

Regular Meeting – February 18, 2025

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Terry Evans, Melvin Ellison, Heather Seibles, and J.J. McCree. Commissioners Clarence McNeill, Jr. 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, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Rev. Cycachee Scott, Lu Lewis, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Reverend Cycachee Scott, Pastor of Deeper Truth Deliverance Center in Orrum, NC, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentations

Proclamation – Memory of Mayor Jeffrey Garth Lewis

Mayor Kemp read a proclamation in memory of former Mayor Jeffrey Garth Lewis, who passed away on January 26, and presented a copy to his wife, Lu Lewis. A signed copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Proclamation – Black History Month

Mayor Kemp read a proclamation in honor of Black History Month. A signed copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Approval of Agenda

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut asked the board to add an Interlocal Agreement with Robeson County for E-911 Services as item D under the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

There was no public comment this month.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, January 21, 2025.
- b. Ordinance 25-269 – Close Main Street for May Day Fun Festival on May 3, 2025
- c. Ordinance 25-270 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #4
- d. Interlocal Agreement – Robeson County E911 Dispatch

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

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

New Business

Resolution 25-01 accepting CDBG-NR Grant# 23-C-4165

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut stated the CDBG-NR grant will be used to reconstruct/rehabilitate 5-7 homes over the next 3 years. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-01 accepting CDBG-NR Grant# 23-C-4165 in the amount of \$950,000 and authorizing Mayor Charles Kemp to execute the grant agreement and funding documents. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Approval of CDBG-NR construction bids

On February 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. bids were received at the Fairmont Town Hall for the rehabilitation of two homes under the 2022 CDBG-NR grant. The Adams Company recommends awarding the bid contract for the rehabilitation of Manthia Thompson's home at 201 Jenkins Street to Oral's Construction Company in the amount of \$77,190.00. The Adams Company recommends awarding the bid contract for the rehabilitation of Annie Pittman's home at 202 Pittman Street to Finesse Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$67,045.40. Commissioner Evans made a motion to award the CDBG-NR rehabilitation bid contracts to Oral's Construction for \$77,190.00 and Finesse Builders, Inc. for \$67,045.40. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Stormwater AIA engineering services

The Town of Fairmont was awarded a \$350,000 stormwater planning grant by NCDEQ in 2023. The town sent out requests for qualifications for engineering services for the AIA project. Town staff reviewed and scored the proposals received and recommend awarding the engineering contract to LKC Engineering and their subconsultant McAdams for the development of a Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory and Assessment plan. Commissioner Evans made a motion to award the engineering services contract to LKC Engineering and their subconsultant McAdams for the Stormwater AIA grant. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Evans was glad to have citizens come to the meeting and observe what is going on in town.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Kemp invited everyone to the 79th job fair tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. He announced the next Town Talk forum will be April 22, 2025.

Manager Comments

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut informed the board he recently attended a zoning conference and learned the NC General Assembly is giving more rights to property owners, so the town will have to update its zoning ordinance again soon.

Announcements

Wednesday, February 19 – Career Expo, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

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

Saturday, March 15 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, March 18 – 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 6:33 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk