



Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

December 15, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on December 15, 2020. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor
Beatrice Jones, Alderwoman
Keith L. Spivey, 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 Accountant Jimmy Overton.

Those not in attendance was Alderman Ricky Mazingo.

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.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Flowers asked to amend the agenda to add the end of the year financials under information. Alderwoman Jones asked to amend the agenda to include a closed session for personnel. Mayor Flowers asked if all were in favor for amending the agenda to include the end of the year financials under information and closed session for personnel. All were in favor.

Public Hearing

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for Public Hearing to hear public comments and questions regarding changes to the ordinance that deals with the penalty and definition under rubbish and garbage.

There were not comments.

Mayor Flowers closed the Public Hearing

Public Comment

Mayor Flowers opened the meeting for Public Comment.

There were no comments.

Mayor Flowers closed the meeting for Public Comment.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of November 17, 2020. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2020. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. Alderwoman Jones stated that on the last page of the minutes under police reports, ceased needed to be changed to seized. Mayor Flowers asked if everyone was in favor of approving the change and all were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Information

Mayor Flowers stated that the Steps to Success was in the agenda and self-explanatory.

Mayor Flowers said that there is a Dire States Equipment Grant for \$25,000 and Mr. Howell has applied and made a request for a mosquito machine.

Mayor Flowers said that the property at 202 E. Wayne Street has been donated to the Town.

Mayor Flowers stated that Town Hall will be closed December 24th and 25th to celebrate Christmas and January 1st for New Year's Day. Alderman Spivey stated that Wayne County was going to be closed on December 24th, 25th, and 28th. He stated that we have followed Wayne County's schedule in the past and asked if the Town should be closed on the 28th. There was some discussion. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to follow Wayne County's Christmas Holiday schedule for 2020. Alderman Spivey made a motion. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. Two favored: Alderman Spivey and Alderwoman Jones. Three opposed: Mayor Pro-tem Artis, Alderman Ruffin, and Alderwoman Lewis.

Mayor Flowers asked Mr. Overton, the accountant, to give the financial reports. Mr. Overton stated he has prepared two reports. He said that the first one is the end of year report for June 30, 2020. He said that he has to do two more adjustments before he is finished and that the auditor has started working on the audit. He said the second report is from July to November 2020. He stated that there were a couple of reports that have not been posted, due to Ms. Rhodes being out. He went over both reports. There was some discussion about Wayne Water District increasing the water rates, the sewer capacity that was sold to Goldsboro, and the sewer expenses.

Public Comment

Mayor Flowers asked if there were any objections to allowing a public comment from someone who came in late. There were no objections. He asked the person to come to the podium and give her name and address. Debbie Artis stated that she lived at 302 S. Dock Street and she owns property at 810 S. Martin Street. She stated that she had to remove the house that was on the property at 810 S. Martin Street and asked if she could rebuild on that property. Mayor Flowers referred her to the Planning Board and asked Mrs. Daly to get with her about the meeting.

Discussion

Mayor Flowers asked Alderman Ruffin to speak about the Finance Assistant. Alderman Ruffin stated that since Ms. Rhodes is out, he felt that she needed some assistance. He stated that he has asked Alderwoman Jones if she could volunteer to help with the finances. There was much discussion and it was determined that we would discuss this further in closed session.

Action

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the changes to Title V: Public Works Garbage and Rubbish Penalty (§ 50.18 PENALTY) from \$25 to \$50 and delete the two written warnings per calendar year; and add the definition of one-quarter load of a single-axle flatbed truck under (§ 50.01 DEFINITIONS). Alderman Spivey made the motion to approve the changes. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the adoption of Title VI Resolution, Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form and Instructions. Alderman Spivey made the motion to approve the Title VI Resolution, Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form and Instructions. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that if we wanted a rental contract in order to lease our sewer equipment, we would need our attorney to do the contract. There was some discussion about the cost of our equipment, the process of using the equipment, and how many staff it would take to use the equipment. Alderman Spivey made a motion to have the Town attorney to come up with a rental contract agreement for leasing out the Town's sewer equipment. Alderman Ruffin seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Daly to explain the Cares Act Budget Amendment. Mrs. Daly stated that we have \$2,800 left from the Cares Act and we are wanting to purchase two laptops to set up in the foyer for the citizens to use. She stated that this would decrease contact between the citizens and the staff. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that he would like to give the staff an opportunity to come to Town Hall and thank Mrs. Aycock, but due to COVID-19, it may be January or February before

it would be possible. There was some discussion and it was determined that a letter would be sent to Mrs. Aycock from the Board stating that they would like to have a recognition celebration for her once it is safe to. Alderman Spivey made a motion to table the recognition for Mrs. Aycock until the next Board meeting. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flowers stated that some of the Town's Ordinances requires that there be a Zoning Administrator to sign off on certain documents. He stated that Mrs. Aycock was designated as the Zoning Administrator, but now he is asking for a motion to allow Mrs. Brooks to be the Interim Zoning Administrator. Alderman Spivey made the motion for Mrs. Brooks to be the Interim Zoning Administrator. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor and the 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 October and what was collected in November, the delinquent accounts that have contracts, and the Debt Setoff accounts. Mrs. Daly stated that some of the reasons why there is a difference in what is billed versus what is collected is due to adjustments that are made, cut-offs, and debt setoff. There was some discussion about debt setoff, late penalties, and cut-offs and late penalties for businesses. It was determined that cut-offs and late penalties for businesses would be discussed and action taken at the next meeting.

Mayor Flowers asked Mr. Howell to give the Public Works report. Mr. Howell stated that the four-way stop sign was installed the day after the last meeting, the sidewalks downtown were pressure washed at no cost to the Town, and there were new tracks put on the community sign. He said that the project on Moye Street of removing the power pole started today and should be finished by tomorrow. Alderwoman Jones stated that Mrs. Applewhite has a ditch that is not draining and Mr. Howell said that if they can get equipment in the ditch, they can clean it out. Mr. Howell stated that we receive \$5,000 every year from Electricities that we can use for electrical purposes for the Town. His suggestion was to install load management switches on hot water heaters and a/c units. He said that they have two cases of the switches and the \$5,000 would be used to pay an electrician to install them. There was some discussion and the Board agreed with Mr. Howell's suggestion.

Mayor Flowers asked Chief Moats to give the police report. Chief Moats stated that his officers, along with himself, has sat at the four-way stop sign and pulled over people that did not stop. He said that they have given warnings and now it appears that most people are aware of the sign and are adhering to it. Alderwoman Jones asked about the cars at the property on Balance Road that was discussed last meeting. Chief Moats stated that he has talked with Mr. Wooten and he was in the process of evicting the people from the home. Alderwoman Jones stated that Mr. Wooten does not own the property that the cars are parked at. Chief Moats said that he will have to find out who owns that property and get in touch with them. Alderwoman Jones said that she has that information and could give it to him.

Alderwoman Lewis wanted to know why Wayne County states that you can't burn in the city limits, but there are people in Goldsboro and Pikeville that are burning. Chief Moats said that has to do with the Fire Chief and Mr. Howell said that it is in our Town

Ordinances that we cannot burn within the city limits. Alderman Ruffin said that years ago people complained to the Board about burning leaves and how the elderly had a hard time breathing, due to them having asthma.

Alderwoman Jones asked Mayor Flowers about an event that took place this week at the old ACME building and she understood that he was a part of that event. She wanted to know why the Board was not informed of this event, because she would have loved to have attended it. Mayor Flowers stated that he had gotten a phone call the night before that Economic Development was going to have a function and wanted him to be there to make some comments. Alderman Spivey said someone asked him if he was going to the event in Fremont and he wasn't aware of it so he stopped by to see what was going on. Alderwoman Jones asked how the Board could start being informed of events and important things and Mayor Flowers stated that he can let Mrs. Daly know and she can get it to the Board. Mayor Flowers stated that Mrs. Aycock sent an email to him concerning a public hearing on January 5th at 9:00 a.m. for the Daffodil project. It was discussed that it will be held in the Commissioner's Office and it will be pertaining a \$500,000 grant for the new businesses.

Alderwoman Jones asked if the advertisement for the administrator position was posted on the NC League of Municipalities and Mrs. Daly said yes it was. Mayor Flowers asked Mrs. Daly to give an update on the applications and she said that we have one application and resume, one resume from a Deputy Finance Officer, and two phone calls. It was discussed that we should advertise another month with the NC League of Municipalities after the holidays.

Alderman Ruffin stated that he has noticed that some Board members get notified of events and others do not. Mayor Flowers said that from now on anything that he gets he will send it to Mrs. Daly and she will forward it to all Board members.

Closed Session

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to go into closed session. Mayor Pro-tem Artis made the motion to go into closed session. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

It was determined that Alderwoman Jones would assist in the Finance Department.

Close Regular Board Meeting

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

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk