



Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

November 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 November 19, 2019. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor
Joyce C. Reid, Alderwoman
Annie Lewis, Alderwoman
Al Lewis, Alderman
Joyce M. Artis, Alderwoman

Also in attendance were Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Accounting Clerk Cindy Rhodes, Public Works Director Tim Howell, and Chief Paul Moats.

Those not in attendance were Town Administrator Barbara Aycock, Mayor Pro-tem W. T. Smith, and Alderman Leon Mooring.

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 that the agenda be amended to add item #3 as an action item to include the approval of the 2020 Fire Department Officers. He asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for public comments.

Beatrice Jones of 108 W. Wayne Street stated that the railroad crossing at Hwy 117 and Wayne Street is in terrible condition and wanted to know what was being done about it. Chief Moats stated that Town Administrator Barbara Aycock has contacted CSX. He said that when CSX worked on the crossings, the one at Hwy 117 and Wayne Street was not closed; therefore, there was no repairs made to it and it was causing damage to vehicles. He agreed that it needed to be addressed. Mayor Flowers suggested that the citizens call and complain, and stated that there have been several calls made already. He gave the number, 1-800-232-0144, to the citizens who were interested in calling.

Mayor Flowers closed the public comments session.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2019, October 22, 2019, October 29, 2019, and November 7, 2019. Alderwoman Reid made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2019, October 22, 2019, October 29, 2019, and November 7, 2019. Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Special Presentation

Mayor Flowers stated that this is a special presentation for a citizen in Fremont, who is known nationwide for his heroism and actions. He stated that his name is Walter Joe Marm, who was born in Washington, PA., graduated from Duquesne University in 1964, joined the army and completed basic training in Georgia, went to ranger training and then OCS (Officer Candidate School) and became 2nd Lieutenant in the Army. In September 1965 he was in Vietnam War, with the 7th Calvary whom General Custard served with. A movie called "We Were Soldiers", produced by Mel Gibson, was made and it was based off of the battle Col. Marm was in at La Drang. Mayor Flowers asked Public Works Director Tim Howell to play a U Tube video of Col. Marm speaking about who he was and what he did. Mayor Flowers stated that Col. Marm had received the United State Military's highest decoration for valor in combat, the Medal of Honor. He stated that this was first introduced in the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln. He said that there have been about 30 million soldiers since that time and less than 3,500 have received the Medal of Honor. He stated that the Postal Service has made stamps with the pictures of the Medal of Honor recipients and he presented a picture of it to Col. Marm and his wife, and said that it will be displayed in Town Hall. Mayor Flowers asked Col. Marm to say a few words and he explained some of the story of the Vietnam War, talked about his family, the volunteer work he does now, some of the other Medal of Honor recipients, and to say that he is honored to be recognized for his accomplishments. Mayor Flowers thanked Col. Marm for his accomplishments and for being at the meeting.

Information

Mayor Flowers stated that there are several events under information that is self-explanatory. He asked Town Clerk Shannon Daly to explain the Candy Cane Kids. She explained that each year Fremont Stars Elementary gives us information on children that are in need and the citizens in the community choose a child and buys Christmas gifts for them. She said that the gifts will be turned in at Town Hall and the staff will provide a pizza party, a pastor will read the Christmas story, and Santa will stop by with Mrs. Santa

and an elf to deliver the gifts to the children. She said that if anyone wanted to participate and help in any way that it would be much appreciated.

Action Items

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #5759. Alderwoman Artis asked if we had a new hire because there was an increase in salaries and asked why the land field fees increased. Public Works Director Tim Howell stated that we were using Wayne County Landfield, and they had sent out an email stating that there would be zero cost for tipping fees during the storm. He said that after we had taken debris from the storm, he was told that the zero cost was for citizens only and we had to pay \$31.50 per ton instead of the \$25.00 per ton that we normally pay to the recycle place. Also, he stated that there was an extra \$1,100 bill, due to yard debris, that we had to pay. He said that we have hired a part-time person that has his CDLs to drive the grapple truck. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the budget. Alderwoman Lewis approved the Budget Amendment #5759. Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that Electricities meets monthly and Mr. Leon Mooring has been the town's representative and that he has been the first alternate. He stated that Mr. Mooring can no longer serve and that they had to approve a new representative that needs to be sworn in. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve him or someone else to take this position and explained that you would have monthly meetings that would last several hours. Alderwoman Artis asked where the meeting took place and Mayor Flowers said in Wilson. Alderman Lewis made a motion to approve the Mayor as the NCEMPA Board Commissioner. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Town Clerk Shannon Daly gave the oath to Mayor Flowers.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Fire Department Officers that were presented. Alderwoman Lewis made the motion to approve the 2020 Fire Department Officers. Alderwoman Reid seconded the motion. Alderwoman Artis asked why we were approving these officers because we had already done this a couple of meetings ago. Town Clerk Shannon Daly said that the officers were approved last year. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Mayor Flowers asked if there were any questions about the electric report or the sewer report. He stated that there was an error on the sewer report. He said that the Town of Eureka only owes \$9,890 instead of the \$42,000 that is showing. Alderwoman Artis asked what happened with the difference and Mayor Flowers said that it had been paid. He said that the bills are now going to Raleigh and they are paying them. He asked if there were any questions on the water report or the garbage report. There were no questions

Mayor Flowers asked Public Works Director Tim Howell to give a report for public works. Public Works Director Tim Howell said that during the smoke test they found an issue with a manhole, but they found several issues with cleanouts and laterals, which were on the customer's side. He stated that during a previous board meeting, he was

asked to get a list of dilapidated houses and he had gotten a list and showed pictures of houses within the town that needed addressed. He showed a picture of power lines that a tractor trailer had taken out. Mayor Flowers asked if they found out who did it and Public Works Director Tim Howell stated that he had turned it over to the police department. Mayor Flowers asked what the charges would be on this situation and Chief Moats said that it would be a hit and run property damage and they would have to pay the fine plus restitution on the damaged property. Chief Moats said that it was a flatbed truck that was carrying a piece of heavy equipment and the equipment was too high and it took out the power line. He said that they put out the information on the truck to surrounding counties but they did not catch the driver. Mayor Flowers asked about the water leak on Vance Street. Public Works Director Tim Howell said that it was a big leak and they had to call in a crew and it took about 4 hours to fix it. Alderwoman Artis asked what had caused the leak and Public Works Director Tim Howell stated that there was an inch split in the service line.

Mayor Flowers asked Chief Paul Moats to give the police report. Chief Moats stated that they had several calls of shots fired but when they investigated them it was found to be fireworks. He said that they have talked with several juveniles that were possibly responsible for the fireworks and they have not had any more reports since then. He stated that David Loving is leaving the police department because his fiancé has a job in Jacksonville and David has been offered a job with the police department in Jacksonville. He stated that they are currently doing an application process on a couple of applicants to fill his position, but it will take 30 to 60 days due to the extensive application process. He stated that they are still covering the shift by using the part-time officers during this time. Mayor Flowers asked if it is against the law to do a U turn on Main Street and Chief Moats said yes it is, but they have to see them do it. Mayor Flowers asked what he could do if he is given a license plate number and Chief Moats said that the most they could do is talk with the individual and make them aware that it is against the law. He suggested that we put signs up on Main Street stating that it is illegal to do a U turn.

Alderwoman Artis asked Public Works Director Tim Howell to check the road at Dock and Lee Street. She stated that there is a separation between the pavement and the dirt and it has been patched once before and he said that he would. She asked if he could put a light on the light pole at the corner of Vance and Alumni Way and he said that it should have been done today.

Town Clerk Shannon Daly stated that the ordinances were now on the website if anyone wanted to look at them.

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