



Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

October 20, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on October 20, 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 Administrator Barbara Aycock, Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Assistant Chief Greg Bottoms and Town Attorney Brian Pridgen.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order

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

Mayor Flowers gave the invocation.

Alderwoman Lewis led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Flowers stated that he wanted to add Christmas Activities with Trick or Treating under action and Temporary Employment as item 7 under action. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Alderman Mazingo seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of September 15, 2020. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. Alderman Ruffin commented that he had asked Mrs. Aycock, at the last meeting, what the cost was to repair the ditch on Norwayne Alumni Way and she said that it was paid with FEMA funds. Alderman Ruffin

asked if Mrs. Aycock could tell him what the cost was and she said she would have to get that information for him. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of September 28, 2020. Mayor Pro-tem Artis made the motion to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of September 28, 2020. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of October 8, 2020. Mayor Pro-tem Arits made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of October 8, 2020. Alderman Spivey seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Information

Mayor Flowers stated that the agenda packet contained the vehicles and equipment list and Mrs. Aycock said that the maintenance records were on the table for their information. Alderwoman Jones asked what the life span was for the vehicles and equipment and Mrs. Aycock stated that it is normally 10 to 15 years for most of them. Mrs. Aycock stated that the bucket truck/line truck has exceeded its' life span and the inspector that inspects the truck every year has already made comments about that. She said that it is a 1999 GMC. Alderwoman Jones asked what vehicle we would like to replace and Mrs. Aycock said anything in the 1990's. Alderwoman Jones asked if we had a capital replacement plan and Mrs. Aycock said we have an asset management plan, but we cannot always follow it, because we may not have the money. There was some discussion about clarifying the condition and which department owned some of the vehicles and equipment. Alderman Mozingo suggested that we rent out our sewer video camera and it was decided that it would be brought back to next meeting for discussion.

Action

Mayor Flowers stated that they need to make a decision about Trick or Treating for the Town of Fremont. Mayor Flowers asked Pastor Travis Moore if he could speak about the plans he has. Pastor Moore stated that they are not planning anything, but they would have the food bank and they may do a prayer walk sometime later. He said that Fremont Missionary Baptist Church, along with his church, feel that the number of cases of COVID-19 are on the rise and they don't won't to cause a spike. He said they would not be able to control the situation; therefore, they will not be doing Trick or Treating in the neighborhood. He said that they want to be as safe as they could. Alderman Mozingo stated that he did not want to take away Halloween from the children and made a motion to allow Trick or Treating from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mayor Flowers stated that Goldsboro was having Trick or Treating from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Alderman Spivey seconded it. There was some discussion about the concerns of COVID-19. Motion Failed. Three were in favor: Alderman Mozingo, Alderman Spivey, and Alderman Ruffin. Four Opposed: Mayor Flowers, Alderwoman Jones, Mayor Pro-tem Arits, and Alderwoman Lewis.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion concerning the Christmas Parade. Alderman Ruffin made a motion to cancel the Christmas Parade. Mayor Pro-tem Artis seconded it. Mayor Flowers pointed out that we are only giving our recommendation to Mr. Keith Stewart, who is oversees the Christmas Parade. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion concerning the Christmas Tree Lighting. Mayor Pro-tem Artis made a motion to cancel the Christmas Tree Lighting. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. Alderman Spivey asked if we were cancelling it for the public and if we could still light the Christmas Tree. Mayor Flowers said that we were cancelling the ceremony, but would still light the tree. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Aycock if she could explain what we have done in the past for the Christmas Dinner. Mrs. Aycock said that we normally have dinner at a restaurant, but this year, due to COVID-19, she would suggest that we give a gift certificate to each employee and cancel the dinner. Alderman Ruffin made the motion. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked what amount the gift certificate would be and Mrs. Aycock suggested a \$50 gift card. There was some discussion. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve a \$50 gift card for the staff and the Board for Christmas. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve a \$50 gift card for the staff and the Board for Christmas. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Alderwoman Jones made a motion to approve the Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the Resolution for the Town of Fremont Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding for the Town of Fremont COVID-19 Community Assistance. Alderman Spivey made the motion to approve the Resolution. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked Alderman Ruffin to speak about mosquito spraying. Alderman Ruffin stated that at the last meeting he asked about spraying for mosquitos and he was told that the equipment had not been working, but it is now. He wanted to know if anyone had sprayed for mosquitos. Mrs. Aycock said that the staff had sprayed one time and the equipment broke again and is currently being fixed. It was discussed that the sprayer may need to be replaced in the near future.

Mayor Flowers stated that he had several contracts concerning the relocation of the utility pole on Moye Street. He asked Mr. Pridgen if he could explain them. Mr. Pridgen explained that there was some concern about the terms on the contract and he has contacted the developers to make some changes. He stated that he had not heard from them until today, when we received the contract with some changes. There was much discussion and it was determined that Mr. Pridgen would make the agreed changes to the contract. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the contract with the minor attorney's revisions. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve Ormond Energy to put a LP tank on the property behind Dollar General. He stated that the Planning Board minutes were in the agenda packet which states that they approved it. There was some discussion about the tank size and the purpose of the tank. Alderman Mozingo made a motion to approve the

tank. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that two office staff members are out and stated that we need a temporary person to fill in. There was much discussion about this position and how we would obtain a person to fill it. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve a temporary position. Alderman Mozingo made a motion to approve a temporary position. Alderman Spivey seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Aycock to discuss the financial reports. Mrs. Aycock asked if the Board had any questions about the financial reports. Alderman Mozingo asked about the delinquent accounts and Mrs. Aycock asked Mrs. Daly to comment on that. Mrs. Daly stated that all customers that are on contract have paid for this month. Alderwoman Jones asked about a delinquent customer that had utilities cut off and Mrs. Daly stated that she tries to stay in contact with her about every week and that the customer had a check for \$1,100, but her name was spelled wrong and she is working on getting that corrected. Mrs. Aycock went over the financial reports, pointing out what we billed versus what we have collected. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked about the account balances report and Mrs. Aycock said that with Cindy and Mr. Overton out, she had not had the time to work on the bank statement.

Mrs. Aycock stated that the land owner on Hwy 117 by the Dollar General had contacted her and stated that he had a leak. She contacted the public works staff and asked them to go try to locate it. She stated that they found the leak and that it was 2 to 3 gallons a minute being lost, due to an old line that had rusted out. There is some concern about there being some more water leaks in that area. There was some discussion about possible more water leaks and sewer issues in the Town of Fremont.

Alderwoman Jones asked about a picture of debris that was presented to the Board and asked if that was part of Fall Cleanup. Alderman Spivey quoted the ordinance pertaining to what types of debris the Town will not pickup. There was some discussion about the Town picking up the debris and Mrs. Aycock said she did not approve this, but that Mr. Howell made that decision. There was some discussion about yard debris and Fall Cleanup.

Mayor Flowers asked Assistant Chief Bottoms to give the police report. Assistant Chief Bottoms stated that everything was running smooth and they do not have a report. Alderwoman Jones wanted to thank Assistant Chief Bottoms for coming to her aide when a dog was in her yard. Alderman Spivey said in the newspaper that there were two individuals arrested that lived in Fremont related to drugs. He wanted to know if this is something they should be concerned with. Assistant Chief Bottoms said that they had been keeping an eye out on them and that they were very familiar with the people connected to them. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked about a high speed chase. Assistant Chief Bottoms said it started in Pikeville, because the lady failed to stop and it became a high speed chase. There was some discussion about children playing in the park after dark. Assistant Chief Bottoms stated that they should not be in the park after dark, unless there is a special event, and stated that the officers advise the children to go home if they see them. He said that he was going to get with Mr. Howell to get some more signs to put up in the park to address this issue. There was some discussion about street signs being

down, street lights being out, and speeding in town. Assistant Chief Bottoms said that they have given out warnings and tickets for speeding.

It was discussed that the workshop for yard debris needs to be rescheduled and that the Town staff should not pick-up large amounts of debris at the Town's expense.

Closed Session

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to go into Closed Session. Alderman Spivey made the motion to go into Closed Session. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Close Regular Board Meeting

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

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk