



**Special Called Meeting
July 13, 2023**

The Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC held a Special Called Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on July 13, 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 Town Engineer Michael McAllister.

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: Alderman Spivey led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Flower asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro tem Artis made the motion. Alderman Spivey seconded it. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: LGC staff to discuss the Fremont-Eureka Utility Agreement

Sharon Edmundson from the LGC and Debbie Tomasko from NC Department of State Treasurer addressed the Board about the concerns for Eureka. They asked many questions about the rate increase on Eureka, such as how we came up with the rate, have we had a rate study done, how is Eureka's sewer usage being calculated, and have we received the AIA grant. Mr. Jones and Mr. McAllister answered all questions and stated that the Town increased the rate on Eureka to the outside residential rate and added a base rate, because Fremont's citizens are paying a base rate.

There was some discussion about Fremont selling back 300,000 gallons of capacity to Goldsboro and we only have 300,000 gallons of capacity left. This has caused an issue for growth for Fremont.

There was much discussion about the problem with Eureka's sewer system and the problem with sewer capacity. The Board entertained the idea of possibly filing for a grant, jointly, with Eureka which would be up to 30 million dollars. This would be 15 million for Fremont and 15 million for Eureka, and would solve the problem with fixing

Eureka's sewer system which will free up sewer capacity for Fremont.

There was some discussion about regionalization and the Town being the regional provider for the Northern part of the County by building a package plant to be able to serve Eureka, Pikeville, and Fremont. It was stated that the Town's lagoons can handle approximately 91,000 gallons of sewer per day which isn't enough to serve both Fremont and Eureka.

There was some discussion about Fremont being able to take over Eureka. It was said that the General Assembly would have to decide that.

It was stated that the Town was not able to collect \$330,000 from Eureka for over capacity rates for three years and the Town had to incur that cost. Mrs. Edmundson stated that the reason for this was due to the fact that the Town had not been charging the over capacity rate, but now we are and Eureka is paying it.

Mrs. Edmundson said that Eureka does not have the money to pay the rates and they will have to use emergency grant money until it runs out.

The conclusion was that Mrs. Edmundson is going to try to set up a meeting next week with DEQ and the Board to discuss the possibility of Eureka merging with Fremont.

Motion to Close Regular Meeting:

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

The meeting ended at 3:30 p.m.

Encouraging Quote: *"The changes we dread most may contain our salvation."*

– Barbara Kingsolver, Pulitzer Prize winning American novelist

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk