

**Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont
Meeting
July 21, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 7:30 p.m. on July 21, 2015. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor
Harold Cuddington, Mayor pro-tem
W. T. Smith, Alderman
Leon Mooring, Alderman
Joyce C. Reid, Alderman
Annie Lewis, Alderman
Al Lewis, Alderman

Also in attendance were Interim Town Administrator Barbara Aycock, Town Clerk Marti Jones, Finance Officer Karen Peeden, Billings and Collections Clerk 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. Alderman Al Lewis introduced Pastor Ira Reynolds Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church who offered a prayer. Alderman Annie Lewis led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve or amend the agenda. Alderman Leon Mooring made a motion to approve the agenda for July 21, 2015. Alderman Al Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the June 30th meeting. Alderman Joyce Reid made a motion to accept the minutes of June 30th, 2015 meeting. Alderman Annie Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

- 1) Step Planning Meeting July 28, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. at Town of Fremont Meeting Room (Minutes Attached)
- 2) SMART Grant notification for \$4000.00 announcement After July 23, 2015 if Town will be granted money.
- 3) Karen Peeden and Barbara Aycock attending Escheatment Class on August 5, 15 in Raleigh
- 4) Mayor Flowers and Ms. Aycock to attend the Wayne County Transportation Plan meeting in Goldsboro on July 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

Mayor Flowers opened the public comment session.

No comments

Mayor Flowers closed the public comment session.

Action Items

1. Rev. Ira Reynolds on Non-Profit Housings

Reverend Reynolds stated they have been working hard to get where they are able to do business with the government. This week they have received a DON number to be able to do business with the government. They have one more step and that is to register with SAM to be able to apply for a grant from the government. This will take about 2 weeks. There are a lot of grants available from low to moderate income housing. He states their plan is to get a house and fix it through grant money and also volunteers.

Mayor Flowers stated that the town does own some properties with buildings on it in disrepair. He mentioned that they are a non-profit organization and now have the avenues for securing the grants and the commitment of the community for support.

Rev. Reynolds stated that "Renew A Place" is a corporation. Then the corporation became a non-profit of the US government. Then you can receive grants from the government.

Mayor Flowers stated that they would complete the house then it would be occupied either by purchase or by rental and the monies would then revert back into doing another home. Rev. Reynolds said first they would try to sale the house and if the house was sold the town would have the first decision on how to use that money by either putting it back into building another house or putting part of the money somewhere else.

Mrs. Aycock stated she has talked to our lawyer and the house at 608 S Goldsboro St has not been closed on yet. The taxes on it are \$2,004 and they would have to be paid. His recommendation is before we close on this house we need to have a meeting with any of the board members were you can present your non-profit numbers and details how to move forward with this. Any of the other properties would have to be gone through the Wayne County Board. A meeting will be scheduled with our lawyer as soon as possible. Mayor Flowers asked the board if there was any comments or questions? Does anyone have any disagreements with us going through with this? Alderman Leon and Alderman Annie Lewis stated they both greed with this project. Will schedule a meeting with our lawyer and the Rev. Ira Reynolds.

2. Alderman Cuddington/Fireworks Issues

Alderman Cuddington stated that on July 4th he received some calls about the fireworks going on so late. He said he doesn't think they should be able to do the fireworks that late except on New Year's. He suggest 10pm was late enough for the fireworks. Mayor Flowers asked how do you control this? Chief Moats stated that it is almost impossible to control this with it being only two times a year but they would do the best they can and if it gets to late then they will stop it. Alderman Cuddington stated he would like a time limit of 10pm to be enforced. Mrs. Aycock stated we could run an ad in the paper prior to July 4th and also on the June bills to let the citizens know about the time limit.

3. Mrs. Barbara Aycock/ Acceptance In the NC LGFCU Fellows Program

Mrs. Aycock has received a \$5,000 grant for the Local Government Fellows Scholarship Program. There was 114 applicants sent in and only 25 were picked and she was one of the fortunate ones. She is asking for the board's approval to go. It will be at UNC School of Government August 24-27 and Sept 22 thru Sept 26 2015.

Alderman Leon Mooring made a motion for Mrs. Aycock to attend the program. Motion seconded by Alderman Annie Lewis. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Mrs. Aycock/Grant for ECU

Mrs. Aycock stated there was a grant at ECU that she has been called about to represent the Town of Fremont. It is a year long grant but for only 1 day per month. It is a very prestigious class. She has not applied yet but the class is to help with grants and economic development. Mayor Flowers stated that this is a good opportunity for Mrs. Aycock and it will help the Town of Fremont.

Alderman Annie Lewis made a motion to approve Mrs. Aycock's application and participation in the program. Motion seconded by Alderman Al Lewis. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Escheatment Class for Mrs. Aycock and Karen Peeden

Mrs. Aycock and Mrs. Peeden will be attending an escheatment class in Raleigh on August 5, 2015. This is to help us with returning checks to the home owners whom have moved and left without a forwarding address to be located or either the check is given to NC cash under that person's name.

Reports

Financial Summary

Mayor Flowers states this is close out of the year. No questions or comments

Sewer

Mayor Flower stated we had placed sewer meters at Norwayne, Northeast and CBA and if they had been paying based on the sewer meter we would have a very healthy positive there. We can feel much more comfortable about the direction we are going.

Mrs. Aycock states that Norwayne is being very active and digging holes out there to find their leaks. We should see their bills grow substantially. We haven't completed the video in town as of yet but we will. We are also going to retro bill the schools back to see if they will pay us on our estimates. Mayor Flowers noted the County of Wayne and the schools have been very cooperative in helping with this situation.

Electrical

Mrs. Aycock stated the 6% reduction in electrical rates bill will be mailed out next month. She noted that in 6 months ElectriCities will increase the bill to us so we tried to be very conservative with our reduction.

Water

Mrs. Aycock stated we should hopefully start seeing some profit in both sewer and water if we can find all of the problems. We are continuing to TV to find the issues.

Solid Waste

No comments or discussion

Late Penalties

No comments or discussion

Cash Trending

Mrs. Aycock stated that in June the only enterprise account that we went out on in the negative was the sewer acct. The general fund went out in the positive and this has not happened in years.

Public Works

Tim Howell, Public Works Director noted that the water project is still underway and doing good. Second hay crop has been gotten off of hay field. We are doing TV inspections for Wayne County. Will be doing some sidewalk replacements soon. Mrs. Aycock stated that when we get some more Powell Bill money we need to be thinking about more streets that need to be repaired.

Chief Moats Police Report

Reported an incidence that a lady in towns house got robbed of her checks but they are following up on leads and think soon someone will be charged. He stated this is an isolated incidence and people should not be worried.

Alderman Annie Lewis stated corner of Sycamore and South street the bushes are too far out in the street. Chief Moats stated he has noticed them also and he and Tim will take care of them. Also, Chief Moats stated there are 11 properties that will abated by the end of the week.

Mayor Flowers stated he has been approached about the work Danny Wooten has been doing on Sycamore st and what he has been doing for the young people. Public comment was made that we recognize Mr. Wooten for his hard work for the youth of Fremont.

Mayor Flowers stated we will recognize him in the next board meeting.

Motion was made per Alderman Annie Lewis to adjourn. Motion seconded by Alderman Reid. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Martha A. Jones Town Clerk

