



Minutes of Special Called Meeting

June 30, 2020

The Special Called Meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on June 30, 2020. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor
Beatrice Jones, Alderwoman
Keith L. Spivey, Alderman
Ricky Mazingo, Alderman
Joyce M. Artis, Mayor Pro-tem
Leroy Ruffin, Alderman
Annie Lewis, Alderwoman

Also in attendance were Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Accounting Clerk Cindy Rhodes, Accountant Jimmy Overton, and Engineer Michael McAllister.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order

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

Alderman Ruffin gave the invocation.

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

Mayor Flowers stated that Budget Amendment #6915 needed to be added to the agenda, making it three budget amendments. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Alderman Spivey seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Action

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the Resolution Adopting the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the Resolution. Alderman Mazingo seconded it. There was some discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #6884. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #6884. Alderman Mazingo seconded it. There was some discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed

unanimously. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #6888. Mr. Overton explained the Budget Amendment. There was some discussion. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #6888. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #6915. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #6915. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. Mr. Overton explained Budget Amendment #6915. There was some discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers allowed Mr. Overton to speak about the LGC letter. Mr. Overton explained that the three budget amendments that were just approved was to make sure during this fiscal year of 2020, all line items and departments stay under budget. He stated that the letter to the LGC is in reference to last year, 2019, and hopefully the town will not receive a letter from the LGC with the same issues next year. He stated that you cannot predict everything and last year there were some surprises that were not budgeted for. Mayor Flowers asked if he has ever dealt with a municipality that didn't receive a letter from the LGC at the end of the year and his response was, "Yes, sir, all the ones when I was the finance director." Mayor Flowers asked Mr. Overton to explain the situation with the railroad. Mr. Overton said that there was a contract between the town and CSX, which was signed about 40 years ago. He said that it states that any repairs done on railroad crossings on streets that are owned by the town, the town would be responsible for the costs. There was some discussion about the railroad crossings and the contract. Mr. Overton stated that he wrote the letter to the LGC and went over it explaining each point. There was some discussion and Mr. Overton summed up the conversation by assuring the board that, with all the changes that he just went over, the books are in good shape and the finances of the town should improve this year. Alderwoman Jones asked about the delinquent customers and Mrs. Daly stated that as of today there are 44 people that have not paid their utility bills, which is a total of \$19,543. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked about the part-time police officers' hours being cut. Mayor Flowers stated that the officers' regular hours were not cut, but the extra hours were. There was some discussion and it was determined that there would still be 24 hour police coverage. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked about a statement in the letter that stated that the Administrator and Town Council will review budget vs. actual expenditures each month. Mr. Overton said that the board will receive that information each month at the board meetings. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the LGC letter. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the LGC letter. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McAllister stated that he received information about the sewer grant we had applied for and only \$500,000 was a grant and the rest would be a 0.5% loan, which would be about \$2,500,000. He stated that he didn't think the town could take on that type of loan. Mr. Overton stated that the LGC would not approve a loan when you have a deficit fund balance.

Mayor Flowers stated that the quote for a sound system in the board room is \$5,857.36. He asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the sound system. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the purchase of the sound system. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. There was some discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked if we could have an audit workshop. Mr. Overton said that Mrs. Pearson does the audit, but he does the financial statements for the audit. He stated that he would be glad to have an audit workshop, but would rather wait until late September or early October, because that's when he will have all the numbers. He also stated that he would rather start with this year, being that he was not here last year and cannot account for what happened then.

Alderman Spivey asked if we could have a budget workshop and have all the department supervisors to attend and give an account of what their department needs, before the budget is done. There was some discussion and it was decided that this workshop would be sometime in January.

Close Regular Board Meeting

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

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk