

Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting November 20, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on November 20, 2018. Present were:

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

Also in attendance were, Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Finance Officer Shameshia Fennell, and Chief Paul Moats.

Those not in attendance were Town Administrator Barbara Aycock and Public Works Director Tim Howell.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order

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

Mayor Flowers gave the invocation.

Alderwoman Reid led all in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Lewis 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.

Mr. Flores' son from 202 Peacock stated that his father could not attend the meeting because he had to work. He was asking for the board to help in any way with the penalty that was charged to his father's account. He stated that they had a water leak and the bill was very high. Town Clerk Shannon Daly explained to the board that on October 22nd the water was disconnected due to non-payment and last week the water meter was checked and the water was on so public works turned it off again. She said that the water meter was checked again Monday morning and found that the water was on again and public works turned it off. She said that Mr. Flores came into the office Monday morning and paid the remaining balance of his account and that she had explained the penalty for meter tampering and Mr. Flores could not pay the penalty and asked what he could do. She told him that he could approach the board at the board meeting with his concerns. After much discussion Alderman Lewis made a motion to forgive one of the penalties for \$500 and to allow Mr. Flores to pay \$100 a month for 5 months in addition to his monthly utility bill. Alderwoman Reid seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Flores' son agreed to this arrangement and said he would explain it to his father. Town Clerk Shannon Daly told him that his water will be turned on in the morning.

Mayor Flowers stated that there is a group called the Christian Alliance that is composed of 17 ministers. This group has taken over the food bank that Rev. Ira Reynold's initiated at the First Missionary Baptist Church. They will be operating out of the Norwayne Alumni facility. Mayor Flowers stated that the church donated 165 turkeys to the citizens today. He said it was great to see the community come together like they have.

Mayor Flowers closed the public comment session.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2018 Board Meeting. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2018. Mayor Pro-tem Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Artis asked what the status is of the garbage truck being sold and Mayor Flowers stated that Town Administrator Barbara Aycock has received some quotes from an outside garbage service. He also said that the USDA representative said that we would have to sell the truck and get at least what was owed on it. Mayor Flowers said that Town Administrator Barbara Aycock is looking into how to market the truck to sell it. Mayor Pro-tem Smith stated that the town had bought a used garbage truck before this one and there were problems with that truck so they bought the new garbage truck and it has had more problems than the used one.

Alderwoman Artis asked Chief Moats what the damage was to the police car that was totaled during the hurricane. Chief Moats said that the motor was damaged due to water. He stated that with the insurance check and the USDA grant, there should be no charge to get a new vehicle.

Information

Mayor Flowers said that the schedule for the rest of November and December is listed under information. He added that the party for the Candy Cane Kids will be December 18th.

Action Items

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the Fire Department Officers. Mayor Protem Smith made a motion to approve the Fire Department Officers. Alderman Mooring Seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers explained that due to all the extra events in December and because there are no pressing issues, asked if the board wanted to cancel the December meeting. Alderwoman Reid made a motion to cancel the December meeting. Alderwoman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that the town has been giving out two arrangements for utilities per year. He asked Town Clerk Shannon Daly to discuss these arrangements. Town Clerk Shannon Daly explained how these arrangements do not help all citizens, especially those that have a serious issue. She gave several examples and asked the board to consider discontinuing the arrangements and allow her, along with Administrator Barbara Aycock to look at each situation on a case by case basis. Alderwoman Artis asked several questions to get an understanding of the problem with having the arrangements. After much discussion Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to discontinue the arrangements. Alderman Mooring made the motion to discontinue the arrangements. Mayor Pro-tem seconded the motion. Three favored, Alderman Mooring, Mayor Pro-tem Smith, and Alderman Lewis; one opposed, Alderwoman Artis; two withheld, Alderwoman Reid and Alderwoman Lewis. The motion passed.

Reports

Finance Officer Shameshia Fennell stated that she did not have the financial reports due to a problem with the computer. She stated that she will email the reports to each board member and if they have any questions she will be glad to answer them.

Mayor Flowers stated that the GoldLeaf grant approval to fix the ditches has been postponed.

Chief Paul Moats stated that Electricities donated all the furniture, computers, printers, and fax machine. He welcomed everyone to stop by and see the new police department and wanted to thank Electricities for everything they have done.

Chief Paul Moats said that he will be putting up a Christmas tree in the lobby of the police department and has asked the children at Fremont Stars Elementary to make ornaments to put on the tree.

Chief Paul Moats stated that he would like to do something in honor of Chief Braswell. Chief Braswell was shot and killed in the police department on November 13, 1965 after arresting a couple for a domestic dispute. The male suspect disarmed the chief, shot him, and locked him inside the jail cell where the chief succumbed to his injuries. Chief Paul Moats asked the board to consider something special in honor of Chief Braswell and suggested that the police department be named after Chief Braswell. The board decided to think about it and tabled it until the next meeting.

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

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk