

Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

February 19, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on February 19, 2019. 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 Administrator Barbara Aycock, Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Public Works Director Tim Howell, and Chief Paul Moats.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order

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

Frances Ruffin gave the invocation.

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

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Flowers asked to amend the agenda to add Fremont Stars Elementary School classrooms as an action item and to delete the financial audit under action item. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for public comment.

Beatrice Jones, secretary of Fremont Concerned Citizens, read a letter addressed to the Mayor from the Fremont Concerned Citizens. She stated that on January 17, 2019 after

the Christian Fellowship Alliance meeting, the mayor asked to speak to Keith Spivey, the president of the Fremont Concerned Citizens, about the status of the Sons of the Confederate sign. The sign was displayed on the Fremont welcome sign next to Dollar General on Hwy 117. She stated that the mayor said that it was reported that the sign was missing and asked Mr. Spivey if he knew what had happened to it or if anyone in the group may have any details. She stated that the mayor said that his immediate concern was that the sign be returned without any fear or reprisal on anyone and that if this did not happen a police report would have to be filed which would lead to an investigation. She stated that Keith explained that he could not imagine anyone in the organization committing such an act and he would not condone such behavior. She stated that Keith called the Mayor on Saturday to inform him that they had 2 signs made and they were installed on Hwy 117 and on Hwy 222. She stated that the Mayor said that the sign had been found and had been re-installed and thanked Keith for his assistance. She stated that the members, being good outstanding citizens, are asking for an apology and are devastated by the notion that they were being directly or indirectly blamed for removing the sign. Mayor Flowers stated that his inquiry was not intended to place blame on anyone or group; it was just to find out about what happened to the sign, and if the group felt like they were owed an apology then he extended them one.

Mayor Flowers closed the public comment session.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2019 Board Meeting and January 29, 2019 Special Called Meeting. Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2019 and January 29, 2019. Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Information

Mayor Flowers stated that Electricities will have a 1.2% increase effective April 1, 2019. Alderwoman Artis asked if this increase would be passed on to the customers and Mayor Flowers said that this increase will be absorbed by the town and that the board makes the decisions on the rates. Mayor Flowers stated that there will be another increase of 3% in 2020.

Mayor Flowers stated that at the last meeting there was a handout concerning abstentions given to the board from MRSC, which is Municipal Research Services Center located in Seattle Washington. He said that this handout meets the needs of the people in Washington and that we follow the North Carolina General Statutes. He said that different states have different ways in how they operate. He suggested that the board present things before the agenda is written, which will give the staff time to research it to see if it applies to us. He also stated that if it is an action item that it be deferred until the next meeting.

Mayor Flowers stated that Spring Cleanup will be March 11th – 15th. Mayor Flowers asked Administrator Barbara Aycock to comment about the garbage truck. Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that the truck has been sold and we have received

the money and have paid off the loan. She said that if anyone is having any issues with Waste Industries to please let us know and we will get those issues worked out. Mayor Flowers stated that Waste Industries will continue to pick up garbage and recyclables during the week of Spring Cleanup, but we will pick up the other items with the grapple truck. Alderman Mooring asked Public Works Director Tim Howell if Waste Industries was going to pick up recyclables on the 5th Wednesday and Public Works Director Tim Howell said yes. Alderwoman Artis asked if we could get a schedule of when Waste Industries will be picking up garbage and Public Works Director Tim Howell said that if there are any problems to call Town Hall and we will get with Waste Industries to take care of any issues. He explained that Waste Industries comes in the office after they are finished to make sure everything is ok. Alderwoman Artis asked what time they get started and Public Works Director Tim Howell said they are supposed to start at 6:00 a.m., but it may be 4:00 a.m. Alderwoman Artis said that it may be a little early because people are trying to sleep and Administrator Barbara Aycock said to let us know and we can contact Waste Industries and have them start a little later.

Mayor Flowers stated that there will be a free Narcan training held on February 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Steele Memorial Library in Mount Olive and on March 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Pikeville Library.

Action Items

Mayor Flowers stated that Fremont School is an attractive school in Wayne County and 18% of the children come from outside of the school district. He stated that Wayne County Board of Education approved a building program, a couple of years ago that included 12 classrooms at Fremont, which since has dwindled down to 2. He said the latest report is that there is \$950,000 remaining for Fremont. He said there were some issues and one being the school having a problem with connecting to the Fremont sewer system. He stated that the Board of Education sent their staff to meet with our public works staff to identify the opening for the sewer and ran completely around the school. He said there were no issues that we know of that would cause a problem with them adding classrooms, which Public Works Director Tim Howell agreed. Public Works Director Time Howell stated that the problem was the four connections they had and Mayor Flowers said that was a maintenance problem for them but not an issue for us. Mayor Flowers stated that the issue now is that the Board of Education said that there is a problem with the cafeteria not being large enough to accommodate the growth, but the cafeteria was there when the approval was made for 12 classrooms and there shouldn't be an issue now. Mayor Flowers said that the other issue is the building be older and lyme had been used in the mortar, which did not last, but during the 1970's, the mortar was taken out and replaced. Mayor Flowers is asking the board to approve to write a letter to the Board of Education and to the County Commissioners expressing a desire to continue with the original plan to have additional classrooms at Fremont Elementary School; and to explain why Fremont Elementary School has disappeared and if the cafeteria is a problem, then why not use some of the money toward the cafeteria. Mayor Flowers stated that one of the strengths of this community is the school and we need to fight for it. Mayor Flowers asked the board if they would like to make a motion to write the letter. Alderman Mooring asked how many classrooms are going to be requested. Mayor

Flowers said he was going to ask for classrooms and not give a number. Mayor Flowers stated that it is his intentions to attend the Board of Education meeting on Monday. Mayor Pro-tem Smith asked if all classrooms were being used and Mayor Flowers said that they were at full capacity. Mayor Pro-tem Smith asked how many children were at the school and Mayor Flowers said 200 plus. Alderman Mooring asked Mayor Flowers if he would write the letter for whoever wanted to sign it and Mayor Flowers said he would and that he would like for all board members to sign the letter, if not, he would prefer to sign it himself. He stated that he did not want it to appear that they were a divided board. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion and Alderman Mooring made a motion for Mayor Flowers to write the letter and all board members sign it. Alderwoman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked Alderwoman Artis, Alderman Lewis, Alderwoman Lewis, and Alderwoman Reid to stand as he read a proclamation on Black Heritage Month. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to adopt the proclamation. Alderman Mooring made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Mayor pro-tem Smith seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked Chief Moats to explain what he would like to do concerning the police department building. Chief Moats suggested to the board that he would like to name the police department building the Walter B. Braswell Law Enforcement Center. He stated that he had spoken with the Mayor and they would like to form a committee to find out the details on what would need to be done in order to name a building or possibly put a plaque on the building in memory of Walter B. Braswell. Mayor Flowers said that the town has several buildings and he would like to appoint a committee to gather the information on how to go about naming a building and then bring that information back to the board for review before a decision is made. Mayor Flowers asked for Chief Moats, Public Works Director Tim Howell, Administrator Barbara Aycock, Alderman Lewis, and Alderman Mooring to serve on the committee. Alderman Mooring suggested that a citizen be on the committee also. Alderman Lewis suggested that Leroy Ruffin be on the committee as well. Leroy Ruffin accepted to be on the committee.

Reports

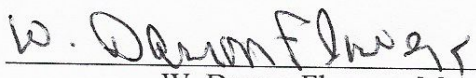
Town Clerk Shannon Daly gave the financial reports. Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that we are going to add to the sewer report the Town of Eureka's bill so that we can see the impact Eureka is having on us, because they are averaging about 100,000 gallons a day. She stated that we are unable to spray on the spray fields due to the ground being too wet and the lagoons are full, so basically everything is having to be sent to Goldsboro. Alderman Lewis asked about the merge and Administrator Barbara Aycock said that there was a study that was required of us to get the 1.2 million dollar grant and the study was indecisive. Mayor Flowers stated that the study was between Fremont and Eureka with us absorbing Eureka. Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that if Eureka gets the grant and we merge with them, they will put in grinder pumps in each persons' yard. This would be a lot of expense to Fremont in maintenance and in replacing the pumps as needed. Alderman Mooring asked Public Works Director Tim Howell if the lagoons were above the 2' mark and he said yes. Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that we had Keens Plumbing pump sand out of the Norwayne Lift Station. Mayor Pro-tem Smith said that there must be some leaks and Administrator

Barbara Aycock agreed and said there had been a lot of water and stuff coming over the top. She said that the ground is so wet that if it didn't rain anymore it would take 9 to 10 days before we could spray on the spray fields. Mayor Flowers pointed out that the numbers on the financial sheets do not have the expenses taken out; therefore it appears that we may have a huge profit but we don't. Mayor Flowers pointed out that the water costs this month is higher due to the fact that last month being very low. Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that last month the meter had stopped and this month it has caught up. Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that the months where the garbage cost was high was due to the hurricane and we would be getting money back from FEMA to help cover those costs. Mayor Flowers asked if the garbage financial report would be affected by Waste Industries and Administrator Barbara Aycock said that we would add a column to show what the costs are.

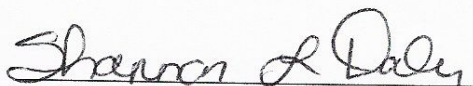
Public Works Director Tim Howell stated that he was having technical difficulties; therefore, he did not have anything to report.

Chief Paul Moats stated that there were no major incidents to report since the last meeting. Alderwoman Artis asked if they had any reports of gun shots and Chief Paul Moats stated that there had been some in the county. He also stated that there had been some isolated incidents that they had checked on over the past 30 days. Alderwoman Artis stated that her sister-in-law said someone had knocked on her door and her neighbor's door at 3 or 4 in the morning and they had called the police, but the police could not find anyone.

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