



## **Minutes of Special Called Meeting May 31, 2023**

The Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC held a Special Called Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on May 1, 2023. Present were:

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor  
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 Bob Jones, Town Clerk Shannon Daly and Finance Officer Cathy Nichols.

Those not in attendance were Alderwoman Terry Futrelle.

### **Quorum Present: Yes**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Flowers called the meeting to order at 2:00 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. Alderman Spivey made the motion. Alderwoman Jones seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion:**

#### **(1) Rates & Fees**

Mr. Jones presented the proposed rate and fee increases. He explained that the Finance Committee met last week to review these proposals. There was some discussion about the increases and the changes to the codes. Mr. Jones stated that the reason we need to increase the rates is because the rates are being increased for the Town. He stated that there are no increases to water or sewer for the residence that live inside the city limits and a small change to the basic rate for electric. He stated that the increases are primarily for outside the city limits, because they should not get the same services at the same rate as inside city residence, being that they do not pay property taxes to the Town. The Board agreed with the changes that Mr. Jones had presented.

## **(2) Fire Department Budget**

Mr. Jones stated that there are some issues with the Fire Department's budget. He said as of today, they are over budget by \$17,000. He said \$15,000 is due to the fact that the Board made a decision to pay that amount on an old loan. He said the problem with that is the \$15,000 came from the sale of a fire truck that was sold last year, but that amount was not paid to the old loan at that time. He said it was put into the sale of surplus property and then transferred to the fund balance at the end of last fiscal year. He said paying it on the loan this year has caused a problem, because it was not budgeted for this year. He said he will have to find a way cover the line items that are out of budget. The Board was not aware that the \$15,000 would affect this year's budget, because they thought the money would be taken from wherever it was put last year to pay on the loan. Before the fire truck was sold, the Board stated that the proceeds from the sale of the truck would go towards paying off the old loan.

Mr. Jones stated that the amount of revenue from fire tax has been overstated for last year's budget, as well as, this year's budget. He said he spoke to the tax department to try to figure out how much the fire tax was and it appears that it is \$21,192 less than what is for next year's revenues. There was some discussion and it was determined that Mr. Jones will get with Fire Chief Brooks to discuss this and to figure out how to balance his budget.

## **(3) Budget Amendments**

Mr. Jones presented the budget amendments that will need to be approved in order to fix our budget for this year. There were several pages of budget amendments and the Board asked many questions about why we had so many and whose responsibility it was to oversee this. Mrs. Nichols said that Jimmy Overton, our previous accountant used to do the budget amendments. Mr. Jones stated to the Board that it is the Finance Officer and the Town Administrator's responsibility. There was much discussion about the state of the Town's finances and although we have many budget amendments, the Town's budget for this year, did have the funds to be able to do the budget amendments. It was discussed that some things were improperly coded and some things were paid this year that was not budgeted for.

Mayor Pro tem Artis stated that she would like to go into Closed Session. Mayor Flowers asked for what reason and she said personnel.

### **Recess:**

Mayor Flowers stated that we will have a short recess.

Mrs. Nichols left the meeting.

### **Closed Session: Personnel – General Statute 143-318.11(6)**

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

### **Open Session:**

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

**Encouraging Quote: “The quality of our relationships determines the quality of our lives.” – Esther Perel (1958-), Belgian-American psychotherapist**

The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m.

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W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

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Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk