



Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

September 20, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on September 20, 2022. Present were:

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

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Tony Howell, Town Clerk Shannon Daly, Finance Officer Cathy Nichols, Public Works Director Brian Harvey, Chief Paul Moats, Assistant Chief Greg Bottoms, Fire Chief Jeff Brooks, and Town Engineer Mike McAllister.

Those that were absent were Mayor W. Darron Flowers.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order: Mayor Pro tem Artis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation: Alderman Spivey gave the invocation.

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

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Pro tem Artis asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Alderwoman Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Pro tem Artis asked for a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes and the Closed Session Meeting minutes of August 16, 2022. Alderwoman Lewis made the motion to approve both sets of minutes. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Speaker:

Fire Chief Jeff Brooks - Fire Chief Brooks said that N.C. General Statute 143B-943, Section 3 of Session Law 2022-8, requires a criminal background check on every

applicant that joins the Fire Department. He said in the past there has not been a law requiring this, but there is now as of June 14, 2022. He explained the details and the process of this new law.

Fire Chief Brooks asked the Board to consider the Fire Department using the EMS building. He stated that he is proposing that the Fire Department cover the property insurance and the Town cover the utilities, which is how things are setup currently with the Fire Department Building. He said they are still looking to acquire the Ford Excursion and the boat from EMS.

Public Comment: Mayor Pro tem Artis opened the meeting for public comments and explained that each person would have 3 minutes to speak to the Board.

- (1) Cynthia Dickerson of 304 S. Pine Street had a concern as to why the name plate was taken off of her mother's grave and would like it back.
- (2) Larry Jones of 106 E. Norwayne Alumni Way wanted to thank the Town, Chief Moats, and Mr. Harvey for their assistance during the Norwayne Alumni Events. He said their intent was to bring economic impact to the Town and unity within the Town. He said that he would like for there to be a mix of people participating and that is something they will continue to work on, but overall, the event was a success.

Mr. Jones spoke about the importance of livestreaming the meetings and updating the Town's website.

Mr. Jones said that Norwayne Alumni is trying to bring in new businesses to the area. He said they are going to rent the space beside Brad's Barber shop to be used to have individuals recruit people for jobs.

Mr. Jones spoke about the CDBG-CV grant funds and said that they are aggressively going to go after the funds.

- (3) Daryl Hall of 501 S. Pine Street had a complaint about his mother's utility bill.

Mayor Pro tem Artis closed the meeting for public comments.

Action:

- (1) **Annexation – Mr. Howell** – Mr. Howell stated that at a previous meeting the Board had approved an annexation for the school, but we have recently found out that the County should have been the petitioner for that request instead of the school. He said that he recommends that the Board resend the motion to annex the school. Mayor Pro tem asked for a motion to resend the motion. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- (2) **Resolution for Stormwater Planning/CIP/Rate Study – Mr. Howell** – Mr. Howell asked Mr. McAllister to explain the resolution. Mr. McAllister explained the resolution. Mayor Pro tem Artis asked for a motion to approve

the resolution. Alderwoman Jones made the motion. Alderman Spivey seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

- (3) Interment Request Form – Mayor Pro tem Artis** – Mayor Pro tem Artis asked for a motion to approve the interment request form. Alderwoman Jones made the motion. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. Alderwoman Jones made a suggestion that funeral home be added to who the form was to be completed by and Fremont be added to refer to the cemetery superintendent or designee. All were in favor of the two corrections. Motion passed unanimously.
- (4) Budget Amendments (BA 1-2023 & BA 2-2023) – Mrs. Nichols** – Mrs. Nichols went over the two budget amendments. Mayor Pro tem Artis asked for a motion to approve the two budget amendments. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderwoman Futrelle seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- (5) Town Fees Schedule – Mr. Howell** – Mr. Howell stated that the fee schedule has all of the adjustments that the Board has approved in previous meetings. There was some discussion and it was determined that the filing fees for candidates of the Board and the traffic violations be deleted; and the Fremont Cemetery price be changed to \$700 per grave. Mayor Pro tem Artis asked for a motion to approve the Town Fee schedule to include the changes that were discussed. Alderman Ruffin made the motion. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

- (1) Finance Report – Mrs. Nichols** – Mrs. Nichols gave the financial report. She said that the profit for the month of August is \$65,386.39 and the checking account balance is approximately 1,100,000.

Alderman Spivey had concerns about the amount of money being spent for professional services. Mrs. Nichols gave an explanation of these charges and said that some of the money will be reimbursed from grants.

Alderman Spivey had a concern about the bank service charges and said that half of what was budgeted for has been spent. Mrs. Nichols said that she would have to check on that and would send an email to the Board the next day.

- (2) Billing & Collections Report – Mrs. Daly** – Mrs. Daly gave the billing and collection report. She stated that she has added a report that explains the spreadsheet and asked if the Board had any questions.

Alderman Spivey asked if the cutoffs are repeat offenders and Mrs. Daly said most of them are.

- (3) Public Works Report – Mr. Harvey** – Mr. Harvey gave the public works report.

Mr. Harvey said that we will not have an electric utility employee after the end of this month and asked the Board to give him the authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the Town for emergency repairs on the power grid. There was some discussion. Alderman Spivey made a motion to give Mr. Harvey the authority to enter into contracts for the electrical needs of the Town until we hire a lineman. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Harvey asked the Board what they wanted to do about the transformer for the school. There was much discussion. Alderman Spivey made a motion to allow Wayne County Public School System to utilize Tri-County Electric for the transformer and their electrical needs for the new Fremont School, with the exception of the lift station. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion about the guard rails on Goldsboro Street. Mr. Harvey is still waiting on quotes for this job.

Mr. Harvey explained that there is a new EPA law on copper and lead pipes, with a 3 phase process, which gives the government the right to require any and/or all pipes to be replaced. He said currently there is no money for this, but they are expecting that there will be. He said phase 1, which is identifying all water lines, has to be completed by October 2024.

- (4) Police Report – Chief Moats** – Chief Moats said that there have been no major incidents to report.

Chief Moats said that they have acquired two new AEDs, from a grant, and are going to create a policy and get training on the proper use of them.

Chief Moats said that we are one of the first municipalities in Wayne County that is going to use a new non-lethal device, which is called a Bolo Wrap. He said it's not going to replace any other non-lethal devices that they are currently using, such as the Taser, it's going to add to them. He said the Bolo Wrap is safer to use than the Taser. He said they will have a policy and procedure on the use of this device and he will demonstrate to the Board how this device will be used. He said Assistant Chief Greg Bottoms has had training on the use of the device. He said this device was 100% funded through a grant.

- (5) Cemetery Report – Mayor Pro tem Artis** – Mayor Pro tem Artis stated that this is her 3rd cemetery report and asked if the Board had any questions about the report. Alderwoman Futrelle commented that this was good detective work. Mrs. Daly thanked the Board for allowing Mayor Pro tem Artis to work on the cemeteries and said that it has taken a huge responsibility off of the staff.

Discussion:

- (1) Workshops – Mayor Pro tem Artis** – Mayor Pro tem Artis stated that it has been brought to her attention that some of the ordinances need to be revised

and/or amended and asked the Board if they would like to schedule a workshop to work on this. She said that there are two in particular that needs to be addressed and that is animal control and cemetery. The Board agreed and Mayor Pro tem Artis said they will get some dates together and send them out.

- (2) **Cemetery Ordinance –Alderman Ruffin** – Mr. Ruffin asked Mr. Howell if we are currently selling graves. Mr. Howell said that we should not be selling any at Fremont. Mr. Ruffin suggested that we give copies of our cemetery ordinance to every person that buys a plot. Alderman Spivey agreed. There was some discussion about temporary grave markers, flowers, and other items on the cemetery graves. Mr. Harvey stated that Lagrange has two dates per year that they clean everything up on their graves and suggested that we come up with certain dates to do the same. It was determined that this will be discussed in the workshop.
- (3) **South Goldsboro Street ditch – Alderman Ruffin** – Alderman Ruffin stated that is has been discussed during the public works report.
- (4) **Board Retreat – Alderman Spivey** – Alderman Spivey said that this can be combined with the workshops.
- (5) **Committees – Alderwoman Jones** – Alderwoman Jones stated that last year the committees met and accomplished a lot and she is suggesting that the committees start meeting again. She said the three committees are Human Resource, Finance and Administration, and Infrastructure. She said that being that it is the end of the fiscal year, she feels that the Finance Committee needs to meet and she will set up a time that will not interfere with the audit.
- (6) **Hispanic Heritage Month – Alderwoman Jones** – Alderwoman Jones stated that September 15th through October 15th is National Hispanic Heritage Month and referenced some information pertaining to this, which was in the agenda packet.
- (7) **Garbage & Recycle Ordinance – Mrs. Daly** – Mrs. Daly wanted to get a clear understanding what the Board wanted the staff to do about the garbage and recycle cans. There was some discussion and it was determined that the Board wants the Ordinances enforced starting next week.
- (8) **Clerk’s Responsibilities – Mrs. Daly** – Mrs. Daly stated that she wanted to point out the minutes under the clerk’s responsibilities. She said that the minutes that are in the agenda packet are shorter than usual and asked if the Board was OK with them. She stated that they have everything that is required by law in them. The Board was OK with the minutes.

Mrs. Daly stated that she feels that the Town needs a Deputy Town Clerk. She said that there are things that only the clerk can sign and if she is not available, she does not want to hinder the Town in any way. After some discussion, Alderman Spivey asked for Mrs. Daly to put it on paper and present it to the Board.

Information:

- (1) Recognizing Human Trafficking Training for Local Governments – Online training will be held in the Board Room on Thursday, September 29, 2022 from 3:00 to 4:30.**
- (2) Fall Cleanup will be the week of October 10th – 14th.**
- (3) Livestreaming for Board meetings will start next month on October 18th.**

Closed Session:

Personnel - General Statute § 143-318.11(6) – Mayor Pro tem Artis asked for a motion to go into Closed Session. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session:

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

The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

Encouraging Quote:

“It doesn’t matter how strong your opinions are. If you don’t use your power for positive change, you indeed are part of the problem.”— Coretta Scott King

Joyce M. Artis, Mayor Pro-tem

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk