

Regular Meeting – October 21, 2025

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Jan Tedder-Rogers, Terry Evans, Heather Seibles, and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Commissioner Melvin Ellison was absent due to a work conference. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Police Captain Jonathan Evans, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Reverend Sammy Shropshire, Henry Bernacki, Angie Lovin, Jay Lewis, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Reverend Sammy Shropshire, Pastor of Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Presentation

Special Announcement

Mayor Kemp presented a personal check in the amount of \$10,000 to the town to be used for a Youth Center.

Public Hearing – New Paths Development and Consulting, LLC Subdivision on South Main Street

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:14 p.m. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to discuss the New Paths Development and Consulting, LLC Subdivision on South Main Street. Mr. Chestnut stated that New Paths Development and Consulting LLC have submitted initial plans for a subdivision to be located near the vicinity of 1205 S. Main Street, Fairmont, NC. Their plans call for the construction of 16 Cluster Homes on 9.11 acres. This property is within the town limits and has readily available access to water/sewer/stormwater services. This property is zoned Residential – 10 (R-10). The site is the former Bonaventure Subdivision property. Mrs. Angie Lovin was concerned that the sale price of \$300,000 would not be affordable based on the income of the area. Mr. Henry Bernacki is in favor of increasing the town's population because the town needs to grow.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of the public hearing at 6:23 p.m. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Seibles 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, is in favor of new housing to bring in new people.

Angie Lovin

Mrs. Angie Lovin, business owner and festival pageant director, criticized the board members who didn't attend the Farmers Festival pageant or parade, especially since Town Clerk Jenny Larson was the Grand Marshal.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 16, 2025, Closed Session General Accounts, July 15, September 2 & 5, 2025
- b. Ordinance 25-285 – Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Amendment #1
- c. Resolution 25-15 – Tentative Award for the Collection System Rehabilitation Contract 1 – Phase 3
- d. Resolution 25-16 – Tentative Award for the Collection System Rehabilitation Contract 2 – Phase 4
- e. Resolution 25-17 – Tentative Award for the Collection System Rehabilitation Contract 3 – Phase 5

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

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

New Business

Approval of New Paths Development and Consulting, LLC Subdivision on South Main Street

Mr. Jay Lewis, with New Paths Development and Consulting, LLC, explained that the duplex homes will be 2,000 square feet with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths with the master bedroom on the first floor and a double garage. They hope to build the first home in Spring 2026 with a 4-to-5-month construction timeframe. Commissioner Seibles made a motion to approve the New Paths Development and Consulting, LLC Subdivision on South Main Street. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 25-18 – Offer for 712 Madison Street

Ms. Lippi Majumdar is 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 Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-18 – Offer for 712 Madison Street. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The property will be advertised for upset bids in the newspaper. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Fall Into Safety – November 1, 2025

Mr. Danny Parker, of South Robeson Rescue Unit, discussed the “Fall into Safety” event being held on November 1, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the community park. There will be blood pressure and blood glucose checks, CPR education, intoxicated driving education, games, crafts and food. The event is free, and the purpose is to build a safer and stronger community.

Manager’s Input

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut gave the following updates:

- Town Hall – the contract and budget is being finalized.
- Youth Center - For over three years, I have entertained the idea of a youth center for our town. We've tried over the past two years to get funds from the General Assembly to build a youth center but to no avail. So, I've come up with an idea to rehabilitate one of our town-owned buildings into a youth center. We have a building at 107 N. Morro Street that is currently being used for storage but could be our best option to use as a youth activities center. Some of the repairs needed for this facility are roof repair, electrical, plumbing and parking lot sealing and striping. The other costs will consist of items our youth has asked to be considered for the youth center - games and activities.

We did not include rehabilitating this building in this year's budget, so I intend to raise the funds for this project through individual, private, and corporate donations. I've already started those conversations with potential donors and the support for this project is there. We will not solicit contributions from town staff or employees. There will be full transparency in the project, and the Board of Commissioners and citizens will have input in this project. Surveys have been distributed to school students, and we have received their feedback. Some of the activities requested include basketball, flag football, volleyball, dodge ball, art, video games, and baking/cooking.

- Grant Projects – The downtown streetscape project is complete and will be presented at the November or December meeting. Once adopted, it will be presented to the general assembly to ask for funding to implement. The new sewer pump/lift station on Highway 130 is now operational and should help relieve overflows in the Old Field area during heavy rains.
- Code Enforcement – Several buildings have been demolished in the past couple of months.
- Street Paving – Two streets were paved in front of Rosenwald Elementary School and Fairmont Rural Fire Department. The planning board, along with citizen input, are working on prioritizing future paving and code enforcement projects.

Announcements

Saturday, October 25 – Senior Citizens Trip to Northwood Temple

Tuesday, October 28 – Town Talk, 6:00 p.m. Heritage Center

Friday, October 31 – Drive Thru Trunk or Trunk, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Railroad Street

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

Saturday, November 8 – Senior Bingo, 10:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, November 11 – Veterans Day Event, 11:00 a.m. Heritage Center.

Tuesday, November 11 – Town offices closed in observance of Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 18 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, November 25 – Rotary Club Auction, Heritage Center.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Seibles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk