



## **Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting**

**April 21, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderswomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 1:00 p.m. on April 21, 2020. Present were:

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

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Barbara Aycock, Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Accounting Clerk Cindy Rhodes, Public Works Director Tim Howell, Chief Paul Moats,

**Quorum Present: Yes**

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Flowers called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Flowers asked everyone to take a moment of silence.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Alderswoman Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Alderman Mozingo seconded the motion. Alderswoman Jones asked if they were going to approve the District 2 Board Member today and Mayor Flowers said that they were going to approve the date that they would vote on the District 2 Board Member. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Action**

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the Resolution for the Policy and Procedure for Electronic Meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fremont. Alderswoman Jones made the motion to approve the resolution. Alderswoman Lewis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Flowers read a statement from Lester Bryant who has property at 304 S. Pender Street. He stated that he does not need garbage service because no one is living in the home. He is asking the Board to allow him to only have electric, water and sewer services. There was some discussion and it was determined that it should be put on the agenda for next month for further discussion.

Mayor Flowers stated that they need to look at how they address public comments. He pointed out that other boards do not respond to public comments at the time they come in, but accept the comments and act on them later.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for March 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Alderman Ruffin asked if the address could be added to the public comment section pertaining to Mr. Daniels complaint. Mrs. Daly said that she would add 303 S. Sycamore Street and put it in parenthesis, since Mr. Daniels did not state the address. Alderwoman Jones referenced page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, last sentence of the minutes. She asked if the change had been made to the Asset Management Plan pertaining to the 20% increase in sewer rates. Mrs. Aycock stated that the change had been made. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion to approve the amended minutes for March 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Alderman Ruffin approved the amended minutes. Alderman Mozingo seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

### **District 2 Candidates**

Mayor Flowers asked if the board had any comments before they call in the candidates. Alderwoman Lewis stated that she felt that Mr. Leon Mooring was a success to the board and she felt that his son should be able to take his place on the board. She said that he should be able to serve out his father's term and then after that let the people of that district vote on who they want in that position. She stated that she would feel the same if it were any of the board members.

Mayor Flowers explained to the board how they would proceed with the interviews. He asked the board if there was anything they would like him to do as a prelude to the candidates coming in. Mayor Pro-tem Artis stated that since this is a board interview and board action, she is requesting that the meeting be the board only, with the exception of Mrs. Aycock and Mrs. Daly. She stated that she would like Mr. Howell, Mrs. Rhodes, and Chief Moats to be excused. Mayor Flowers said that this is a public meeting. Chief Moats stated that it would require a closed session and Mayor Pro-tem Artis said that she wasn't asking for a closed session. Chief Moats said it would require a closed session if it's not open to the public and Mayor Pro-tem Artis said to just forget it.

Mayor Flowers introduced Sam Pierce and asked him to explain a little bit about himself to the board. Mr. Pierce gave a brief summary of who he was and told the board why he wanted to fill the District 2 Board Seat. Each board member asked questions to Mr. Pierce and he answered them. Mayor Flowers thanked Mr. Pierce for his interest in applying for the position of District 2 Board Seat and said that he will be contacted once a decision is made.

Mayor Flowers introduced Keith Spivey and asked him to explain a little bit about himself to the board. Mr. Spivey gave a brief summary of who he was and told the board why he wanted to fill the District 2 Board Seat. Each board member asked questions to Mr. Spivey and he answered them. Mayor Flowers thanked Mr. Spivey for his interest in applying for the position of District 2 Board Seat and said that he will be contacted once a decision is made.

Mayor Flowers introduced Oscar Mooring and asked him to explain a little bit about himself to the board. Mr. Mooring gave a brief summary of who he was and told the board why he wanted to fill the District 2 Board Seat. Each board member asked questions to Mr. Mooring and he answered them. Mayor Flowers thanked Mr. Mooring for his interest in applying for the position of District 2 Board Seat and said that he will be contacted once a decision is made.

Mayor Flowers stated that they need enough time to digest what they have heard and to research the candidates before making a decision. He asked if the board wanted to put it on the agenda for next month's meeting or did they want a special called meeting. He suggested that it be after April 29<sup>th</sup> to see what the governor was going to decide about the 10 or less gathering, because it will affect our meeting.

Alderman Ruffin asked if there was any money to purchase the property by Hwy 795 and resale it. Mrs. Aycock said that the school has bought 19 acres of that property and a new school is going to be built that will accommodate 600 students. She also said that Dollar General has bought Bob Edwards property on Hwy 117 and will be building a bigger store. She said that Danny Wooten has bought Leroy Johnson's property, which has to be re-zoned before he can use it as a business.

Mayor Flowers spoke about the activity and new businesses that have developed in Fremont over the past couple of years. There was some discussion about the changes that are going to happen in the town due to the new school, new residential developments, and the \$2,999,000 grant to replace the sewer lines.

It was discussed and determined that there will be a Special Called Meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to vote on the candidate for District 2 Board Seat.

### **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 motion passed unanimously.

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W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

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Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk