



**Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont
Meeting
December 15th, 2015
(Amended)**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 7:30 p.m. on December 15th, 2015. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor
W. T. Smith, Alderman
Leon Mooring, Alderman
Joyce C. Reid, Alderwoman
Annie Lewis, Alderwoman
Al Lewis, Alderman

Also in attendance were Interim Town Administrator Barbara Aycock, Town Clerk Marti Jones, Finance Officer Shameshia Fennell, Public Works Director Tim Howell and Chief Paul Moats.

Quorum Present: YES

Call to Order

Mayor Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Ira Reynolds offered a prayer. Alderwoman Annie Lewis led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda for Old Business

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve or amend the minutes of the November 17th, 2015 meeting. Alderman W.T. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17th meeting. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve or amend the agenda for the old business. Alderwoman Joyce Reid made a motion to approve the agenda of the December 15th, 2015 meeting. Alderwoman Annie Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Swearing in of the Mayor and New Board Members

Mrs. Joyce M. Artis, newly elected District 4 Alderwoman was asked to join the present Aldermen and Alderwomen.

Town Clerk Marti Jones swears in Darron W. Flowers as Mayor of Fremont.

Town Clerk Marti Jones swears in the following Board of Alderman:

Al Lewis, District 1 Alderman

Leon Mooring, District 2 Alderman

W.T. Smith, District 3 Alderman

Joyce M. Artis, District 4 Alderwoman

Joyce C. Reid, District 5 Alderwoman

Annie Lewis, District 6 Alderwoman

At this time the new Board of Aldermen were seated and the meeting continued.

Mayor Flowers went around the table and let the Aldermen introduce themselves and share any comments with the audience. As new Alderwoman Mrs. Joyce M. Artis had a few comments to share. Mayor Flowers also shared comments and encouragement to the Board and the audience.

Agenda for Current Meeting

Mayor Flowers asked to add the election of Mayor Pro-Tem to the agenda.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Alderman Leon Mooring made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Alderman W.T. Smith seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- 1) STEP Meeting Monday December 21st, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m.
- 2) Town Hall Will be Closed on December 24th and 25th, 2015
- 3) Christmas Party for Town Employees Thursday Dec. 17th at 6:30 p.m. at Murrays in Goldsboro
- 4) Come visit with Santa Dec. 19th from 1-4 at the Gazebo in town
- 5) PARTF Grant for Peele Park
- 6) NC Preservation submitted Contract for Building at 201 E Main to owner of building.

Public Hearing

Street Name Change from Branch St to Norwayne Alumni Way

Public Hearing opened per Mayor Flowers

Larry Jones, President of the Norwayne Alumni Association and representatives from the Association have approached home owners and renters along Branch Street and had them sign a petition to be in favor of changing the street name. All signatures except two have been collected.

Mayor Flowers opened the floor for anyone who would like to speak on the issue of changing the name of Branch St to Norwayne Alumni Way.

Mr. Larry Jones stated he wanted to state that all signatures have been collected but one. Isaac Artis of 507 E Lee St, an alumni member, stated he thinks this would be a dramatic change that would be for the better of the town. He stated he is in favor of the name change.

Mayor Flowers stated that for the record the reason the Branch street was chosen for the name change was because the Norwayne Alumni building is located on Branch St. No further comments. Public Hearing Closed per Mayor Flowers.

Open Regular Board Meeting Action Items

A) Election of Mayor Pro-Tem

Mayor Flowers stated the floor was open for nominations.

Alderman Mooring nominated Alderwoman W.T. Smith

Alderwoman Reid nominated Alderman Al Lewis.

Alderwoman Artis asked what the responsibilities of the Mayor Pro-Tem were.

Mayor Flowers stated that person was to act in place of the absence of the Mayor.

Mrs. Aycock stated this person has the same authority as the Mayor if the Mayor were absent.

Alderman Al Lewis stated he wished to withdraw his name for nomination of Mayor Pro-Tem due to personal reasons.

Alderwoman Artis asked if something was to happen to the Mayor would the Mayor Pro-Tem then be the Mayor.

Mrs. Aycock stated that if something happened to the Mayor where he could not fulfill his duties then the Board would select a new Mayor from the Alderman. Then the Board could elect to go outside to a citizen to fulfill the Alderman's position.

Mayor Flowers stated the chair would close for nominations.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to accept Alderman Smith by acclamation as Mayor Pro-Tem. Alderman Al Lewis seconded the motion. 5 Alderman in favor. Alderwoman Joyce Artis opposed.

B) Overnight parking on Goldsboro Street

Mayor Flowers stated the Board had discussed this issue last meeting and it needed addressing again tonight.

Mrs. Aycock stated that because this is railroad property we do not have the authority to remove anyone from the property. To lease the property there is a \$750 application fee.

You would have to have a \$5 million dollar policy to cover any kind of problems that might occur if the train were to derail or hurt anyone. Then you submit your application

and they would let you know how much your lease would be a year for this property.

This would be the only way for the Town to have jurisdiction over this property.

She stated that even though you submit an application you may not be granted a lease.

Mayor Flowers asked if there were no objections could this be continued to see if we can find other ways of dealing with this.

Mrs. Aycock stated there were signs ordered for other areas that have been a problem.

Alderwoman Artis asked if we could purchase this property. Mrs. Aycock stated we can purchase or lease it and we were going to look at both options.

Mayor Flowers stated if there were no objections we would pursue this again.

C) Name change of Branch Street to Norwayne Alumni Way

Mayor Flowers asked if there were a motion to act on the request to change the name of Branch St to Norwayne Alumni way.

Alderman Al Lewis made the motion to change the name of Branch St to Norwayne Alumni Way. Alderwoman Annie Lewis seconded the motion.

Mayor Flowers opened the floor for comment.

Alderman Mooring asked if someone was going to notify the County of the name change.

Mrs. Aycock stated that we would have to notify different departments.

Mayor Flowers stated we have to make some notifications ourselves and the home owner would also.

Mayor Flowers stated there was a motion and a second and all in favor of changing the name of Branch St to Norwayne Alumni Way to raise their hands. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated this would take a little time that there are steps that would have to be followed so it may take a little while.

D) Approval of Budget Amendment #5

Mayor Flowers addressed the Budget Amendment to Alderwoman Artis.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #5.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to accept Budget Amendment #5.

Alderwoman Reid seconded the motion. Mayor Flowers asked for any discussion.

Alderwoman Artis asked for an explanation of the Budget Amendment.

Mrs. Aycock stated that each fiscal year starting July 1 we set a budget. We may budget \$1,000 on travel. If we exceed that \$1,000 we have to move it from another fund. The budget does not change. You are allowed to move the money from another department as long as it is within the general fund. The amendment is required to maintain the budget without negative balances. Everything has to stay in the positive. We try to estimate the amount we would need but sometimes it has to be adjusted.

No further questions.

Mayor Flowers asked for all in favor to signify by raising their hand. 5 voted yes,

Alderwoman Artis opposed. Amended Mayor Flowers asked for all in favor to signify by raising their hand. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

E) Keith Spivey: Step Reporting

Mayor Flowers stated he wanted to remind everyone that last meeting the Board approved a 2 month extension.

Mr. Spivey, Chairman of the Step Committee, stated the Step program did receive a 2 month extension, and the approved amendment along with the budget amendment.

He stated the biggest things coming out of this budget amendment were:

- 1) Because of the amount of time it took to pass the state budget, we spent money we had earmarked for the PARTF grant ahead of time to keep from losing that money. We were able to subsidize the PARTF grant so that we would have \$15,000 to put towards Peele Park.
- 2) Martin Luther King Park: would be able to bring the park back up to today's safety standards and also some new playground equipment.

The last Step meeting will be Monday Dec. 21st at 5:30p.m.

Alderman Mooring asked Mr. Spivey about 2 more park benches. Mr. Spivey stated we will have 2 more benches.

Mayor Flowers wanted to recognize Mrs. Lucille Jones for cleaning the park up so much and keeping it so clean.

Alderwoman Artis stated that Mr. Spivey should be mentioned in the Town's newsletter as Chairman of the Step Program. Mrs. Aycock stated we are trying to get the newsletter launched and we want the citizens to let us know what is going on to include things in the newsletter. Mrs. Fennell stated she would include the title next time.

F) Eastern Carolina Council Yearly Municipal Appointment

Mayor Flowers stated unless there are any objections he would like to serve.

The meetings mainly are in New Bern and are open to anyone on the board to attend and we have not been represented much in the past and we need to.

Alderman Mooring asked what the Eastern Carolina Council did.

Mrs. Aycock stated she goes to the managers meetings where they have speakers from the League of Municipalities and other managers where we discuss new general statues, legislature laws that could affect our town, grants and just fellowship with other Town's people to network.

Reports

Chief Moats Police Report

Chief Moats states overall it has been fairly quiet in Town. He stated other Towns are experiencing increases in crime rate due to the holiday season but the Town of Fremont fortunately is not. This is due in part to the officers patrolling regularly and being seen throughout Town. He also stated they have reported around 100 reports less than they did last year and this has been decreasing every year.

Tim Howell, Public Works

Mr. Howell stated he would like to update some things from last meeting.

Sidewalks: we have replaced 20 sections of sidewalks.

Placed parking stops at Joyner's to keep people from parking on the sidewalks.

E Wayne Street: set up a catch basin

Replace sewer flow meter to Goldsboro

3 new water lines have been tied in the water system

TV inspection need to continue.

Finances

Mrs. Fennell stated that this month the finances look better than last months.

Still didn't collect as much as we billed in Electric and Sewer but this is due to not being able to spray as much last month so our sewer bill was increased.

Some of the reason we didn't collect as much as was billed is due to vouchers we receive to pay someone's bill and arrangements that are made with customers.

We did have an Auditor Adjustment. In the pre-audit it was noted that a mistake had been made per the auditor and he had taken out \$42,000 out of the Electric fund but didn't put it back into the Sewer fund. The money was posted into the Electric fund when it should have been posted into the Sewer fund.

Mayor Flowers encouraged Alderwoman Artis to sit down and meet with Mrs. Aycock to go over some of these issues to better understand.

Mrs. Aycock stated to notice the difference when it doesn't rain as much and we can spray compared to having to send it all to Goldsboro. She stated we are working on a project now with Municipal Engineering to find 88,000 gallons of sewer in a day. This is unaccounted for every day. We either have a major leak somewhere in this Town or a meter that is reading wrong. We are working on the data to meet with Goldsboro.

General Concerns

Alderwoman Artis asked Mr. Howell about the project on Wayne St and would this address the concern of Mr. Raymond Peacock. Mr. Howell stated yes. Mrs. Aycock stated that every time we have set aside a time it has rained and if we would dig with it wet it would cause a mess in his yard. We have been waiting until it dries off but we have been filling his holes up with dirt until we can get back there.

Alderman Artis wanted to know if the Board would entertain having work sessions to brain storm. Mrs. Aycock stated the Board could entertain that anytime we just have to publish it to have a Quorum present. Mrs. Aycock stated we do have them towards the end of the year. She also stated some Boards meet 30 mins before the meeting. The meeting has to be open to the public. Mayor Flowers stated he hoped that everyone at these Board Meetings were able to say what they needed to say. Alderwoman Artis stated she wanted to sit down and brainstorm and talk about other things besides Sewer cause there are things besides Sewer to talk about going on in Town that are just as important. Mrs. Aycock stated it was the Board's decision to meet for work sessions.

Mayor Flowers stated we could put it on the agenda for next month. Alderwoman Artis stated the reason she was bringing this up is because during her campaign as she was knocking on doors and talking to people, they had real major concerns about the things going on and if we are not careful we are going to lose a lot of people who have been here for years. She stated there were major serious problems. Mayor Flowers asked what the problem was. Alderwoman Artis stated that we are not as transparent as we should be. Mayor Flowers asked how we can be any more transparent if we come to the meetings and all of the action that takes place takes place here with an open group. Alderwoman Artis states she is just saying what has been told to her from District 4. Alderman Mooring asked how many of those people are here. He stated if they had issues they would be here. Alderwoman Artis stated "she understood but most of those people that live in District 4 work and are not able to come to meetings, and it is very important that we come together and brain storm and be more transparent by keeping these people in the loop, I'm just telling you." Mayor Flowers stated every meeting the public is given the opportunity to say whatever they want to and we have had very few comments made in the last 3 or 4 meetings. We publish the agenda for everyone to see, we have the newsletter and I have no problem meeting but if we have them they need to be meaningful and purposeful. Mayor Flowers asked as far as the Board he believes we should think about it.

Alderman Lewis stated we should put in on the agenda for next month.

Mayor Flowers stated unless there are any objections we will put it on the agenda for next month.

Mrs. Aycock stated that if the decision was made by the Board to have these work sessions the meetings would need to be published due to being outside of regular board meeting time.

Alderman Lewis stated with no further discussion she make a motion to adjourn. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion.

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Martha A. Jones Town Clerk