



Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

August 20, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on August 20, 2019. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor
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, Accounting Clerk Cindy Rhodes, Public Works Director Tim Howell, and Chief Paul Moats.

Those not in attendance were Mayor Pro-tem W. T. Smith.

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

Public Comments

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Larry Jones stated that Norwayne Alumni will have the annual car showcase this weekend and next weekend will begin the annual festivities. He said that there will be

bowling at Berkley Bowling Alley on Thursday and a meet and greet at St. James Church on Friday. He said on Saturday there will be a 5K walk/run, the parade, 3 on 3 basketball at CBA, a banquet and a dance (Class of 2009). He said on Sunday morning there will be a worship service at the alumni building, a gospel singing at St. James Church and a reception Sunday night.

Mayor Flowers closed the public comments session.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Alderwoman Lewis seconded the motion. Alderwoman Artis stated that she was not present at the last meeting and saw in the minutes that the Town of Eureka's sewer valve would be fixed the next day and asked if it had been fixed. Public Works Director Tim Howell stated that he had been fixed. Town Administrator Barbara Aycock said that we billed the Town of Eureka and the LGC paid us. Mayor Flowers stated that there will be another meeting concerning the Town of Eureka either late August or early September. He said that the LGC will present a budget for the year and that it will be very informative if anyone would like to attend. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Information

Mayor Flowers stated that Item #1 was self-explanatory, which is that the Town Hall will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

Mayor Flowers asked Town Administrator Barbara Aycock to explain Item #2. She stated that Open Broadband are having sign ups and they will have towers at Eureka and Nahunta which will allow faster internet service. She stated that the cost is \$40 a month, but you have to sign up to be put on the list. She also stated that it will be good to have this to offer to businesses, because they will have faster internet service.

Mayor Flowers stated that the Town of Fremont and Town of Pikeville utility billing rates were presented just for information. Town Administrator Barbara Aycock said that there have been many people that have made the comment that Pikeville utilities are cheaper than Fremont's so she got the information from Pikeville to do a comparison and it shows that Fremont is cheaper than Pikeville.

Mayor Flowers asked Town Administrator Barbara Aycock to discuss Golden Leaf Grant. She stated that we have a grant for \$124,000 to repair 3 ditches; one on Hillandale and two on Sycamore Street. She stated these ditches are collapsing and causing problems for the citizens. She said that the FEMA money will be used to fix other ditches, starting on Wayne Street and that we will continue to work on them until we run out of funds. She said that we have already started on the ditch beside the House of Furniture and will move to the other ditch on Sycamore and then to the ditch on Hillandale.

Mayor Flowers stated that he was excited to see the possible growth and interest in the Town of Fremont. He stated there has been a buyer for the ACME building for the past

two and a half years, but there are issues coming out of Goldsboro with no foreseeable end to it. He said Town Administrator Barbara Aycock contacted the buyer today and he and the seller had agreed on a price and there would be 30 to 40 jobs that would go along with opening the business, but that he did not want to take over the building and be responsible for any of the environmental issues that may result from ACME. Mayor Flowers stated there are some issues with the a/c unit for the building, and Town Administrator Barbara Aycock contacted Senator Perry and Representative Bell and they put \$75,000 in the budget that can be used for the ACME building. He said that there are minor issues with the ACME building that will cost \$200,000, which we have \$75,000 already, but it will provide 40 jobs. Alderman Lewis asked what business wants to go in there and Town Administrator Barbara Aycock said the machine shop that is currently at the Wilson/Wayne County line. She said that we can get some more grant money to fix the repairs, but the main issue is the potential environmental problems. Mayor Flowers stated there is someone interested in purchasing some property to put in a subdivision. He stated that there is one store being renovated, one on the left that is working to get open, and there are 3 other buildings that a couple out of Florida are looking to purchase. He stated that selling liquor by the drink is going to be on the ballot hopefully in November, which if it passes a gentlemen that is opening a restaurant can sell liquor drinks. He said that there are 5 businesses that are seriously being considered downtown. There was some discussion about Danny Wooten buying 2 buildings downtown and some homes on Goldsboro Street. Town Administrator Barbara Aycock stated that the couple from Florida was looking at 3 buildings but the owner wanted too much money for them so they are looking at 114 E. Main Street, because they would like to put a loft apartment on the second floor. She said they also like the Mill and would like to use it as a Farmer's Market. She said that there have been several people looking at the buildings downtown, but the owners are going to have to release them. Mayor Flowers stated that the biggest negative is that the owners are pricing them out of any reasonable price range and if we don't get the owners to come down to a reasonable price then we are going to be stuck with empty and un-renovated buildings.

Mayor Flowers asked Town Administrator Barbara Aycock to discuss the grant projects. She said it's always good to look back and see how far we have come and over the last three years we have gotten the Lagoon Grant for \$1,169,088.00, Hillandale Lift Station for \$420,000.00, Sewer Lines in town for \$1,200,000.00, Repair 3 areas/ditches for \$124,000.00, Norwayne Lift Station for \$70,000.00, Grassroot Grant for \$1,700.00, Park Grant/JR Peele for \$18,000.00, Town Hall Grant for \$125,000.00, and Water Grant/Forgiveness for \$207,600.00. This is a total of \$3,335,388.00. She said there are 2 big active loans that the town owes, which are the 40 year loans that were done back in 2012. She said we have paid off the 2 town hall loans and the water loan which was \$250,000.00 in 5 years instead of 30 years. She stated that we have made a lot of progress and will continue to find ways to progress.

Action Items

Mayor Flowers stated that we need to agree on a date for the ordinance workshop. He said that we have agreed on the time which is 11:00 to 1:00 and that we would serve lunch to the board. He asked Town Clerk Shannon Daly to discuss what the process is to get the ordinances approved. Town Clerk Shannon Daly stated that the ordinances that she sent to the board would complete that chapter. She said that during the workshop is when any changes that the board would like to make would be noted and then we would

have to have a public hearing before the board could vote to approve the changes. She said after that, she would make the changes to the ordinances. After some discussion it was determined that we will have a meeting on Wednesday, September 11th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

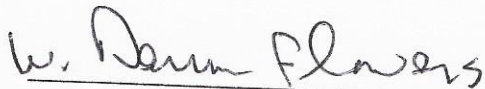
Mayor Flowers, on the behalf of the board, gave his condolences to Alderwoman Artis for the loss of her mother.

Reports

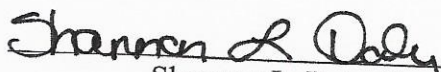
Mayor Flowers asked Public Works Director Tim Howell to give his report. Public Works Director Time Howell stated that on August 15th they conducted an infra-red scanning of the electrical system and 3 hot spots were detected, which are a minor priority. Mayor Flowers asked what would be classified as a hot spot and he said something that could give you trouble in the future. He stated that one was at the substation, one at 222 and Pine Street, and one at Joyner's. He showed pictures of a sidewalk that was replaced beside Natalie's Hair Salon because of flooding, the sewer plant where lighting had struck causing the citizens lights to blink, a bad insulator that also caused the citizens light to blink and a transformer being replaced. Mayor Flowers commended our public works department saying that he could not remember the last time we have had a serious problem. Public Works Director Tim Howell thanked the Mayor for his kind words.

Mayor Flowers asked Chief Paul Moats for the police report. Chief Paul Moats said that there was nothing major to report. He hoped that everyone would have a great time and stay safe during the Alumni weekend. He explained to the board that the 2013 Dodge Charger that was totaled during the hurricane last September had not been replaced, due to some issues with the auditor not completing the audit last year. He explained that the board had approved to get a USDA Loan/Grant to replace the vehicle. He said since then they have had problems with some of the other vehicles and is asking the board for their approval to start the process to obtain a USDA Loan/Grant to purchase 2 vehicles. He said that he would like to have a 4-wheel drive so that they could get around during inclement weather and stated that during the hurricane last year, he had used his own personal 4-wheel drive vehicle. After some discussion it was agreed upon to start the process to obtain the USDA Loan/Grant.

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