

Regular Meeting – March 19, 2024

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr., and Jan Tedder-Rogers. Commissioner Heather Seibles was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Administrative Fire Chief Veronica Hunt. Others in attendance included Reverend David Walker, Fairmont High School Men and Women’s Basketball Teams, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Reverend David Walker, Pastor of Jonesville Baptist Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor’s Presentation

Mayor Charles Kemp recognized the Fairmont High School Men and Women’s Basketball teams and their coaches for their successful seasons. Mayor Kemp also recognized senior Tyshawn Evans for his work as team manager.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

There was no public comment this month.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, February 20, 2024
- b. Ordinance 24-256 – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Amendment # 7, \$78,500
- c. Ordinance 24-257 – ARP Project Budget Ordinance Amendment

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

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

New Business

Ordinance 24-258 – Project Budget Ordinance for ROAR Grant, \$12,500.

On January 22, 2024, the Town of Fairmont Police Chief and Town Manager met with leaders of the NC Youth Violence Prevention Center to discuss an upcoming grant opportunity with the Robeson Overcoming Adversity Through Resilience (ROAR) Organization. The grant opportunity was open and available for youth activities support in the amount up to \$20,000. The Town of Fairmont applied on February 9, 2024, and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$12,500 on February 22, 2024.

The Town of Fairmont intends to use these funds in support of town activities and community partners. This list is inclusive of the following organizations and is open to other organizations to apply for funds to support youth activities, until exhausted.

- Fairmont Administrative, Police, and Parks and Recreation Department
- Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M
- Fairmont High, Middle, and Rosenwald Elementary School
- Rotary Club of Fairmont, Hearts & Hands Civitan, Farmers' Festival Representatives
- Fairmont Stop the Violence Chapter
- Tomorrow's Children Today
- Churches and other Nonprofits

This grant is reimbursable in nature and the funds will be expended by September 29, 2024. This grant will be managed by the Town Manager and Clerk and the Board of Commissioners will be updated regularly on the use of these funds. There is a follow-on grant period in which we will apply for additional funds.

Commissioner Ellison made a motion to adopt Ordinance 24-258 – Project Budget Ordinance for ROAR Grant in the amount of \$12,500. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Appointment of in-town Planning Board member.

As of March 1, 2024, the Planning Board has four vacant seats. One seat is for an in-town resident due to the resignation of Timmy Bass. Also, the three vacant ETJ seats are for residents who reside within the one-mile radius of the town limits in which the Robeson County Board of Commissioners will appoint. Our previous ETJ members did not reside in the one-mile radius. On March 18, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners appointed the following ETJ members: Jason Carter, term expiring May 2025, Larry Faison, term expiring May 2026, and Gary Scott, term expiring May 2027.

Commissioner Clarence McNeill made a motion to nominate Vickie Tate as the in-town Planning Board member to replace Timmy Bass with a term expiring May 2027. Commissioner Terry Evans seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1 as follows:

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

Waste Management contract discussion.

Waste Management’s contract for waste services ends on August 1, 2024. Waste Management has chosen not to exercise their contract option to continue the service under the current terms of the contract due to increased service costs. Town Manager Jerome Chestnut informed the board the town will put out a request for bids for trash/limbs and leaves collection.

Commissioner Input

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp read a “Keep Fairmont Clean and Green” proclamation and announced his “Spring Forward Fairmont” initiative. The initiative includes maintenance of the four entrance welcome signs by the Pleasant View Baptist Church Youth, the Fairmont High School Beta Club, the Baltimore Baptist Church GAs, and the Hands Civitan Club. Twelve neighborhoods will have “clean sweep” days. The Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. will have a litter and trash pickup on Saturday, April 27. Mayor Kemp plans to recognize businesses and residents for their yard and building improvements by sending letters thanking them for making Fairmont “shine”. Finally, the mayor encouraged the elected officials to continue supporting the town manager and staff in code enforcement actions. A signed copy of the proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Announcements

Saturday, March 23 – Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m., Fairmont Community Park.

Saturday, March 23 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1 – Town offices closed in observance of Easter.

Wednesday, April 3 – Downtown Streetscape Masterplan Community Meeting, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Thursday, April 4 – Fairmont Planning Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Saturday, April 13 – Spring Sale-A-Bration, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Tuesday, April 16 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk