

## **Regular Meeting – March 18, 2025**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Clarence McNeill, Jr., Terry Evans, and J.J. McCree. Commissioners Heather Seibles, Melvin Ellison and Jan Tedder-Rogers were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Lead for NC Fellow Madison Johns, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Coach Marcus Thompson, FHS Ladies Basketball Team and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and gave the invitation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor Presentations**

#### **Recognition of FHS Ladies Basketball Team**

Mayor Kemp recognized Coach Marcus Thompson and the FHS Ladies Basketball Team who finished the season with a record of 26-2.

#### **Proclamation and Presentation– National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

Mayor Kemp read a proclamation in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29, which was followed by a short presentation honoring Vietnam Veterans. A signed copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut asked the board to add Ordinance 25-271, 2024 CDBG-NR Project Budget, as item E under New Business. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Wayland “Butch” Lennon – Code Enforcement concerns**

Mr. Wayland “Butch” Lennon, a lifelong resident of Fairmont, is very disappointed with how code enforcement is being handled in town.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner McNeill, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

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

**Old Business**

There was no old business this month.

**New Business**

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Report presented by Lee Grissom, S. Preston Douglas and Associates and approval of FPIC letter to LGC**

Mr. Lee Grissom, of S. Preston Douglas and Associates, presented Fairmont's 2023-2024 audit report. Mr. Grissom said the town had a good, clean audit with no internal control issues. The town's unassigned fund balance for the general fund is 30.34%. The town's tax collection rate is 91.41%. The unrestricted cash vs. operating expenses for the water/sewer fund is 12.33%. Mr. Grissom stated the LGC has found finance performance indicators of concern regarding the town's general fund balance, operating loss and cash flow issues in the water/sewer fund and remaining useful life of water/sewer assets that requires a response letter signed by the board. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Audit Report and FPIC response letter to the LGC. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the letter is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Approval of Audit Contract for FY 2024-2025**

The Town of Fairmont has had a good working relationship with S. Preston Douglas & Associates, who have been the town's auditor for many years. Town Manager Jerome Chestnut recommended the board approve the audit contract for FY 2024-2025 in the amount of \$22,650. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates in the amount of \$22,650. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of CDBG-NR construction bids

On March 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. rebids were received at the Fairmont Town Hall for the rehabilitation of a home under the 2022 CDBG-NR grant. The Adams Company recommends awarding the bid contract for the rehabilitation of Manthia Thompson’s home at 201 Jenkins Street to the lowest responsible bidder, Oral’s Construction Company (Owner Oral Dial) in the amount of \$77,190.00. This award will be contingent upon state approval of a substantial rehabilitation request due to the bid again being over the typically allowed amount. Commissioner Evans made a motion to award the CDBG-NR rehabilitation bid contracts to Oral’s Construction for \$77,190.00. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of 2025 CDBG-NR Grant Administration Services

The Town of Fairmont was awarded a \$950,000 CDBG-NR grant for housing. The town sent out requests for qualifications for administration services for the CDBG-NR program. Town staff reviewed and scored the three proposals received from The Adams Company, LKC Engineering, and KSBR, LLC. They recommend awarding the grant administration contract to The Adams Company. Commissioner Evans made a motion to award the grant administration contract for the 2024 CDBG-NR program to The Adams Company. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ordinance 25-271 – Grant Project Ordinance for 2024 CDBG-NR

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 25-271, grant project budget for CDBG-NR Grant# 23-C-4165 in the amount of \$950,000. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Commissioner Comments**

Commissioners Evans and McNeill thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and staying informed.

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor Kemp was disappointed more citizens and veterans didn’t come to recognize the Vietnam Veterans.

**Manager Comments**

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut informed the board that code enforcement is a slow and expensive process.

**Announcements**

Thursday, April 3 – Fairmont Planning Board, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall.

Friday, April 4 – “Open Mike Night” Talent Showcase, 7:00 p.m. Heritage Center. Admission \$5

Saturday, April 5 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Sunday, April 13 – Easter Egg Hunt, 3:00 p.m. Fairmont Community Park.

Tuesday, April 15 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Wednesday, April 16 – Job Fair/Career Expo, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Jennifer H. Larson  
Town Clerk