

Town of Fairmont

Board of Commissioners Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

6:00 PM at the Fairmont – South Robeson Heritage Center

The Regular monthly meeting of the Fairmont Board of Commissioners was held Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Fairmont – South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Kemp Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, Clarence McNeill, Jr., Heather Seibles, J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, and Jan Tedder - Rogers. Commissioner Melvin Ellison was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Hattie McNair standing in for Bishop J.J. Moultrie.

Call to Order and Invocation:

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Hattie McNair gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentation:

Mayor Kemp recognized Linda Bethea, Phelecia Lewis, and Pam Smith for volunteering to help with food/refreshments at senior bingo and town employee luncheons.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion – Commissioner Evans

Seconded – Commissioner McNeill

Vote: 5 – 0 **(APPROVED)**

Public Comments Period/Citizens Appearance:

Henry Biernacki, 405 Mitchell St. Fairmont, NC.

Mr. Biernacki expressed concerns with the salary increase percentage amount already approved for fiscal year 2024 – 2025. He stated the town should offer a contract for certain positions to retain employees. He also stated he is proud to live in Fairmont. He expressed concerns over the Streetscape project and costs involved. Mr. Biernacki also offered his labor to the town, free of charge.

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion – Commissioner Evans

Seconded – Commissioner Tedder - Rogers

Vote: 5 – 0 **(APPROVED)**

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

Selection of Contractor for Waste Collection (trash / limbs & leaves)

Mr. Chestnut presented to the Council the following: On June 27, 2024, eight contractors were solicited via mail, electronic (E-Mail) and telephone. Only four contractors responded. Only one contractor met the deadline. After the bid opening date, one contractor called and stated they would be present at this meeting. That contractor was not present. The only qualified bid was Waste Management.

The bid package from Waste Management was not opened on the bid close date and remained sealed as of the date of this council meeting.

Commissioner Tedder - Rogers made a motion to open the bid from Waste Management.

Motion – Commissioner Tedder - Rogers

Seconded – Commissioner Seibles

During discussion Mr. Chestnut suggested the Council not open the bid packet. Since Waste Management’s current contract ends on 8-1-2024. He further stated if we re - advertise for bids, the town does not have a company on call who would be able to provide the services currently available to citizens. He suggested the Board enter into direct negotiations with Waste Management and negotiate the current rates.

Commissioner Tedder Rogers Rescinded her motion to open the bid from Waste Management.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to negotiate directly with Waste Management the current rates for services.

Motion – Commissioner Evans

Seconded – Commissioner Tedder - Rogers

Vote: 5 – 0 **(APPROVED)**

STRAP (Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program) Award Announcement

The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program provides funds to organizations working on projects that help reduce flooding, restore streams, and protect the integrity of drainage infrastructure across North Carolina’s waterways.

Town of Fairmont applied for grant assistance through the program on February 29, 2024. The submitted application covered stream debris removal of the section of Old Field Swamp from HWY 130/Cottage Street to Leesville Road. This application also requested funds for Sediment Removal for the Pittman Mill Canal that runs from Church St. through town and through the Old Field Community.

It was announced on June 27, 2024, that the Town of Fairmont was one of 15 entities that received funding for Sediment Removal under the STRAP Program. The Town of Fairmont will receive funds in the amount of \$150,000 for sediment removal of the Pittman Mill Canal.

The town's next step is to submit an updated scope of work and a pre-award meeting. Once completed the Division of Soil and Water Conservation will send the Town a STRAP Contract.

Regional Wastewater Agreement Amendment

The Town of Fairmont serves as a regional provider of wastewater services for the towns of Fairmont, Proctorville, Fair Bluff, Cerro Gordo, and Boardman. These towns have been operating under an interlocal agreement since 2010.

Mr. Chestnut is requesting a Special Called Meeting where this topic and any decisions made are the focus of this meeting. No date has been set.

Also, the Lumber River Council of Governments will hold a meeting on July 24, 2024, to discuss the Regional Wastewater System. Each Councilmember was invited and encouraged to attend. Mayor Pro-tempore Clarence McNeill and Commissioner Terry Evans committed to attending.

Mayor, Board of Commissioners, and Town Manager

Mayor Kemp thanked citizens for their participation in the town meetings.

Mayor Pro-Tempore McNeill thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Evans clarified public comment rules, and his position on salary increases.

Commissioner McCree had no comment.

Commissioner Seibles thanked the citizens for attending and supporting the town in a positive way.

Commissioner Tedder – Rogers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Executive / Closed Session

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel per N.C.G.S. 143-318-11 (a)(6) and consult with an attorney retained by the board to preserve the attorney - client privilege between the attorney and Board of Commissioners for the Town of Fairmont per N.C.G.S. 143-318-11 (a)(3).

Motion – Commissioner Seibles

Seconded – Commissioner Evans

Vote: 5 – 0 **(APPROVED)**

The Council went into closed session at 6:39pm.

The Council returned at 6:50pm.

The Town Attorney agreed to record the closed session minutes for the Clerk.

Community Announcements:

Each Week, Monday - Thursday, Chair Aerobics, 10am – 11am, Heritage Center

Saturday, July 20, 2024 – Senior Bingo, 12noon – 2pm, Heritage Center

Saturday, August 17, 2024 – Senior Bingo, 12noon – 2pm, Heritage Center

Tuesday, August 20, 2023 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6pm, Heritage Center

I. **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion – Commissioner Evans

Seconded – Commissioner Seibles

Vote: 5 – 0 **(APPROVED)**

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Rodney A. Cain