewer	\$ 5.50	0.550	
		<u>\$10.25</u>	1.025	

	Gallons	Water/Sewer Only	With Trash
Total Water/Sewer Bill based on block rate	0-2,000	\$ 66.15	\$ 93.15
	3000	\$ 74.40	\$101.40
	4000	\$ 83.15	\$110.15
	5000	\$ 91.90	\$118.90
	6000	\$ 101.15	\$128.15
	7000	\$ 110.40	\$137.40
	8000	\$ 120.15	\$147.15
	9000	\$ 129.90	\$156.90
	10000	\$ 139.65	\$166.65
	11000	\$ 149.90	\$176.90

Adjournment

Mayor Kemp announced that the budget public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

Commissioner McLean made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk