



**Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont  
Meeting  
May 17th, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 7:30 p.m. on May 17, 2016. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor  
W. T. Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Leon Mooring, Alderman  
Joyce C. Reid, Alderwoman  
Annie Lewis, Alderwoman  
Joyce M. Artis, Alderwoman

Also, in attendance were Interim Town Administrator Barbara Aycock, Town Clerk Marti Jones, Finance Officer Shameshia Fennell, Deputy Clerk Shannon Daly, and Chief Paul Moats.

Absent was Alderman Al Lewis and Public Works Director Tim Howell

**Quorum Present: YES**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Flowers gave the invocation. Alderwoman Annie Lewis led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

**Minutes and Agenda**

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Leon Mooring made a motion to accept the agenda as is. Alderwoman Annie Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 board meeting. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion. Alderwoman Artis stated that letter C of the minutes on page 4 states that we are receiving a Loan and Grant, so how much of this would we have to pay back? Mr. McAllister stated this was a Grant and that the title of it is Loan and Grant. Also, Alderwoman Artis stated that in letter D what was the status of the application of the Clean Water Act? Mayor Flowers stated that

when we get the minutes approved, we will then answer the questions. Alderwoman Artis stated that on page 7 she knew it was an oversight, but under Enforcements that “Alderwoman reported” should say Alderwoman Artis reported. Shannon Daly, Deputy Clerk stated she had already updated the minutes. The minutes were approved and passed unanimously. Mayor Flowers asked Alderwoman Artis what her question was on page 4 under letter C. Alderwoman Artis stated she wanted to know the status of the Grant. Mayor Flowers asked if that was under Letter C and it was clarified it was under Letter D. Mr. McAllister said it was submitted near the end of April and we probably would not hear anything from it until later next month. Alderwoman Artis stated why you are up there that Alderman Lewis asked last month when were we going to start on the Norwayne Lift Station. Mr. McAllister responded by saying we were waiting on some proposals. Mr. McAllister stated there may be a new wrinkle which he would know more about when he meets with the state on Thursday and also a respond back from the DEQ. Mayor Flowers asked if there were any other questions to the actions that were taken last meeting. No comments or discussion.

#### **Announcements**

- 1) Mrs. Aycock will be attending ECU Commerce Fellows Scholarship Program on May 11<sup>th</sup>, in June, July (on site visits) August 31, Sept 21, October 26, Nov 26, and December 7<sup>th</sup> graduation.**
- 2) June 7<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting at 5:30pm**

Mayor Flowers stated he would like to put a thought on the table and we could come back to it. Item # 2 is a budget meeting for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and he would like to ask that we adjourn this meeting until this time and that will become an extension of this meeting rather than having to open up a whole new meeting. This is just a procedural thing to get there without having to give notice and everything else. He stated he would remind the Board again that is what we prefer doing. Mayor Flowers asked for any other questions or comments. Alderwoman Artis asked when the paving project on Goldsboro Street would start. Mrs. Aycock stated they called Mr. Howell today and it will probably be next week. Alderwoman Artis states she knew we were concerned with the cost of the project and Mrs. Aycock replied we had checked with others and they were a whole lot higher. Alderwoman Artis asked if the cost was still the \$15,000 and Mrs. Aycock replied yes, and the others were as high as \$5,000 more. Mayor Flowers stated that those questions could be held until after we have those reports at the end if you would like to hold them and he thinks it would flow better if when public works gave their reports we asked questions like this.

#### **Public Comments**

**Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for Public Comments**

No Public Comments

**Mayor Flowers closed the meeting for Public Comments**

## Public Hearing

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to open the meeting for a Public Hearing to discuss the closing of North and South Street railroad crossings. Alderman Leon Mooring made a motion to open the public hearing. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nancy Hart with the Dept. of Transportation Railroad Division stated they have been meeting with Mrs. Aycock about issues with tractor trailers getting stuck on the railroad crossings and as time goes on it begins to actually do damage to the track itself. She stated besides the signs for trucks not to cross, there is physically nothing else they can do and there is no way to make those crossings better.

She stated they have met with Mrs. Aycock and asked what else could be done in exchange for the crossing. She stated they could pay for the closing of the two crossings and pay for the ripping up of all of the asphalt and also re grass the area to make it look like there never was a crossing. Also, CSX is offering \$10,000 per crossing closure of the railroad and the DOT is offering \$7,500 per crossing closure as a match. However there are some stipulations because of the type of funding that is being used and what it is being used for. One of the things it can be used for is anything that has to do with traffic safety including purchases of new police vehicles, Jaws of Life, radar guns, or anything like that. The money in total of \$35,000 could be put into really good use. She stated there have been quite a few accidents recently on the railroad crossings at South St. There was one Feb 2015 and another in April of 2016. Also, the chief pulled a tractor trailer off of it today. She stated the Railroad is seeing quite a few of these accidents lately, at least every 4-6 weeks.

Due to this she stated we would like for the Board to consider our offer for the closing of the two crossings and to the financial funding we would give to close these two crossings and also any landscaping work.

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Hart could we assume by the presentation that this is a recommendation of the DOT for safety purposes. Mrs. Hart replies yes it is a recommendation for safety purposes. Every time you have someone stuck on these crossings you have the potential for a collision. She states we have been fortunate with the number of times we have had people stuck on these crossings that there has not been anymore collisions. She states that anytime you have a train vehicular collision that you are running the risk of a train derailment with whatever is on the train and being these crossings are right in Town the DOT recommends that these crossings be closed.

Mayor Flowers asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board first and then from the audience.

Mr. Gene Fields owner of House of Furniture on Sycamore St. stated he can understand where the DOT is coming from and before the meeting he saw the chief assisting with a tractor trailer on the crossing, however that same crossing has been in business for a number of years and there are other crossings down Highway 117 that have high embanks and that one particular truck that was trying to cross got stuck because it had a low bed. He stated his feeling was that if those two crossings are closed that Fremont has been moving in such a positive direction and to him that is a negative direction. It not only causes people to or lessens people the opportunity to move back and forth thru traffic that we have had to Joyner's or other places downtown. He stated that he uses that

South Street crossing a lot and we have trucks that travel over it a lot. He stated that his feeling is that is a trucker error and is the responsibility of the truck driver. And as far as signs he doesn't see that the signs are enough to keep them from going across. He thinks closing it is not the right direction and this is just his opinion. He said he has been in business here for 40 years in the Town as a merchant and we are moving in a positive direction and he wants to keep us staying that way. He states he understands the safety issue and agrees with that, but sometimes when people are driving vehicles that doesn't mean they are going to be safe regardless if they are crossing a railroad track or driving up and down a highway, so safety is up to the person that is behind the wheel. He stated he would like for the Board to reconsider or find an alternative to closing the railroad crossings.

Isaac Artis, 507 E. Lee St. He states speaking as a truck driver there are one or two signs coming into town that says no trucks and for a truck driver you know that means no trucks, so in essence there are not enough signs coming back on the east side of town coming across those really steep tracks and that is where the out of town truckers get themselves into trouble. He stated he does not know how to direct the trucks only if you are coming up off of 222 immediately across the railroad tracks there is a sign that says no thru trucks, but coming east heading west out of Eureka coming into town a lot of them turn right and then make a left and find themselves over those steep railroad crossings that they are unfamiliar with. He believes more signs would help the out of town truckers. But speaking as a truck driver the no thru truck signs mean that and you will get yourself into trouble.

John Joyner, operator of Joyner's Supermarket, states the he too is concerned about the safety, but one thing that he would ask is that he remembered that several years ago CSX had come in wanting more closings than this including Wayne St and South St. and if we deal with closings these how do we know they will not come back and want to close more like Wayne St. Also when they have the festivals and parades in Town people have to access from South St. He stated these are his two concerns, closing two now and in five years wanting to close five more.

Mayor Flowers stated he could only address the last part of it. He stated they can want everything that they want but this Board has to approve the action, and I think the concern would be is the Board representing the Town in their decisions if they consider additional crossings. He stated 2 other issues have been raised to him as concerns and that is that we are fortunate there has not been a train close by when somebody got stuck. If there was we are not talking about automobile accidents, we are talking about a derailment, and is that a possibility and if it is a possibility what would be the ramifications of a derailment as close as homes and businesses are to the railroad track. And the other one is that when they get stuck can anyone be sure that it is not affecting the stability of the railroad itself. If those rails get hung up and move, there again is the possibility of a derailment. He states he has lived here all of his life and to his knowledge he is aware of two cars getting hit by a train and the rest is the tractor trailers getting stuck on North and South St. and ironically we have had 1 or 2 get stuck in the last 6 weeks. Does it pose a problem of potential abuse or derailment and that would be a major issue if that was to occur. One occurred in Lucama 15-20 years ago and they were fortunate the houses were far enough away the train didn't hit them.

Mayor Flowers asked if anyone had any questions or comments to make to Mr. Joyner.

Mr. Fields stated he didn't have a comment for John but he has seen some trucks get stuck on Carolina Street and that is even a more level area but it still has to do with the trucks having access to go in that direction.

Mayor Flowers stated he doesn't think there is any question there are two major issues here. One is why are the trucks off of the main road and what do we do about that, and how do we address that and the other issue is the issue on hand. Is closing these two streets crossings a viable option to solve part of the problems? That is the purpose of the public hearing is to have public dialogue.

Alderwoman Artis states, she would like to ask Chief Moats in the last meeting he said that while he has been on duty that he has seen at least 15 trucks that have been stuck on the railroad. Chief Moats states that is correct. Alderwoman Artis stated Chief Moats has to deal with the trucks plus the length of time it takes to get the truck off of the railroad.

Chief Moats stated to clarify, the type of trucks that are getting stuck are your normal tractor trailers. He states the things that are getting stuck on the tracks are the landing gear. He states it is the clearance. It doesn't matter what kind of trailer it is the landing gear is a certain height and by the time that truck gets over one side and the trailer is behind it the landing gear gets stuck and they are not coming off. They are stuck there whether or not their nose is stuck in traffic or not. He states we have been fortunate that a driver has not seen a train coming and decide they wanted to beat it and then get stuck. He states that primarily the reasons that we are talking about these two crossings is because this is where primarily all of our trucks are getting stuck or where accidents have occurred. This is from data that we have compiled on these two crossings, it's not just that we picked these two crossings to close and make a little bit of money off of them. He states that is not it at all. We have compiled enough data to prove that we would be closing these two crossings because of safety issues. He states we have 8 crossings in Fremont and only one is protected, so there is 7 potential crash sites, so minimizing that by 2 is going to increase the safety of the Town.

Mr. Fields states what is going to increase the trucks from coming in the other direction? Chief Moats states we can work on the redirection of the trucks, but it is the truck driver's decision to drive over the tracks. He states we have to deal with those decisions and unfortunately when they get stuck we have to call CSX and have all train traffic stopped and let them know we have a tractor trailer stuck on the tracks. We have to call a big wrecker that comes out of Goldsboro and that's at least 25-30 min eta, and this is after the truck driver has already called his neighbor down the road to try and pull him off the tracks with his pickup truck. He states they are there approximately an hour to an hour and a half, depending on how long it takes the wrecker to get here. He states after the wrecker pulls them off he has to check the tracks or a CSX member comes down and inspects the tracks before a train can proceed, because we have to make sure the landing gear did not affect the tracks. He states some of the drivers know the crossings are steep so they speed up and the landing gear strikes the tracks harder messing up the tracks.

Mr. Fields ask what about more signs?

Chief Moats states that this isn't going to prevent the truck driver from going over the crossings because that is what they are doing now.

Mrs. Horne with CSX states that they have had this problem with other municipalities that have had really dominant signage but the drivers listen to their GPS or Garmin and it leads them over the crossings even though the signs are there.

Chief Moats stated he has had some drivers to tell him they saw the sign but still thought they could make it and of course they got stuck. He states we have been fortunate.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith asks about placing more signs.

Chief Moats responded that we do have signs up and most of the time it is drivers from out of Town that don't realize the low clearance even with the signs.

Mr. Fields states that there are other crossings that are high and closing these two are going to send the traffic to those and it isn't going to solve the problem. He states more signs and calling companies and talking to them about it would help.

Alderman Artis states Mr. Fields stated there was some that were still high and are they high enough for the trucks to get stuck?

Chief Moats states it is possible.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith asked how many trucks have been stuck on South St.

Chief Moats stated from memory we have not had as many as we have had on North St and today was the first one he can remember in at least a year.

Mrs. Horne stated there has been two accidents on South St in the last year.

Chief Moats stated there actually have been three that one has not been reported.

Alderman Artis asks Mrs. Horne is there a reason that the other crossings are not protected?

Mrs. Horne responded that CSX has been out here before and have had projects turned down by the Town and the reason is that when you do a signal project typically the municipality pays 10% of the cost of the project and the sticking thing is that the Town has to pick up 50% of the yearly maintenance and that's why the only one is at Main St because it is a state road. She stated there are other factors that come into play maybe the amount of accidents that have occurred at a crossing and that is why you may see the gate crossings at other places and they only have a small amount of funding for the crossings per year so they go down the investigative index. She stated the crossing on South Street probably would have been on the list but since they had been turned down before they wouldn't come out again unless there was an increase in the accidents at that crossing.

Mayor Flowers asked if there were any other comments or questions.

Alderman Artis asks the business owners if their main concern was the loss of business if the crossings were closed.

Mr. Fields said yes that was part of his concern and also for the people of the Town of Fremont to be able to move freely. He thinks it would be an inconvenience to the people as well as increase in traffic.

Mrs. Horne added that each crossing in town is less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile apart so there are many options to cross the railroad.

Mayor Flowers asked the Board if there was a motion to close the public hearing on the closing of North and South St railroad crossings. Alderman Joyce Artis made a motion to close the public hearing on the closing of North and South St. railroad crossings. Motion seconded by Alderman Annie Lewis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing Closed per Mayor Flowers**

**Speakers**

1) Stephen Howell (Cremation Grave Sites)

Mr. Howell is from Shackleford Howell Funeral Home in Fremont and Howell Cremation and Funeral Home in Goldsboro. He states lately he has had a lot of people inquire about cremations. He states that in Goldsboro about 50% of his business is cremation now. He recently had someone inquire about a cremation site in Fremont, instead of having to buy a whole burial plot. That is why he is here tonight to see about the possibility of doing what a lot of Towns are doing and that is with cemeteries that have burial plots along the outside of roads. A lot of times there may not be enough room to bury another casket but there may be enough room to bury an urn because you are not really taking up a lot of space, but at the same time it may be a way for the Town to have revenue and also help the citizens. He just wanted to see if this was something the Board could look at. He asked if anyone knew the size of a Town lot right now. Mrs. Aycock said 4X8 she thinks. Mr. Howell said for example with a cremation, the lot could be 3X3 and that would still give enough room to bury the urn or urn vault.

Currently, you must buy at least two lots so you are looking at \$1400 and he said to be honest a lot of citizens today do not have as much insurance as they used to have and having to pay \$1400 at one time and if they only need one lot it is really a burden on the family members. Then if they are not a citizen of Fremont they are looking at \$2800. He states he knows that a lot of times that Fremont does not want a lot of outside people coming in but he states since the Pikeville Cemetery has now expanded and you have Kenly cemetery, Eureka Cemetery and Goldsboro Cemetery he believes we are not going to have a lot of people that are going to try and utilize the Fremont Cemetery because they can go to one of the others for a cheaper rate and that is a factor also because of what the lots are costing.

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Aycock if she had any comments.

Mrs. Aycock stated that it is like Mr. Howell said we have had several calls and Marti handles the cemetery, but people are wanting cremation now and 50% of the people are going towards cremation now because of the cost of the funeral and stuff. She stated we have a section at Elmwood that we think we can mark off for cremation lots instead of selling a whole lot, and we have asked Mr. Howell to come in and explain this to the Board of something we can do.

Mr. Howell states that if you decide that this is only for cremation burial that you can only use flat markers, which is normally a 2 foot by 1 foot. He states that they sell those for around \$300 which is very economical and at the same time you are not taking up space and easy to cut grass around and also if you were to go to a corner lot you wouldn't have to worry about cars hitting them. He states now this is just what other cemeteries are doing and to be honest this is the same issue we are having with babies too. He states he realizes that we do not have a lot of infant deaths but occasionally when you do you may only need a 2 to 3 foot space, but at the same time a family having to come up with \$1400 to pay to have their infant a space is just a lot of money, and in this situation he called Marti about it about a month ago and the family members because we did not have this in place ended up having to go to Kenly Cemetery and the lot was only \$600, whether you are a resident or not. The family did have to buy a whole lot but they do allow up to two urns per lot and the price was a whole lot cheaper. He stated he knows a lot of times the funeral homes would buy the lots but the Town really does not like that because it is a mixture of if the people are really residents but we are just trying to help

out the people in their time of need. He stated a lot of these times with infants and so forth a lot of this is done as a curtesy, and they don't charge full price for the service because of the situation.

Mayor Flowers stated he believed Mr. McAllister had done some work on this and asked Mr. McAllister if he wanted to comment on any of this.

Mr. McAllister stated Mr. Howell had pretty much echoed what he had come up with. He gave out a drawing of the cemetery and he stated the little squares at center drive are 3X3 ft squares with 3 ft in between them and those are very good because there are a lot of places where you can't put a full sized lot but you can put those in that area and that is more revenue for the Town. He states he has done some cemetery maps and he can add that to them and it's really up to the Board. He stated him and Mrs. Barbara had come up with a price of \$300-\$500 per lot.

Mayor Flowers stated that he knows there are State Laws that are involved in the burial procedure. He asked Mr. Howell were there any State Laws about the size of a lot.

Mr. Howell responded the only thing is that whatever is being buried the urn, casket etc. has to be at least 18 inches underground. He states the next question would be for Fremont is if an outer burial container is required that is in the ordinance for the Town of Fremont so the next question would be would the Town require an urn vault or could the family members or the funeral home just bury the urn in the ground? He states that is always a touchy situation. He states a lot of cemeteries like Wayne Memorial Park or Evergreen Cemetery do require an out of burial container even though it is an urn. He states this just needs to be defined because people do ask that all of the time.

Mayor Flowers asks are these the Town's decision and Mr. Howell responded yes they are.

Mr. McAllister states the biggest reason for the vault is to keep the graves from caving in. Mayor Flowers asks if anyone has any questions that they care to ask?

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith stated that we had one a few years ago where a lady had died and her daughter had her cremated because they didn't have a lot of money and he came up with the idea of putting a piece of PVC pipe and putting the ashes in it and putting a cap on each end of it.

Mr. McAllister states if you would put a concrete slab over that then it would be fine. He said the biggest concern was if you are putting weight on it mowing grass or anything then you would need something over it.

Mayor Flowers stated unless there was some objections he would refer this to Mrs. Aycock and come back with some proposal for us to consider at the next meeting or the meeting after next to look at plots or cremation lots. He asks if there were any objections to that.

Alderman Mooring states that he needs some clarification. He asks if the urn has to be underground 18" and Mr. Howell responded yes and whether that is the urn or the urn vault depending on what the Town requires. Alderman Mooring states the urn would be enclosed by the urn vault?

Mayor Flowers states yes it would be just like a coffin.

Alderman Mooring states then you would put a concrete slab over that and Mr. McAllister states no, not if you were using an urn vault.



Mr. Howell stated that in a lot of Towns that cemeteries require an urn vault they suggest that the people just put the ashes in the urn vault and not the urn to save them money from buying both.

Mayor Flowers stated these are the things that Mrs. Aycock can look at with assistance and report back to the Board in the next 60 days or so due to the budget coming up and then we can be prepared to ask more questions. He thanked Mr. Howell for his assistance.

Mayor Flowers asked for Public Works Employee Jeff Hill to come to the front for Alderman Mooring to make a presentation representing the rest of the Board.

Alderman Mooring stated Ladies and Gentleman the Town of Fremont wish to recognize Mr. Jeff Hill and present him with this plaque that reads "The Town of Fremont presented to Jeff Hill for his heroic lifesaving actions by W. Darron Flowers, Mayor, and Barbara Aycock, Town Administrator, presented on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2016.

Mayor Flowers ask for a motion to accept the presentation of the plaque to Jeff Hill.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made a motion to accept the presentation of the plaque to Jeff Hill. Motion seconded by Alderwoman Annie Lewis. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Hill stated a guy had gotten shot and he was laying in the road bleeding bad and he cut his shirt off and applied pressure to his wounds to stop the bleeding until rescue arrived. Mr. Hill shook hands with all of the Board members.

Mrs. Aycock stated we are very proud of Mr. Hill

### **Action Items**

#### **C) East Pointe-Ms. Vickie Yelverton**

Ms. Yelverton states she is the CEO of Yelverton Enrichments Services of Raleigh, NC. And also with her is Natasha Lewis, residential director for all of their residential programs and also Dawn Alston the HR Coordinator who handles the training, hiring, and the credentialing of all of the residential staff. She states that last week they met with Mrs. Aycock and presented her with some information they had received from East Pointe in regards to being selected to open a residential facility. She stated they have been in business providing human health services since 2006 and are also internationally accredited. They have been providing residential treatment since 2011. They provide different levels of treatment. They have a Level 1 home in Hookerton, NC. She stated they started off doing adult residential treatment in a double wide trailer and now have 4 Level 3 facilities 2 male homes and 2 female homes in the Wake County area. They were looking for an area in Wayne County and came across a property in Fremont at 103 N Pine Street and they have been in communication with Mr. Howell in regards to allowing them to lease the home and then meet with the Board tonight to get the opportunity to seek the approval to provide their services.

Mayor Flowers asked if they would talk about the difference between a Level 1 and a Level 3 facility and also the background of the clients that they would be serving.

Ms. Yelverton states the Level 1 home is typically where you have a difference in staff ratios. Here you have your 1 on 1pt to staff ratio meaning 1 staff to 1 consumer on up to 3 consumers. Level 2 the staff ration is usually 1:1 or even a family setting where you may have foster parents. Level 3 you have 2 staff on each shift around the clock and they

have wait staff. The requirements here are they have to be credentialed with background checks performed on all of the employees, they are employees they are not contractors. They also have a licensed clinician that sees the consumers every week for 4 hours a week. They have a residential manager who is typically a bachelor level degree so they serve as the residential manager as well as the qualified professional for the home and they also have an Assistant Manager who is typically an Associate Level professional. Then they have an around the clock director of staff. So for the home with about 4 beds there will be about 16-20 employees working all of the shifts required. Mayor Flowers asked if the consumers were ambulatory.

Ms. Yelverton states most of them are and the house they were looking at they would make sure could accommodate someone if they had a non-ambulatory need.

Mayor Flowers stated that his major concern would be parking with the funeral home across the street, and also the school and they use that street for loading and unloading the buses.

Ms. Yelverton stated they have to meet a 4 car standard parking and they do believe the residence has enough room to accommodate that.

Alderman Artis asked if the clients were able to come and go as they pleased.

Ms. Yelverton stated that most of them were minors under the age of 18 and they are provided with around the clock supervision unless they are at school, and some may have jobs and that is the only time around the clock supervision is not offered.

Some of these children are in DSS custody or the foster care system and don't have any families. Some are being reunited with their families so they do involvement trainings with the parents.

Mayor Flowers asked if 4 is the number that would be accommodating right now.

Ms. Yelverton said they have a letter of support for 4 but the house could accommodate more but they want to get acclimated first to just 4 and also make sure they have enough staff for the 4.

Mayor Flowers stated the present zoning ordinance allows for 6 with one parking space per room and this falls into the ordinance at present time. He ask Mrs. Aycock if the Board needed to do anything.

Mrs. Aycock stated she could issue them a zoning permit and she just wanted Ms. Yelverton to come and speak to the Board and introduce herself and explain what they are going to be doing there.

Alderman Mooring states he doesn't know anything about this and what kind of children are we talking about.

Ms. Lewis states that they serve a lot of different types of behavior problems with some having severe behavioral problems and some don't. It just depends on the type of environment they came from. Some are because they don't want to go to school and some they just don't get along with their parents or people in their community. Their program is only designed for 3-6 months so they don't keep them long term. During this time they work with them on their behavior so after that 3-6 months they can go to a lower level of care or they can go back home. They are screened prior to coming into the program and look at the behaviors they had and try to identify how to help them and where to place them. There will be 2 staff per shift and they are required to go to school or an alternative program. They push for therapy, education and reunification with their families. They will have meetings with the schools and are involved in all aspects and

support them in any way. Age ranges from 13-18 years old but want to go a little younger.

Mayor Flowers asked if they were apprehensive at all with the playground right behind them and Ms. Yelverton stated no not at all.

Mayor Flowers stated he understood they have staff that would take care of watching them. He stated this was just to inform the Board of what they wanted to offer.

Alderwoman Artis asked if they were allowed to go out into the neighborhoods or stores and Ms. Yelverton stated not unsupervised.

Chief Moats asked from a law enforcement stand point when they were supposed to intervene and were they trained to handle it without law enforcement. Ms. Yelverton stated if they run away for more than 15 mins they call for assistance but they also help in looking for them.

Chief Moats states he also wants to interact with the kids in a positive way and a chance for them to go by and speak to them and let them know they are there to help them.

Mrs. Shameshia Fennell asked what the actual success rate was for these children in increasing or decreasing their behaviors for them to get back into their homes.

Ms. Lewis stated about 75% and it depends on the type of success which could be not fighting, not stealing many different levels.

Ms. Lewis gave an example of child they had and how they changed his life and the man he turned out to be.

Mayor Flowers asked for verification which children were the most difficult Level 1 or Level 3?

Ms. Yelverton stated Level 3 and that is what we are getting here.

Mr. Stephen Howell stated that East Point has rented from them in Goldsboro and he has furnished homes for them and he feels a lot of these kids are missing things at home and he has seen how East Point has helped these families and the wonderful things he has seen them do for these children and he did not mind leasing to them at all.

#### **A) CSX Crossing**

Mayor Flowers stated that we have had a Public Hearing and is the Board ready to take action or would the Board like to come back to this last.

#### **B) Auditor Contract/Andrew Harris**

Mayor Flowers stated the contract was basically the same as last year with the same price and we have had a good relationship with him and our staff. He states we can have a motion and then a discussion or a discussion and then a motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith made a motion to accept the contract that has been presented by Andrew Harris. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **D) Budget Amendments 25, 26, 27, and 28**

Mayor Flowers stated this was a monthly event to keep our budget current. He asked for a motion to accept all of the Amendments in one motion.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve all of the Amendments. Motion seconded by Alderwoman Reid. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

## Reports

Mrs. Fennell asked if there were any questions on the electric, water, sewer or garbage reports. If not she stated she would like to take your attention to the financial summary report. She stated the Mayor brought up a very important question as far as where we are in spending and this report lays it out for you as far as what we have brought in as to what we have spent.

**Cash Trending:** In April there was a drop due to the loans coming out. Every month we make a payment on the truck Tim drives plus the Clean Water loan.

No questions asked.

### **Tim Howell, Public Works**

Mr. Howell not present.

### **Chief Moats**

Chief Moats stated the police department has had nothing major to report besides daily duties and activities. He stated they do have their body cameras up and running with the software so all officers should be wearing them on certain calls and that's to protect the officers and the Town from any complaints.

Mayor Flowers asked how they are going to monitor those cameras and are they going to leave them on all the time.

Chief Moats answered no sir they are personally activated and anytime they get a call that requires a recording like a domestic or a fight they will activate the cameras. He stated they will have a policy in place for the officers for the utilization and the upkeep of these cameras. Anytime they interact with anyone that is involving suspicious activity or for identification purposes they will have these cameras on and running. He states they are unable to delete the videos and once they hook them up to our data base the videos automatically download and anything that is not marked as a criminal case will be purged in about 30 days. Nothing is deleted without his authorization after those 30 days.

Mayor Flowers asked if anyone else in the county has the cameras and Chief Moats stated the county uses them they are testing, but we are one of the few that are fully operational. Each full time officer has one and they haven't decided yet about the part time officers because of the few hours they work. Also, they were only budgeted for a few cameras through the grant they received which was 100% grant.

Mrs. Aycock asked Chief Moats to inform the Board of the Grant he applied for but did not get.

Chief Moats stated they applied for a two part grant. The first part was equipment upgrades in the amount of \$7,000. It was 100% grant and they were approved for that one, however they did submit for approximately a \$40,000 grant which was also a 100% grant for upgrading their radio systems which upgrading these is out of their control because the county 911 system, county agencies and police dept. are all upgrading their radio systems and we have to follow suit or he states they won't be talking to anyone. He states the upgrade of these systems are rather expensive and without some type of financial aid this is going to be a lot. It is somewhere around \$35,000-\$40,000 just for the dept. to get upgraded. These are mobile and handheld units for the officers. He

stated he is still looking for options to help fund this without it coming out of the Town's pockets.

Mayor Flowers asked if anyone had any questions. None asked.

Mayor Flowers stated for the Board to go back to the action of the CSX crossings. He stated we have heard the concerns expressed by some and last meeting we looked at it and voted to proceed and now we need to vote to either close the crossings or take no action. He thinks there is a safety issue personally.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith states first off he would like to see more signs put up along the railroad tracks big enough for the truck drivers to see. He states to put one up on Sycamore St that says no trucks cross through North St or South St and then one on each side of the railroad tracks.

Mr. Isaac Artis states he believes the signs should be brighter and larger to catch their attention and Mayor Flowers states we have to consider the homeowners also before putting big signs up in their yards.

Alderman Artis asks if the truckers were receiving a fine or a ticket if they get caught on these tracks. Chief Moats states that is CSX property and they have their own police and they get the information and bill the company.

Mayor Flowers asks regardless if we close the street or not do we need to strengthen our ordinance in terms of trucks being off the accepted route?

Chief Moats responds yes, there should be some no through truck traffic signs and if they are off that truck route we should be able to fine them for our time.

Mayor Flowers states we need to look at these two crossings only and not deal with the other what-ifs right now.

Alderman Artis states we really need to worry about the safety right now.

Chief Moats' states is this going to prevent accidents no but it is going to reduce them by taking the dangerous ones out of play.

Alderman Annie Lewis made a motion to close both North and South Street railroad crossings. Motion seconded by Alderman Reid.

4 in favor 1 opposed. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith noted to oppose the closing of both North and South Street railroad crossings.

Alderman Lewis stated if there were no further discussion she would make a motion to adjourn until 5:30 pm on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Alderman Reid seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

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Martha A. Jones Town Clerk