

**Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont
Meeting
June 16, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 7:30 p.m. on June 16, 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, Finance Officer Karen Peeden, Town Clerk Dianne H. Spellman, Deputy Clerk Marti Jones, Billing 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. Mayor pro-tem Harold Cuddington offered a prayer. Alderman Annie Lewis led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda

Mayor Flowers asked if anything more needed to be added to the agenda before approval. Alderman Harold Cuddington made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Alderman Leon Mooring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Leon Mooring made a motion to accept the minutes of May 4, 2015 and May 26, 2015. Alderman Annie Lewis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

- 1) Step Planning Meeting June 23, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. at Town of Fremont Meeting Room.
- 2) Dianne Spellman retirement party/June 25, 2015 from 11:00 to 3:00 at Town Hall Board Room.

Public Comment

Mayor Flowers opened the public comment session.

Mr. Mike McAllister from Municipal Engineering is not on agenda but was asked per Mrs. Barbara Aycock to say a few words about the SRF loan. We have been trying to get

some funds to do some repairs on the Norwayne Pump Station. We are trying to get a \$50,000 loan for 20 years.

Ira Reynolds stated he had formed a nonprofit organization that is hoping to help with the housing situations in Fremont. They are wanting to take vacant houses that are owned by the Town and renovate the properties. Mayor asked what would you do and how would the house end up. Mr. Reynolds stated they would look for grants in order to fix the houses up. He stated they would work with wages, the city or anyone willing to help and because the property is owned by the town if something were to happen it would always come back to the town. Any money that is made from the house would be put into another house and continue to help renovate more houses. The ideal situation would be to sell the house maybe to 1st time home owners but it could be rented. The main thing would be to get that house up to standards. Mayor Flowers stated we would put this on the agenda as soon as we can and determine any legal ramifications if any. Mayor Flowers stated that Mr. Reynolds and his group are to be commended on forming this nonprofit organization to help better the town.

Mayor Flowers closed the public comment session

Public Hearing

Mayor Flowers opened the Public Hearing Session

- 1) Loan Grant from USDA- Kim Miller
This is just to notify the citizens of what the town is planning to do with their tax dollars. The town has applied with the USDA for a \$13,000 grant to help purchase a truck for the maintenance dept.
- 2) Proposed Budget for 2015-2016. Mayor Flowers states the budget has been on display and is there any comments? No comments at this time.

Motion made to close Public Hearing per Alderman W.T. Smith. Alderman Annie Lewis Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers closed the Public Hearing Session

Action Items

1. Kim Miller /USDA regarding 2015 Truck Grant.

Mrs. Miller stated that Fremont is one of the most neediest towns that they are working with and that they are trying to help all that they can for our town. The USDA is doing a \$13,000 grant for this truck so therefore they are not taking a lien on the truck, the bank will do that. The booklet attached has the requirements that are needed to be made for the grant. The difference between their grant and the total cost of the truck and legal fees is

\$10,725.00. The Resolution has to be approved and signed for the grant. Mayor Flowers asked for any questions. None noted.

Motion made per Alderman Mooring to approve the Resolution as presented by Mrs. Miller. Motion seconded by Alderman Annie Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Aycock if she had any comments about the loan from Southern Bank. She stated the loan was 4.75 interest with total payments of \$187.50/month for 5 years.

Motion made per Alderman Mooring to approve the loan from Southern Bank (option 1) and authorize the staff to purchase the vehicle from Deacon Jones. Seconded by Alderman Annie Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the Budget 2015-2016.

Mayor Flowers stated the proposed budget was presented to each board member with their packets.

Motion to approve the budget for 2015-2016 year as presented per Alderman Mooring. Motion seconded per Alderman Reid. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Connie Kidd-Community Nutritional Support Summer Program

List was provided to help with donations that they would like to help the community with meals for school aged children who do not receive free school lunches. Also would accept money.

4. Budget Amendments 9 and 10

Motion to approve Budget Amendments 9 and 10 per Alderman Mooring. Motion seconded per Alderman Reid. No discussion and motion passed unanimously.

5. Leaks in Citizens Yards

Public Works Director Tim Howell stated that due to the TV inspections in the sewer services and so far they have found 12 leaking lateral (between the house and town property) and 5 others. Mayor Flowers asks what do we do now about these problems? Alderman Mooring stated can we send letters to the home owners? Mrs. Aycock states we are going to send letters to the property owners and if they do not convey to fix the problem then we will have to take another step.

Mrs. Aycock also stated that our new sewer meters are paying off. Norwayne is showing a much more accurate increase. The meters are read everyday.

Mrs. Aycock stated that we would need the boards approval to send letters to property owners to fix their sewer leaks, give them 30 days notice and if no response bring back to the board and in the July meeting we could make decision on next plan of action.

Per Tim Howell if the tap is old the town is responsible for replacing it. Also if the property owner has a clean out then we can TV for them so they can see where the leak is. Discussion made to consent legal council. Mike McAllister stated that in the sewer ordinance that was recently passed it stated that the next plan of action would be to disconnect services. Decision made to wait to discuss in next meeting concerning letters to be sent to property owners.

Alderman Mooring stated he would like to commend Tim and his staff for the dedicated work they are doing. No further comment.

6) Swear in of Marti Jones as Official Town Clerk starting July 1st, 2015

Mrs. Aycock stated Mrs. Dianne is retiring after 38 yrs of service. Presented Mrs. Spellman with a clock and a gold watch engraved with 38 yrs of service. Mrs. Spellman shook hands with all of the Alderman.

Mrs. Aycock commented on Marti and Mrs. Spellman swore in Marti Jones as the Town Clerk. Mrs. Jones shook hands with all of the Alderman.

7) Introduction of New Billing and Accounting Clerk: Shameshia Fennell

Mrs. Aycock introduced Shameshia Fennell as the new billing and accounting clerk. Mrs. Fennell introduced herself and shook hands with all of the Alderman.

8) Vacancy on Planning Board (Approve Gene Howell)

Motion made to approve Gene Howell as a member to the planning board per Alderman Al Lewis. Seconded per Alderman Annie Lewis. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

9) Approve Contract for Auditor/Andrew Harris (\$7500.00)

Motion made to approve the contract for auditor Andrew Harris for \$7500 per Alderman Mooring. Motion seconded per Alderman Lewis. No comments noted. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

1) Financial Summary

As noted some budget amendments may be necessary after all of the bills are paid.

Mayor Flowers stated that it was the decision of the board to decrease the electric rate by 6% as a result of the action of Electricities.

It was stated per Mrs. Aycock that Kemp recyclables will no longer accept recyclables so our price for that will double. Mrs. Aycock reviewed cash trending report.

2) Work Completed by Tim Howell's Dpt.

Project list: Next project is drainage on 202 S Sycamore St. It floods behind this house and Sycamore St. They are trying to find the drain and get it unstopped and also clearing ditches. Mrs. Aycock had some ladies comment on the cemetery and how good it looks. Mayor Flowers asked about surplus items. Mr. Howell states we will probably hold an auction.

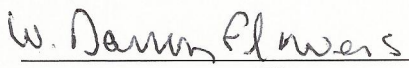
3) Chief Moats Police Monthly Report

The police department has been awarded \$15,000 no match grant which means there will be no out of pocket money for the Town. Will be getting body cameras for the officers, cameras installed in the downtown business districts and Ipads for the officers. Chief Moats states that there is a steady decrease in crime rate over the past 4 1/2 yrs. Officers are being proactive instead of reactive. Report given on the steady decrease in crimes. Town is in a good position. BB&T selected Peele Park for their lighthouse project. They were granted \$1,000 thru BB&T to make improvements. Have cleaned up around the sign, put pavers in, mulch, painted dugouts on front field and planted crepe myrtle trees. They have done a great job there. Electricities will be visiting us Monday to see if this is a project they would like to help fund in fixing the new backstop. The PARTF grant will not be heard from until July.

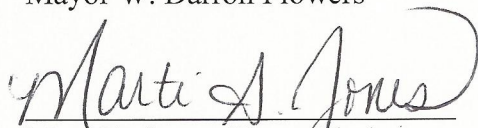
4) Step Minutes attached for May 26th, 2015

Mayor commended all of the staff for all the hard work that is going on. He stated how proud he is of this town. He stated we need to take every opportunity we can to brag on this town and where else could you go to see a police report as good as our town's.

Motion to adjourn per Alderman Annie Lewis. Motion seconded per Alderman Mooring.



Mayor W. Darron Flowers



Marti A. Jones Town Clerk