



**Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont
Meeting
June 19, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderswomen for the Town of Fremont NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on June 19, 2018. Present were:

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

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Barbara Aycock, Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Finance Officer Shameshia Fennell, Public Works Director Tim Howell, N.C. Representative John Bell, and Engineer Michael McAllister.

Those not in attendance were Alderman Al Lewis and Chief Paul Moats.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order

Mayor Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Flowers asked if anyone had anything they wanted to say about Andy Evans. Tim Howell, Mayor Flowers and Rev. Ira Reynolds gave a short speech on their relationship with Mr. Evans and who he was to the Town of Fremont.

Mayor Flowers asked for a moment of silence to remember Andy Evans and asked Rev. Ira Reynolds to give the invocation after that.

Alderswoman Lewis led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Flowers asked to amend the agenda to add The Partnership for Children under information. He asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mayor Pro-tem

Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for public comment.

Rev. Ira Reynolds thanked the Town of Fremont for helping the church get the concrete parking pad. He also stated that the next meeting for the picnic will be on July 19th @ 1:00 at Charles B. Aycock birthplace. The picnic will be on August 18th from 10:00 to 2:00 and all the local churches are participating and donating all the food. There will be no charge to the citizens. Rev. Reynolds stated that someone came from Med Assist to discuss the program for low income people to be able to get assistance for their medications. He said the next step is to get a mobile pharmacy here.

Mayor Flowers closed the public comment session.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2018 Board Meeting. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2018. Alderwoman Reid seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Mayor Flowers introduced our representative, N.C. Representative John Bell.

N.C. Representative John Bell gave a small presentation on the state budget that has recently passed. He presented Mrs. Aycock with a check in the amount of \$125,000 to be used to do repairs and to make changes to the BB&T building. N.C. Representative Bell also commented that there are going to be changes in re-districting in November and we are going to loose representation in eastern and western North Carolina. He stated that in 2021, the majority of representation will be in the urban areas and not in the rural areas. Mayor Flowers and Mrs. Aycock thanked N.C. Representative Bell for all he has done for the Town of Fremont.

Information

Mayor Flowers asked if anyone had any discussion on the information items. There were no discussions from the board.

Mayor Flowers discussed The Partnership for Children program and Dolly Parton's Imaginary Library. He explained that Fremont had only 8 children signed up for this program and he asked the public to take some flyers to hand out to anyone they knew that may have children interested.

Action Items

Mayor Flowers asked if there was a motion to accept budget amendments #3155, #3177, #3206, and #3207. Alderwoman Artis had a question on budget amendment #3155. She asked if the \$10,000 under maintenance & repair of the building included the steel bracing. Mrs. Aycock said no because it was going to be added to next year's budget. Alderwoman Artis asked how much the steel bracing would cost and Mrs. Aycock said \$9,000. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve budget amendment #3155 and Alderman Mooring made a motion. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked if there were any questions on the other budget amendments. Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve budget amendments #3177, #3206, and #3207. Mayor Pro-tem seconded the motion. Alderwoman Artis had a question about budget amendment #3177. She wanted to know if the town was going to pay the contractor that put the wrong screws in the lagoon or are we going to make them fix the problem. Engineer Michael McAllister explained that he was holding the funds and they would not be released until the problem was resolved. All were in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that Wayne Water District had raised the water rates 5% last year and now they have raised the rates 10% this year. The proposal is to raise the water rates 10% for the town's customers. He asked if there was a motion to raise the rates and Alderman Mooring made a motion and Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. Alderwoman Artis stated that she asked at the last meeting if there would be any increases in the rates and she was told no. She said she does not feel that the residents can continue to take another increase and she would like to eliminate something in the budget instead of increasing the rates. She understood that our revenues had gone up and Mrs. Fennell stated that the revenues were up due to grant money and not town operations. Mrs. Aycock stated that as of last meeting we did not know about the water rate increase. Mayor Flowers asked Alderwoman Artis what services she wanted to give up in order to not increase the rates and she suggested that we go up 10% on Eureka instead of 4%. Mrs. Fennell explained that the 4% increase for Eureka is for sewer and not water. Alderwoman Artis stated that she was not in favor for the 10% rate increase to the citizens of Fremont. Mayor Flowers asked who was in favor of increasing the water rates to raise their hands and Mayor Pro-tem Smith and Alderman Mooring raised their hands. Mayor Flowers asked who opposed the water increase and Alderwoman Artis raised her hand. Alderwoman Reid and Alderwoman Lewis did not vote. Mayor Flowers announced that the motion carries 2 to 1. He stated that by Robert's Rule of order a non-vote is a positive vote and the motion carries by the majority of 2 to 1.

Mayor Flowers stated that the proposal to increase Eureka's sewer rates by 4% is due to the costs to repair the damages to our equipment from trash and debris coming from Eureka. Mrs. Aycock stated that the trash and debris has caused a lot of damage to our lift station and she asked Mr. McAllister to discuss the problems we are having with Eureka. Mr. McAllister explained that the town could not afford to not try to re-coup some of the money to fix the lift station due to Eureka's collection system sending debris, rags, dirt, etc. to our lift station and wearing out the pumps. He explained that we have received a grant to upgrade all of our lift stations and the one we are working on right now is Hillandale which is where Eureka comes in to. Mrs. Aycock stated that there is also a big electric bill due to the pumps being overly used and this cost is

supposed to be absorbed in the cost that we charge them. She said that the electric bill can go from \$300 to \$900 a month and the town has been absorbing these costs for a long time. Alderwoman Artis said that she had no problem going up 4% on the sewer rates for Eureka. Mayor Flowers discussed how we are just starting to be able to clean out some ditches and more people are wanting their ditches cleaned. Also, he stated that we have been able to pave some roads. Mr. McAllister stated that the General Assembly has authorized additional Hurricane Matthew recovery funds in the amount of 10 Million dollars and that we have applied for these funds in order to clean out the ditches. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the 4% sewer increase for Eureka. Alderwoman Lewis made the motion and Alderwoman Reid seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Aycock stated that the ditch by Lee Street, which is a main line ditch, was full of debris and stopped up. She explained that water funds are used to clean the ditches. Mr. Howell stated that it was an outlet ditch and 1/3 of all the water in Fremont goes through that ditch. Mrs. Aycock asked Mr. Howell if the ditch had been cleaned up and he said yes.

Mayor Flowers stated that Open Broadband wanted to use our tower for their antenna and they would pay us at least \$100 per month. He stated by having this, there would be faster internet service. Mrs. Aycock said that if we were to get a major manufacturing company here in Fremont, they would need this speed in order to transmit information to their customers. She said this would be a big selling point when we approach businesses to come here. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Open Broadband tower antenna agreement for at least \$100 per month. Mayor Pro-tem Smith made the motion and Alderman Mooring seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the 2018 – 2019 auditor contract for Andrew Harris, CPA, PLLC. Alderman Mooring made the motion and Alderwoman Reid seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked the board to look at the budget and that the first pages are a letter from Mrs. Aycock and asked if there are any questions about the letter. No one had any questions. Mayor Flowers asked the board to look at the second part behind the green sheet, which is the budget ordinance that needed to be approved. Mrs. Aycock stated that the budget is pretty much the same as last year's budget. Mrs. Fennell said the difference is the water increase is in this year's budget. Mrs. Fennell discussed the budget and explained that we do have a balanced budget and it has to be approved before June 30th so that we can start a new fiscal year. She stated that overall the budget stayed within the parameters of this year's budget. She pointed out that the police car was paid off in the amount of \$7,000. Mrs. Aycock stated that we have brought in over 2.8 million dollars in grant money and we can add \$125,000 that we got from Senator Bell. She said that if we get the grant for \$400,000 that would put us up to over 3.3 million dollars in grant money that we have received. Mrs. Aycock pointed out that we have paid off \$385,752.00 in three years. Alderwoman Artis had some questions and concerns about what was owed on the garbage truck and how much was spent on the truck this year and had we budgeted any cost for the garbage truck for next fiscal year. She also wanted to know what we could do about the garbage truck and Mrs. Aycock

said that she is giving our attorney, Brian Pridgen, the bills on the garbage truck to see if there is anything legal we can do about it. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the budget ordinance for 2018 – 2019. Alderman Mooring made the motion and Mayor Pro-tem Smith seconded it. There were four votes in favor of the motion and one abstained, which was Alderwoman Artis. The motion was passed.

Reports

Financial Summary reports were given by Finance Officer Shameshia Fennell. She stated that we have done very well this year on collecting on electric and water. There was some discussion about the 10% rate increase on water. Mrs. Fennell stated that we were able to spray one million two hundred thousand gallons of sewer on the spray fields this year, due to the small amount of rainfall. Mayor Flowers stated that there was 33.6 inches of rainfall this year. Mrs. Aycock commented on how we have almost cut the cost of sewer being sent to Goldsboro by half, due to the work that has been done on the sewer systems. She stated that hopefully there will be more savings on sewer when the Hillandale project is completed. Mrs. Fennell stated that the garbage report was good even though there was an increase in the landfill charges, it is better than last year which shows that we are moving in the right direction. Mrs. Fennell discussed the cash trending report and Mrs. Aycock went over some of the loans and their balances.

Public Works Director Tim Howell showed pictures of tree trimmings, a sidewalk that was replaced, a water leak, and the two cleared lots where the houses were that we demolished. Mrs. Aycock said we are starting to demolish some houses and there was one on Goldsboro Street that we are looking at now. She stated that it cost about \$3,000 to demolish a house. There was some discussion about the garbage truck and grapple truck. Mrs. Aycock states that the garbage truck is working and Lynn had worked up until 8:00 p.m. the night before, but the grapple truck was in the shop. Mr. Howell stated that we are still picking up yard debris the old-fashion way with pitchforks and shovels.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.



W. Darron Flowers, Mayor



Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk