



Minutes of Special Called Meeting February 7, 2023

The Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC held a Special Called Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 7, 2023. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor
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, Town Attorney Brian Pridgen, and Demographer Richard Livingston.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order: Mayor Flowers 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 Flowers asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro tem Artis made the motion. Alderwoman Lewis seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Audit Extension Agreement – Mr. Howell

Mr. Howell stated that the amendment to the audit has been modified from the original date of October 31, 2022 to February 28, 2023 and he recommends that the Board approves it. There was some discussion. Mayor Flowers asked for a motion. Alderwoman Jones made a motion that the amendment to contract to audit accounts be approved. Alderwoman Futrelle seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Redistricting – Brian Pridgen, Town Attorney and Richard Livingston, Demographer

Mayor Flowers asked Brian Pridgen to discuss redistricting and any questions needed to be addressed to Mr. Pridgen or Mr. Livingston.

Mr. Pridgen stated that the Town has to perform a redistricting, because the population numbers have shifted since the census of 2010 and the population totals have to come into compliance. He said to do that it requires you to adjust the current district lines. He said the first step was to adopt a resolution to redraw those lines and to hire a demographer, which the Board has done. He said the demographer, Mr. Richard Livingston, has prepared some sample maps that have been distributed to the Board and these maps are just a starting point. He said that the purpose of the meeting is not necessarily to make any decisions, but to walk through the process and answer any questions that the Board may have. There was some discussion about the process taking at least two more meetings, with a public hearing being held at the next Board meeting and an approval of the map being at March's Board meeting.

Mr. Livingston gave a presentation that consisted of the basic knowledge of redistricting. After the presentation, there was much discussion about the sample maps. It was determined that Mr. Livingston will try to redraw the map, using sample map 1, without debunking, but keeping in compliance with the General Statute.

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

Encouraging Quote: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill

The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk