



Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

November 17, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on November 17, 2020. Present were:

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

Also in attendance were Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Public Works Director Tim Howell, Chief Paul Moats, and Assistant Chief Greg Bottoms.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order

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

Alderman Spivey 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. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. There was some discussion about adding the four-way stop sign at the intersection of Norwayne Alumni Way and South Sycamore Street as #7 on action item. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the four-way stop sign at the intersection of Norwayne Alumni Way and South Sycamore Street as #7 on action item. Alderman Mozingo made the motion to amend the agenda. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for Public Hearing and stated that it was advertised in the Goldsboro News-Argus on November 4th.

Mayor Flowers stated that the purpose for this Public Hearing was two-fold. He said, first, public comments will be accepted regarding the Town's proposal to obtain loan and grant assistance from USDA, Rural Development for the purchase of a tractor and reach cutter. Mr. Howell stated that the tractor we have now is 28 years old and the cutter, which is not a long reach cutter, is 20 years old. Mayor Flowers said that the loan/grant will be 45% loan and 55% grant. There was no public comments.

Mayor Flowers stated that the next item for Public Hearing is adding a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Norwayne Alumni Way and South Sycamore Street. It was discussed that the purpose of the four-way stop sign is for safety issues. Chief Moats stated that Assistant Chief Bottoms has looked into getting a digital speed display sign that hopefully will deter people from speeding, but they would not be able to use it for writing tickets. He said that they should have the sign in soon. There was no public comments.

Mayor Flowers closed the Public Hearing

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of October 20, 2020. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 20, 2020. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting of October 20, 2020. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting of October 20, 2020. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting of November 2, 2020. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting of November 2, 2020. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of November 10, 2020. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of November 10, 2020. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Information

Mayor Flowers stated that Mrs. Aycock was sworn in on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 as the first female Republican Wayne County Board Commissioner. He stated that at the last meeting there was a question concerning if Mrs. Aycock could continue to work for the Town, being that she is now a Wayne County Commissioner. He stated that he spoke with our attorney and he said that there is no legal reason that she could not work for the Town, but Mrs. Aycock decided not to, because it's a conflict of interest.

Action

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Daly to address the cut-off date for November. Mrs. Daly said that the cut-off date for November is the 25th, which is the day before Thanksgiving and she wanted to ask the Board if we could extend it until November 30th. She said that if we cut off on the 25th there will be no one to turn the utilities back on until the 30th. There was some discussion. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve extending the cut-off date until November 30th at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Pro-tem Artis made the motion. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the Town Administrator description. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderman Mozingo seconded it. There was some discussion about the Municipal Salary Survey for 2020 and Mayor Flowers said that Mrs. Daly has a copy of the survey if anyone was interested in looking at it. Mayor Flowers said that we needed to get a list of places and addresses that we wanted to advertise. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that Mr. Overton, our accountant, had a few more closing entries to make and then he will send it to our auditor, who will then present the audit to the Board. He stated that we would need the audit before we could have a budget workshop. There was some discussion about when the audit will be completed, if we would need an extension, and if we would need Mr. Overton to attend the meeting. It was determined that Mrs. Daly would contact the auditor to confirm a date as to when our audit will be completed and presented to the Board, and that in order to conserve cost, Mr. Overton would not be needed at the next Board meeting.

Mayor Flowers stated that the next item is renting out Town equipment. He asked the Board if they wanted a policy that is open-ended or for specific equipment. Alderman Mozingo stated that at the last meeting he was only talking about renting out the sewer camera. He stated that we would need to include the operators and not to advertise it. There was some discussion about small towns helping each other, who would be responsible for damages to the camera, if there was a demand for it, and how much we can make from renting it. Alderman Ruffin suggested that we create a rental agreement which would address in detail all the concerns. It was determined that Mr. Howell would put together a rental agreement and check the FEMA schedule for what we could charge for renting the camera and bring it back to the next Board meeting.

Mayor Flowers stated that the next item for action is the workshop for Yard Debris Ordinance. Alderman Spivey stated that we should enforce the ordinance that we already have and only change the charges. He said that he thinks that we can settle this issue now. There was much discussion about what to do if there is more than a ¼ of a load of debris set out to be picked up, how much is a ¼ of a load, how does this relate to leaves, what the cost is to pick up and dispose of the debris, leaving a note informing the citizen that have exceeded the ¼ of a load, and the procedure for picking up bulk items. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion. Alderman Mozingo made a motion to follow the Bulk Item Procedure when addressing yard debris that is more than ¼ of a truck load, delete the two written warnings, increase the penalty to \$50 and start enforcing these changes the first of the year. Alderman Spivey seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that the next item is the Budget Amendment. Mayor Flowers asked Chief Moats to explain the Budget Amendment. Chief Moats said that the distribution of the 2018, 100% grant funds, were delayed; therefore, they were not expecting the 2019

grant to be available in the 2020 budget year. He stated that this grant was for \$18,284 and will be used to purchase 6 ballistic vests with outer carriers, upgrade the mobile laptops that are inside the police cars, and things to build rapport with the children, such as, pencils, coloring books, footballs, etc. He stated that the funds are available for 12 months. He said that because it was not included in the 2020 budget, it now needs to be amended to include it. He said it is a 100% funded grant and that he has to purchase these things and then they get reimbursed from the grant. Alderwoman Jones asked when the 12 months start for the grant. Assistant Chief Bottoms said that the grant starts October 1st but you have to wait until the federal government sends the money to the state. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked if the grant has been approved and Chief Moats said that the 2018 and 2019 grants have been approved, but they are in the process of getting approved for the 2020 grant. He said they are working on getting 3 bids for the equipment they want to purchase with the 2019 grant. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the Budget Amendment. Alderman Spivey made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment. Alderman Mazingo seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the four-way stop sign at the intersection of Norwayne Alumni Way and South Sycamore Street. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve the four-way stop sign. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. Alderman Spivey asked if we had the signs and Mr. Howell said yes we do. Alderman Ruffin asked what the time frame was of putting the sign up and Mr. Howell said he could do it this week as long as he has the signs in stock. There was some discussion about the citizens not being aware of the sign and what can be done to get their attention. Mayor Flowers asked to let the police department take care of monitoring the situation. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Daly to give the financial reports. Mrs. Daly stated that the financial reports consisted of what was billed in September and what was collected in October and does not include any expenses. Mrs. Daly went over the financial reports and stated that there was a negative balance of \$1,132.17 for all four utilities plus tax. There was some discussion and Mrs. Daly answered questions to explain the reports to the Board. Mrs. Daly went over the delinquent accounts report. There was some discussion about debt set-off and how some customers took advantage of the Governor's Executive Order. Mrs. Daly explained and answered questions from the Board.

Mayor Flowers asked Mr. Howell to give the public works report. Mr. Howell stated that the mosquito sprayer is not working and they needed to decide what to do next year. He stated they could buy a new mosquito machine, which he has a quote for \$11,000, or they could contract the service out to another company. Mr. Howell stated that there were several pictures that he handed out that show smoke testing. He said the majority of the problems are from laterals and clean-outs. He said they needed to decide what to do, because the Town benefits from the clean-outs being fixed; even though it's the homeowner's responsibility. There was some discussion about smoke testing and Mr. Howell explained what smoke testing is. There were pictures of a lift station being worked on that was showing high water, a manhole at the lift station with I & I, the water guy restoring power, which shows cross-training, and staff ex-raying a lot by the Dollar General store. There was some discussion about who would be responsible for putting a valve on the water line going to the fire hydrant by the Dollar General. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked Mr. Howell about an email concerning Meherrin Company and he said that it

was about phase 3 service and he has a contractor getting a price for Meherrin. Mayor Pro-tem Artis stated that there is a grate beside the apartments at 204 North Street that has a hole beside it. She said that the citizens are concerned that a child may fall in it, because children play in that area. Mr. Howell stated that the Town has filled in the hole with dirt several times and that the grate was put it by a contractor. He said that he would get in touch with the contractor, because it should be under warranty. Alderman Ruffin asked if we owned the ex-ray machine and Mr. Howell said no. Alderman Ruffin said that we could use the ex-ray machine to find old pipes where mobile homes had been moved. Mr. Howell said that since he has been here, he makes sure that they cap off the lines when a mobile home is moved.

Mayor Flowers asked Chief Moats to give the police report. Chief Moats stated that they made a significant arrest and seized several grams of methamphetamine, along with \$6,000 in cash and a firearm. He stated that the subject had been bringing drugs into Fremont and delivering them to a white female who resides at the 700 block of S. Goldsboro Street. He said that they have been watching the female and they had a good opportunity to be at the location and question the driver who was in the driveway at the residence, which lead to the seizure. He stated they are going to fill out the paperwork with the NC Dept. of Revenue, Drug Tax Office, which taxes and penalizes them by the amount of drugs they possessed. He said it is usually about 75%, which would be around \$3,000 - \$4,000. He said this money will go into the police department, to help fund drug investigations, and the remainder will most likely go to the school system. He said that we are entering the Holiday season and there will probably be more property crimes that include shoplifting and thefts. He said they will post this warning and how to protect yourself from these crimes on their Facebook page. Alderwoman Jones stated that on the corner of Goldsboro and Balance Street, there are at least 15 cars at the property and people are complaining about the noise. She stated that the property owner said if he can get a letter from the Town he would shut it down. Chief Moats said this can be addressed through the zoning ordinance. Alderwoman Jones asked about Mr. Wooten's truck being parked close to the railroad tracks across from his business and Chief Moats stated that there should not be any parking there and they will address the issue if needed. Alderman Ruffin thanked Chief Moats for their work on Goldsboro Street in arresting the suspects who were selling drugs.

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 the motion passed unanimously.

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk