



**Emergency Called Meeting
August 10, 2023**

The Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC held a Special Called Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on August 10, 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 and Town Clerk Shannon Daly.

Those not in attendance were Alderwoman Terry Futrelle.

Quorum Present: Yes

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

Invocation: Alderman Spivey gave the invocation.

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

Discussion:

Mayor Flowers stated that the purpose of this called meeting is that there were modifications made in the rate structures, and with those modifications, we found that there were some issues that was not taken into consideration. He said we want to reassure the public that we are still operating with their best interest in mind.

The Board stated that they have had several phone calls from business owners about their rates. The Board was confused about what happened and wants to get more information from staff in order to make changes to the rates to be fair to the business owners.

Mayor Flowers asked Mr. Jones to explain the rate structure and the changes that were made. Mr. Jones stated that in the past, everybody was grouped under inside residential rates. He said there was an outside commercial rate, but there was no inside business rate and there was no segregation between residential and business. He said this year when we did the budget, we re-structured the rate fee schedule to include residential and businesses to have different rates, because each one has a different impact on our system. He said we broke them out and we did not know the effect is was going to have until we did the billing. He said we did some investigating and found out that there were some issues and

we would like to have a chance to investigate those issues. He said hopefully we can get the committee together to re-visit some of the rates and adjust them to a more reasonable rate. He said we did not know what the effect would be with the new rates, but now that we see that there is an issue, we would like the committee to look at it and re-present it to the Board to have the rate schedule re-adjusted. He said the Board can re-adjust the rate schedule anytime. He said that all the rates will be looked at and asked the Board to defer the late penalties until a decision can be made.

Action:

Mayor Pro tem Artis made a motion that we defer payment for businesses that were affected by the increase of these rates, until we look into it and determine what we are going to do about it. Alderman Ruffin seconded it. Alderwoman Jones asked if we were going to defer the whole amount and for what time frame. Mayor Pro tem Artis stated that her intention was to defer the whole amount because she does not understand how these rates went into play to effect all of the utilities. Mr. Jones said that we can do an adjustment on the bills, once the Board makes a decision on the rates. It was discussed that the Board's intention is to make a decision on Tuesday, August 15th, and that will be before the bills are due, which is on the 20th. Alderwoman Jones stated that there should be a date that the bills are deferred to. Mayor Pro tem Artis said that we could defer the payments until the end of August, which is August 31st. Mayor Flowers asked Alderman Ruffin was he in agreement with this and he said yes. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Close Regular Meeting:

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.

The meeting ended at 1:15 p.m.

W. Darron Flowers, Mayor

Shannon L. Daly, Town Clerk