

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

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Melvin Ellison, Jan Tedder-Rogers, Terry Evans, Heather Seibles, and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Reverend Donnie Rabon, Henry Bernacki, Angie Lovin, 2025-2026 Farmers Festival Queens, John Blasco of WithersRavenel, and several citizens.

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

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Reverend Donnie Rabon, Pastor of Fairmont First Baptist Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor's Presentation**

#### **Introduction of 2025-2026 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens**

Mayor Kemp introduced the 2025-2026 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens. They are Co-Miss Ella Floyd, Co-Miss Gracie Freeman, Teen Miss Addyson Hunt, Junior Miss Ashlyn McCumbee, Tiny Miss Linley Kessinger, Little Miss Avery Jacobs, Mini Miss Jailee Hill, Wee Miss Idelayah McCoy, Ambassador Isabella Collins, and Mini Ambassador Lexi Britt.

#### **Recognition of Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain for receiving Certified Municipal Clerk status**

Mayor Kemp recognized Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain for receiving Certified Municipal Clerk status from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

### **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**

#### **Henry Bernacki**

Mr. Henry Bernacki, of 405 Mitchell Street, hopes the newly elected mayor and commissioners will bring new life and ideas to Fairmont.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, October 21, 2025
- b. Ordinance 25-286 – CDBG-NR Budget Amendment

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

**Old Business**

There was no old business this month.

**New Business**

Resolution 25-19 – Sale of 712 Madison Street

Ms. Lippi Majumdar was the highest bidder after offering \$17,000 for the house located at 712 Madison Street, Parcel #300103055. The tax value of the property is \$47,200. The home was formerly owned by the Mitchell family and had gone into foreclosure and is now owned by the town. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-19 – Sale of 712 Madison Street to Ms. Lippi Majumdar for \$17,000. Commissioner Evans 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.

Resolution 25-20 – Sale of 108 South Main Street (old library)

Life Changing Behavioral Services, owner Ms. Shirley Smith, was the highest bidder after offering \$72,500 for the old library located at 108 South Main Street, Parcel #300504014. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-20 – Sale of 108 South Main Street to Life Changing Behavioral Services for \$72,500. Commissioner McNeill 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.

Downtown Streetscape presentation by WithersRavenel

Mr. John Blasco, with WithersRavenel, presented the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. The plan was funded by a grant from USDA Rural Development. The purpose of the streetscape plan is to create a comprehensive, community-driven vision that enhances the character, functionality, and connectivity of downtown Fairmont and its surrounding neighborhoods. Public meetings were held in April and July 2024 to gather community input. The final plan includes bump outs, improved pedestrian crossings, ADA improvements, outdoor gathering/dining areas, and landscape beautification. The probable cost is estimated at 1.84 million. The town will use the plan to ask the N.C. General Assembly for assistance in funding.

Sidewalk Projects update

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut discussed the sidewalk improvements the NCDOT plan to make to increase pedestrian safety. The streets included are: South Walnut Street, Cottage Street, Thompson Street, Leesville Street, Pittman Street, George Street and East Pine Street.

Mayor and Commissioners Comments

Mayor Kemp announced the quarterly employee luncheon will be held tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

He invited everyone to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday on Main on Friday, December 5 with the tree lighting in the park at 6:00 p.m., followed by the parade at 6:30 p.m., and a youth talent showcase in the Heritage Center at 7:30 p.m.

He announced that District Court Judge Krystle Melvin will swear in the board and commissioners at the December 16<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Commissioner Evans thanked the citizens for coming and congratulated Felecia McLean and Rasheena Graham for being elected to the board.

Commissioner Ellison thanked the citizens for reelecting him to the board.

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers encouraged citizens to call her with any issues because the town can't fix what they don't know about.

Announcements

Tuesday, November 25 – Rotary Club Auction, 5:30 p.m., Heritage Center.

Wednesday, November 26 to Friday, November 28 - Town offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 4 – Fairmont Planning Board, 6:00 p.m. Town Hall Courtroom.

Friday, December 5 – Holiday on Main - Tree Lighting, 6:00 p.m. in park, Twilight Christmas Parade downtown, 6:30 p.m., Youth Christmas Showcase, 7:30 p.m., Heritage Center.

Saturday, December 13 – Fabuleus Christmas Craft Fair, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, December 16 – Regular Town Board Meeting and Swearing in of Mayor and Commissioners, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Jennifer H. Larson  
Town Clerk