



## **Minutes of Special Called Meeting**

**June 28, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:30 p.m. on June 28, 2021. Present were:

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

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Tony Howell and Town Clerk Shannon Daly.

**Quorum Present: Yes**

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Pro-tem Artis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Tony Howell gave the invocation.

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked to amend the agenda to include two budget amendments under action item. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion**

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked if the District 3 seat had been advertised and Mr. Tony Howell said no. Mayor Pro-tem Artis stated that they had mentioned it in the last meeting and Mr. Tony Howell asked how long do we want to advertise and Alderman Ruffin said last time we advertised District 2 seat for a month. Mr. Tony Howell said we will start advertising for that position.

### **Action**

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked Mr. Tony Howell to speak about the budget amendments. Mr. Tony Howell stated that Mr. Overton submitted these budget amendments that pertain to closing out this year's budget. He said one of them is for the USDA Grant/Loan for the

tractor and the other one is for several items that needed to be adjusted. He stated the main one was for the Goldsboro sewer charges which was increased by \$129,000. Alderman Ruffin asked if there was any money left over from any department and Mr. Tony Howell wasn't sure and stated that he can get that information to him later. There was discussion about some of the line items that had been adjusted. Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked for a motion. Alderman Spivey made a motion to approve both amendments as written. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Closed Session**

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked for a motion to go into Closed Session for a personnel issue. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Open Session**

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked for a motion pertaining to someone coming in to help with finances from Jimmy Overton's office. Alderwoman Jones made a motion that we hire someone from Jimmy Overton's office at \$75 per hour not to exceed \$5,000 total. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. Four approved: Alderwoman Jones, Alderman Ruffin, Alderwoman Lewis, and Mayor Pro-tem Artis. One opposed: Alderman Spivey. Motion passed by majority.

Mayor Pro-tem Artis made a motion that Alderwoman Lewis act as the Interim Finance Officer and Alderman Ruffin act as the Interim Deputy Finance Officer until a Finance Officer is appointed. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. Four approved: Alderwoman Jones, Alderman Ruffin, Alderwoman Lewis, and Mayor Pro-tem Artis. One opposed: Alderman Spivey. Motion passed by majority.

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked for a motion pertaining to hiring Mrs. Nichols. Alderwoman Jones made a motion to hire Mrs. Nichols at a salary of \$42,000 a year with full benefits, including starting her at the 5 year mark for vacation time, with the understanding that she can meet the hiring requirements. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked for a motion to approve Alderman Spivey's suggestion, which was to conduct a forensic audit. Alderman Ruffin made a motion to have a forensic audit conducted on the Town's finances. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. It was discussed that Alderman Spivey will find out information about a forensic audit and email the Board. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Close Regular Board Meeting**

Mayor Pro-tem Artis asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Lewis made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.