

Regular Meeting –May 16, 2023

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 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 Heather Seibles. Commissioner Jan Tedder-Rogers was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Deputy Clerk Donna Jacobs, Fire Chief Brian Jacobs, and Police Chief Jonathan Edwards. Several citizens were also present including Jordan Waters, Jim Pate, Rev. Emily Davis, Teresa Floyd, Alice McNair and Marion Rainey.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Rev. Emily Davis, Pastor of Trinity-Berea Methodist Charge of Clio, South Carolina gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Presentations

Mayor Kemp recognized the following Big Business Boosters for opening/operating businesses in town: Teresa Floyd, Simply Beautiful Salon and Marion Rainey, Rainey's Secondhand Shop.

Mayor Kemp recognized FHS/Duke University Football Standout Jordan Waters, who will be hosting a youth football and cheerleading camp on Saturday, June 24 at Fairmont High School.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Marion Rainey – Social District

Ms. Marion Rainey asked the board to consider a possible "social district" within our downtown historic district to permit those consuming alcohol at current and possibly future sites in the downtown area the opportunity of not being restricted in movement between sites.

Alice McNair- 710 Stafford Street

Ms. Alice McNair complained that the canal ditch banks and storm drains are not being cleaned in the Old Field neighborhood.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, April 18, 2023
- b. Ordinance 23-238 – Budget Amendment #9
- c. Approval of FY 22-23 Audit Contract with S. Preston Douglas & Associates.

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

Appointment of Planning Board Members

The following Planning Board members' terms expire in May 2023: Phostenia McCrimmon, Marcus Thompson, and Willie Grissett (out of town member). The planning board members serve three-year terms. Phostenia McCrimmon and Willie Grissett are willing to serve another term.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to appoint Monte McCallum, Phostenia McCrimmon, and Willie Grissett (out of town member) to the Fairmont Planning board for a three-year term expiring May 2026. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Historical Marker proposal for David & Earl Britt – presented by Jim Pate

Mr. Jim Pate sought the town's support to create and erect a non-state historical marker to recognize two Fairmont attorneys, brothers David and Earl Britt, for their distinguished careers in the state and federal judiciary. David Britt was a former Speaker of the NC House of Representatives from 1965-1967 and a Justice on the NC Supreme Court from 1978-1982. Earl Britt was the town attorney from 1959-1967 and served as a US District Court Judge from 1980-2022.

Commissioner and Mayor Comments

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and are also concerned about the Old Field drainage situation.

Mayor Kemp made the following statement:

“I remain very excited and upbeat about the progress we are making to revitalize our downtown. We have seen more commercial activity, shopping and cars parked on Main Street lately than in many past years. The combination of board approval of our code revisions, strong administrative leadership, cooperating building owners, and concerned citizens is the cause of this progress. We’ve only just begun. A lot more great things are and will be unveiled in the months to come and there will come a day in the not too distant future when Fairmont and her downtown will be envied by many other communities around us. Just wait and see.”

Town Manager Comments

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut will investigate both the social district idea and the Old Field concerns.

Announcements

Saturday, May 20 – Summer Business Expo, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Downtown.

Monday, May 29 – Town offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day Ceremony, 12:00 noon, Heritage Center. Guest Speaker NC Senator Danny Britt.

Thursday, June 8 – Fairmont Planning Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, June 6 – Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Saturday, June 10 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Monday, June 19 – Town offices closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Tuesday, June 20 – Regular Town Board Meeting and Budget Public Hearing, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Adjournment

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk