

Regular Meeting – January 21, 2025

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 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, Clarence McNeill, Jr., Heather Seibles, and J.J. McCree. Commissioner Jan Tedder-Rogers was 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 Edward Jenkins, William Bethea, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentation

Recognition of MLK Student Unification Honor

Mayor Kemp recognized the following students as recipients of the MLK Student Unification Honor: Rosenwald Elementary School Edward Jenkins, Fairmont Middle School Kemuel Jacobs, and Fairmont High School William Bethea.

Mayor Kemp read a proclamation naming 2025 as “Youth Year”. A signed copy of this proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans 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 Seibles and seconded by Commissioner Ellison, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, December 17, 2024
- b. Ordinance 25-268 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #3

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

Approval of Major Subdivision – Pine Street

The Economic Development Center of the Carolinas has applied for a subdivision to be constructed in the vicinity of Pine Street and North Walnut (R-10 zone). Current plans call for the construction of six duplexes (12 homes), water, sewer and street infrastructure, which will be self-financed. The area falls within the standards of duplexes and cluster developments within the R-10 district. The planned subdivision has been reviewed against subdivision requirements on December 5, 2024, and January 9, 2025, by the Planning Board and received favorable recommendations. The Town Manager and staff do not have any concerns and recommend approval of this planned subdivision. The property is owned by Commissioner J.J. McCree.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the Economic Development Center of the Carolinas subdivision on Pine Street. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with Commissioner McCree abstaining as follows:

For: Commissioners Ellison, Evans, McNeill and Seibles
Absent: Commissioner Tedder-Rogers
Abstained: Commissioner McCree

Grant Award Announcement – CDBG-NR - \$950,000

The Town of Fairmont has been awarded \$950,000 through the Community Development Block Grant – Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The Town of Fairmont was one of 15 communities and five counties to receive funds through this program. The funds will be used to replace and/or rehabilitate 5-7 homes in the Town of Fairmont over the next three years. This is the town’s second CDBG-NR grant. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the CDBG-NR grant in the amount of \$950,000. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and encouraged them to drive home safely in the snow. Commissioner Evans encouraged citizens getting new homes to educate themselves on how to budget to pay for property tax and home insurance.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Kemp invited citizens to a “Town Talk” Citizen Input meeting on Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

Announcements

Friday, January 24 – Surviving the Winter Concert 2, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Center

Tuesday, January 28 – “Town Talk” Citizen Input, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Saturday, February 8 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, February 11 – Pride in Fairmont Ceremony, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

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

Wednesday, February 19 – Job Fair/Blood Drive, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Commissioner Seibles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk