

Regular Meeting – December 19, 2023

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 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, Heather Seibles, Melvin Ellison, Clarence McNeill, Jr., and Jan Tedder-Rogers. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Jon Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Veronica Hunt, and Kaye Zumbrunnen. Others in attendance included Rev. Charles Cummings, Retired District Court Judge Vanessa Burton, Shirley Thompson, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and Rev. Charles Cummings, Pastor of Fairpoint Free Will Baptist Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Organizational Meeting

Swearing in of Commissioners by Retired District Court Judge Vanessa Burton

Retired District Court Judge Vanessa Burton swore in Commissioners J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, and Jan Tedder-Rogers. A copy of their sworn oaths is hereby incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Comments by newly elected officials Commissioners Heather Seibles, J.J. McCree, and Jan Tedder-Rogers

Commissioners McCree, Seibles, and Tedder-Rogers thanked the citizens for their support and vowed to continue the positive growth of Fairmont.

Set Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner McNeill made a motion to keep the current meeting schedule of the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Select Mayor Pro Tempore.

Commissioner McCree nominated Commissioner Clarence McNeill, Jr. for Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, November 21, 2023
- b. Ordinance 23-247 – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #4
- c. Ordinance 23-248 - NCDEQ American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Project No. VUR-W-ARP-0071 and CS370618-03

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

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business this month.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Shirley Thompson, 601 West Phillips Street

Ms. Shirley Thompson, of 601 West Phillips Street, asked for assistance in repairing her home, which leaks during bad storms.

New Business

Recognition of Service – Town Employees

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut recognized Kaye Zumbrunnen for 5 years of service, Veronica Hunt for 15 years of service and Jenny Larson for 25 years of service. He also acknowledged that Mrs. Larson was named the Lumber River Council of Governments Clerk of the Year.

Mayor Input

Mayor Charles Kemp thanked Town Manager Jerome Chestnut for his hard work in obtaining \$5,119,206.29 in grant funds in the past 15 months.

Commissioners Input

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Manager Input

Mr. Chestnut is thankful for a great staff and supportive board and looks forward to continuing to work hard for Fairmont’s future.

Announcements

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

Monday, December 25 to Friday, December 29 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Monday, January 1, 2024 - Town office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Friday, January 12 – Surviving the Winter Songwriters Concert, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Center. \$5 admission.

Saturday, January 13 – Senior Bingo, 12 noon to 2 p.m., Heritage Center.

Monday, January 15 - Town Hall and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Monday, January 15 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Program, Time TBA, Heritage Center.

Tuesday, January 16 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, January 23 – Youth Summit, 7:00 p.m. Heritage Center.

Tuesday, January 30 – Tornado Tank, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk