

Budget Workshop – June 11, 2024

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 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, Melvin Ellison, Heather Seibles and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Commissioner Jan Tedder-Rogers was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Deputy Clerk Rodney Cain, and Police Chief Jonathan Edwards.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget update

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut presented the following budget updates:

- Payroll cost of living will stay the same at 2.5% for all employees. In December, town staff will look at raising wages for the lowest paid employees in January.
- Property Tax assessed value has increased to \$140,232,221 and the revenue for taxes will be updated to \$941,800 with a 92% collection rate. The tax rate of \$0.73 per hundred-dollar valuation remains unchanged.
- Water/Sewer minimum usage of 1,000 gallons will stay the same. Increasing the minimum to 1,500 gallons would result in a deficit of \$28,200 and increasing it to 2,000 would result in a deficit of \$46,355.
- Public Works - \$366,000 has been requested through U. S. Congressman Rouzer to purchase new vehicles.
- Street Repair and Water/Sewer Infrastructure – Several grants have been applied for and appropriations requested from the N.C. General Assembly.
- Fire Department budget remains the same except for the possibility of adding a part time position in the future.
- Sanitation bids for trash and limbs/leaves pickup will go out this week and three companies have shown interest so far.
- Youth Center funding has been requested from the N.C. General Assembly. Staffing costs are a concern. R.O.A.R. grant funds will be used for youth activities.
- Code Enforcement – will work with the county on possible foreclosures.
- Old Field Drainage issues – a catch basin will be installed on Stafford Street this month and a \$1 million grant is pending for dredging the canal.
- Old Library – consider renting/leasing to generate revenue.
- Proctorville outstanding sewer debt should be paid in July or August.

Adjournment

Mayor Kemp announced that the budget public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk