

Regular Meeting – May 21, 2024

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Terry Evans, Clarence McNeill, Jr., Heather Seibles, and Jan Tedder-Rogers. Commissioners Melvin Ellison and J.J. McCree were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and UNCP Intern Jeremy Hunt. Others in attendance included Pastor Cole Dellinger, Mary Jernigan, Henry Bernacki, Nate Thompson, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Cole Dellinger of Long Branch Baptist Church gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tedder-Rogers made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor's Presentation – Stop the Violence Organization

Mayor Charles Kemp presented a plaque of appreciation to Lashawna Watson-Baker and members of the Stop the Violence Organization for helping the youth and downtrodden.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Mary Jernigan

Ms. Mary Jernigan read a letter on behalf of Phillip Wall, who was unable to attend the meeting. The letter from Mr. Wall praised the town employees but criticized the board for ignoring citizens and asked for their resignations and to cancel the apartment complex project immediately.

Nate Thompson, PO Box 960, Fairmont

Mr. Nate Thompson asked the board to address abandoned and dilapidated housing.

Henry Bernacki, 405 Mitchell Street

Mr. Henry Bernacki is concerned about the Town of Proctorville and the \$113,000 they owe the Town of Fairmont for sewer treatment.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, April 16, 2024.
- b. Approval of Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates in the amount of \$21,500.

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

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

New Business

Planning Board member appointment

Mr. Fitzhugh Sealey has decided not to seek another appointment to the Planning Board. Commissioner Tedder-Rogers nominated Andy Grimsley for the Planning Board with a three-year term expiring in May 2027. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and asked that nominations be closed. The appointment was unanimously approved.

Town Manager updates

Town Manager Jerome Chestnut informed the board that the town has been removed from the Unit Assistance List by the Local Government Commission. The town is still on the distressed utilities list.

Mr. Chestnut introduced UNCP Intern Jeremy Hunt who will be working on community engagement this summer.

Commissioner Input

The board thanked the citizens for coming.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp announced the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget will be sent out Friday and the first budget workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

He announced there will be a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27 at 12:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center and that the quarterly Town Employee Luncheon will be Wednesday, May 29 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Announcements

Wednesday, May 22 – FHS Senior Job Fair, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Monday, May 27 – Town offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day Ceremony, 12:00 noon, Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Tuesday, May 28 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Wednesday, May 29 – Town Employee Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Fire Hall.

Tuesday, June 4 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Workshop (if needed), 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Friday, June 7 – Last day of school.

Tuesday, June 11 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Workshop (if needed), 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Friday, June 14 – Fairmont High School graduation.

Saturday, June 15 – Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Tuesday, June 18 - Regular Town Board meeting and Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Public Hearing, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Wednesday, June 19 – Town offices closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Thursday, June 27 – Special Board meeting to adopt Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget and Amended Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner McNeill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk