

## **Regular Meeting – December 17, 2024**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr., and J.J. McCree. Commissioners Heather Seibles 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 Pastor Donnie Rabon, Chrissy Andrews, Welton Carr, Ricky Lewis, Howard Lennon, Tara Ivey, Shep Oliver, Vanessa Abernathy and several citizens.

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

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Fairmont First Baptist Interim Pastor Donnie Rabon gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Mayor Presentation**

#### **Recognition of Chrissy Andrews**

Mayor Kemp recognized Chrissy Andrews for her work on promoting the town through social media this past year.

#### **Recognition of Fairmont Rotary Club**

Mayor Kemp recognized the Fairmont Rotary Club for the work they have done in the community including partnering with the town to install new street signs.

#### **Recognition – Employees of the Year**

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut recognized the following as Employees of the Year:

Administration Employee of the Year: Rodney Cain  
Police Employee of the Year: Welton Carr  
Public Works Employee of the Year: Ricky Lewis  
Town Manager Award: Howard Lennon

#### **Recognition of Service – Public Works Director Ronnie Seals – 30 Years**

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut recognized Public Works Director Ronnie Seals for 30 years of service to the town.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut asked the board to add CDBG-NR contractor bid awards under New Business Item C. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

#### **Shep Oliver – Fairmont Rotary Club**

Mr. Shep Oliver of the Fairmont Rotary Club stated their annual auction was successful. He encouraged citizens who want to get involved with the club to come to their meetings every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church.

#### **Tara Ivey – Resolution 24-10**

Mrs. Tara Ivey was concerned about sensitive information being leaked from a cyber-attack and suggested that town employees not have access to websites that do not pertain to their job.

#### **Vanessa Abernathy – Beautification of Neighborhoods**

Ms. Vanessa Abernathy encouraged citizens to beautify their neighborhoods.

### **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, November 19, 2024
- b. Resolution 24-10 – Prohibiting Pornography on Town Devices
- c. Ordinance 24-266 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #2
- d. Ordinance 24-267 – Project Budget Ordinance Brownfields Assessment Grant BG02D63123 for \$500,000.

Signed copies of the resolution 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**

**Property Donation Acceptance – Leesville Road**

Mrs. Hilda Merrill, of Wilmington, NC, is willing to donate two properties located on Leesville Road, Parcels 05080300102 and 050601018 to the Town of Fairmont. These two properties represent a combined 8 acres of land. Taxes on both properties are paid through 2025. The donation of these two properties to the town does not represent a serious loss of property tax revenue to the town. The combined taxable value of these properties is \$6,000 with an annual tax revenue to the town of less than \$100. This property is in a floodplain so there will be no future development on this property. This property would be beneficial to the Town of Fairmont as it allows total access to a drainage area for the northeast area of the town and clear beaver dams. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the property located on Leesville Road from Mrs. Hilda Merrill subject to a clean title opinion. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Subdivision Approval – NC Highway 130 and Iona Church Road**

Carolina Homestead, LLC has submitted Plans for a subdivision to be in the vicinity of Iona Church Road and Highway 130. Current plans call for only the subdivision of one large tract (40.98 acres) into 8 individual lots to be sold for residential construction of single-family homes. The area is currently zoned Rural Agriculture (RA) and part Residential 20 (R-20). No roads or infrastructure are required for this subdivision. All parcels have road frontage. The Planning Board reviewed the plans on November 7 and December 5, 2024, and recommend approval. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the NC Highway 130 and Iona Church Road subdivision by Carolina Homestead, LLC. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**CDBG- NR Construction Bid Awards**

CDBG-NR home construction bids for 3 properties were opened on December 13, 2024. The Adams Company is recommending that Faith Home Improvement & Construction, Inc., be awarded the contract to build Unit 22-02 (700 Cottage Street) for \$155,300.00; and that Finesse Builders be awarded the contracts to build Unit 22-04 (1777 Marion Stage Road) for \$151,999.54 and Unit 22-05 (301 Sandy Street) for \$143,700.79. These homes are scheduled to start construction in January 2025 and be completed prior to May 2025. Commissioner Evans made a motion to award the CDBG-NR Construction contracts to Faith Home Improvement & Construction, Inc., to build Unit 22-02 (700 Cottage Street) for \$155,300.00; and Finesse Builders to build Unit 22-04 (1777 Marion Stage Road) for \$151,999.54 and Unit 22-05 (301 Sandy Street) for \$143,700.79. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Commissioner Comments**

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and encouraged them to continue to come. They wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor Kemp wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He encouraged parents and grandparents living inside the city limits to participate in Santa Visits the Kids.

He invited everyone to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration to be held on Monday, January 20 at 12:00 noon in the Heritage Center. It will be hosted by Stop the Violence.

**Announcements**

Wednesday, December 18 – Job Fair and Blood Drive, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Thursday, December 19 – RCCCC Food Van, 9:30 a.m., Morro Street.

Friday, December 20, 12:00 p.m. - Deadline to sign up for Santa Visits the Kids.

Saturday, December 21 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

December 23-27 – Town offices closed for Christmas.

Tuesday, December 24 – Santa Visits the Kids, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1 – Town offices closed for New Years Day.

Saturday, January 11 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Monday, January 20 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration hosted by Stop the Violence, 12:00 noon, Heritage Center.

Tuesday, January 21 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Jennifer H. Larson  
Town Clerk