

Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

May 21, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on May 21, 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, and 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.

Alderman Lewis gave the invocation.

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

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Flowers stated that there is a revised agenda that includes a closed session between the information and action section, Chief Moats' police report, and a public hearing on the budget. He asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda. Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve the revised agenda and Mayor Pro-tem Smith seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for public hearing.

Mayor Flowers closed the public hearing session.

Public Comment

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for public comments.

Mayor Flowers closed the public comments session.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and May 8, 2019 Special Called Meeting for the budget. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and May 8, 2019 Special Called Meeting for the budget. Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Information

Mayor Flowers stated that the planning board makes a recommendation to us on the planning board members and we submit the recommendation to the county commissioners, who actually appoint them. He said that Wayne Jackson has been approved by the county commissioners and is our new planning board member.

Mayor Flowers said that the town will be closed Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day. He stated that there will be a Memorial Day service at First Missionary Baptist Church at 2:00 p.m.

Closed Session

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to go into closed session. Alderwoman Artis made a motion to go into closed session. Alderwoman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to come out of closed session. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to come out of closed session. Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Mayor Flowers asked Chief Jeff Brooks to give his presentation concerning an increase in the fire department tax rate. Chief Jeff Brooks proposed that the fire department tax rate be increased from \$.0532 per \$100 to \$.06 per \$100. He stated that on a \$100,000 house the tax would go from \$53.20 to \$60.00 a year. Mayor Flowers stated that if the board approves the increase, then it will be sent to the county commissioners for the final approval. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the request for the fire department tax rate to be increased from \$.0532 per \$100 to \$.06 per \$100. Mayor Protem Smith made the motion. Alderman Mooring seconded. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the retirement of Chief Moats' firearm and for it to be presented to him at the retirement ceremony. Alderman Mooring made a motion and Mayor Pro-tem Smith seconded it. Not discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #4778 and #4841. Mayor Pro-tem Smith made a motion to approve both budget amendments. Alderman Mooring seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Barbara Aycock asked Mayor Flowers if she could speak on the 2019-2020 Budget. She stated that there have been 4 positions eliminated this year that totals \$170,000 in salaries and benefits. She also stated that Wayne Water has found the problem with the meter reading on the sewer that we send to them and they are sending us a bill for \$200,000. She stated that the bill for April is \$72,000 and our accounts receivable is \$57,000. Mayor Flowers stated that Administrator Barbara Aycock, Alderman Mooring, along with himself had a meeting in Raleigh with our representatives in order to get some financial assistance. Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that the representatives are on board with us and are going to try to help. There was some discussion about FEMA. Administrator Barbara Aycock pointed out that the LGC has sent us a letter giving us the opportunity to resolve our issues. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Budget. Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Budget. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. Alderwoman Artis asked if Sharon Edmundson could keep the LGC at bay and Administrator Barbara Aycock said yes, but we have got to correct our problems. Administrator Barbara Aycock said that she would write a letter in response to the letter sent to us and as long as we can correct the problems ourselves, then we will be OK. Alderwoman Artis asked what the rate increases will be and Administrator Barbara Aycock said 10% on sewer, 10% on water, 2% on electric and \$1.25 on garbage. Four favored, Mayor Pro-tem Smith, Alderman Mooring, Alderwoman Lewis and Alderman Lewis; one abstained, Alderwoman Reid; one opposed, Alderwoman Artis.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the changes made to Ordinance 52. He stated that these changes are what we discussed at the budget meeting. Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve the changes to Ordinance 52. Alderman Lewis seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked Town Clerk Shannon Daly to explain the chart. She stated that the chart showed how we will reach our goal of reading meters from the beginning to the end of the month and how the dates will change from bills due, late penalties, and cut-offs. Alderwoman Artis asked how we would get the information to the public and Town Clerk Shannon Daly said that we will put it on the website, facebook, bills, post it on the board, and have handouts for the customers. She stated that our new bills should start in June.

Mayor Flowers asked Administrator Barbara Aycock if she had anything else to go over. She stated that we had a bill for \$20,000 for CSX that according to general statute we are not obligated to pay. She said that our attorney has written CSX a letter explaining our position. She also stated that there was a customer that came in and was very threatening

to one of our staff concerning a bill. She said that our attorney said that we do not have to provide utilities to a renter of the property owner owes the town for an outstanding utility bill. She asked the board to think about how they want to handle future issues like this and we can discuss it at the next board meeting.

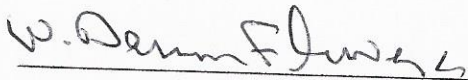
Reports

Mayor Flowers asked Public Works Director Tim Howell to give his report. He stated that he did not have anything at this time.

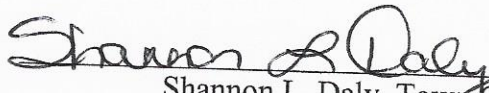
Mayor Flowers asked Chief Paul Moats to give his report. Chief Paul Moats stated that they have caught the fourth murder suspect from the December shooting and they have an extensive case file against him. He stated that several patrol cars were damaged from the hail storm and he was getting with Nationwide Insurance Company to get repairs made.

Mayor Flowers stated that this is the last meeting with Chief Paul Moats. He asked the Chief to speak to each board member and to step out to the public for any comments they may have.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Reid seconded it. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.



W. Darron Flowers, Mayor



Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk