

Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

February 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on February 20, 2024. Present were:

Eddie Yelverton, Mayor
Leroy Ruffin, Mayor Pro-tem
Joyce Artis, Alderwoman
Tim Howell, Alderman
Oscar Mooring, Alderman
Annie Lewis, Alderwoman
Wayne Jackson, Alderman

Also in attendance were Interim Town Administrator Joyce Artis, Finance Officer, Shannon Marie Berry, Police Chief Paul Moats, Town Clerk, Junnie Williams

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order

Mayor Yelverton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Officer Shannon Marie Berry gave the invocation.

Alderman Oscar Mooring led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Yelverton, stated that there are some changes to the Agenda.

Alderwoman Artis, asked to amend the Agenda under **Speaker**: Recognition of Former Board Member: Alderman Leon Mooring, District 2 to be **moved** to a later date.

Alderwoman Artis also asked under **Discussion**: to **add** Dedication of Downtown Parking Spaces for the Post Office and to **add** the Main Street Conference under

Discussion. Alderwoman Artis stated under **Action** add the Budget Amendment 7-2024 and that the BA Posted Closing 2023 in your Packets will not be discussed or

approved for tonight due to Auditor needing additional information concerning that. This is all I have.

Mayor Yelverton, asked for a **Motion** to approve the amended Agenda.

Alderman Jackson, seconded the **Motion**.

Mayor Yelverton, asked is there any discussion? If not, all in Favor let it be shown by the raising of hands. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Yelverton, asked for a **Motion** for the Approval of Minutes stated before us.

Alderman Howell, stated there are **2 corrections** that need to be changed in the Minutes for January 16, 2024/Regular Public Board Meeting, on Page 8 and on Page 12.

Alderman Jackson, had a question from the **Finance Report** on January 16, 2024/Regular Public Board Meeting where it was stated in the Minutes the "Water and Sewer Funds," our Expenditures for our 6 months period is **325**, if this was correct or should it be **32%**, and the Finance Officer, Shannon Marie Berry stated she will look back to see what the exact amount is.

Mayor Yelverton, asked for a **Motion** for the Approval of the Minutes with the necessary corrections to be made at the next Regular Board Meeting in March 2024.

Alderman Artis, so moved.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin, Second the **Motion**.

Mayor Yelverton, asked are there any discussion? If not, all in Favor let it be shown by the raising of hands. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mayor Yelverton, opened the Meeting for Public Comments. No one had any comments. **Mayor Yelverton**, stated the Public Comments Section at this time is now closed.

Speakers

1st Speaker

Mike McAllister – DEQ Grant Update

Mr. McAllister stated that the Town of Fremont received a **MRF Grant** of **\$50,000** in which he stated that he wasn't sure if the Town of Fremont had received their Letter or not for the **MRF Grant**, but to his understanding the Legislation is handing out earmarks. **Mr. McAllister** informed the Fremont Board of the Town of Eureka received a **\$20,000,000** earmark, in which the Town of Fremont is eligible to some of that money to repair **Eureka 1 and Eureka 2**. **Mr. McAllister** stated one other thing is the Smoke Test for the Town of Fremont that will be coming forth in a couple of weeks. He stated that he was waiting to hear back from someone out of the State of Alabama, who will be performing the Smoke Test for the actual Date, schedule for this to be done in Fremont and there will be video as well.

Alderman Artis, was there any reason, why our Public Works Department was not able to do the Smoke Testing.

Mike McAllister, well the Town of Fremont received a Grant for this, so I would have preferred for an outside source to come in and do the work, if it was up to me.

Alderman Howell, Public Works could have done the Smoke Testing, but it takes a crowd of people to handle the process of this Testing.

2nd Speaker

Mr. Ricardo Barron – Use of old Library

Mr. Barron, spoke out from the compassion and the depths of his heart to the now present sitting Board and the Mayor. Mr. Barron spoke on patriotism, favoritism, working together for the cause of a greater good of the Town of Fremont. Mr. Barron spoke on being compassionate and concerned toward one another. Mr. Barron spoke of his own Business within the operations of the old Library, which is called "**The Praise Army**." Mr. Barron spoke of his own ideas for his Business establishment, where it will flourish, and be presentable to the eyes of the Town of Fremont and its visitors. Mr. Barron is willing to work with the new Town Board and the new Mayor, as he also desires for the Town Board to work with him also. Mr. Barron looks toward better opportunities for his Business in the Town of Fremont, as we continues to grow together connected as one purpose for the Town of Fremont.

Mayor Yelveton, thank you, Mr. Barron.

Action

Mike Benton – Cottages on Vance Street

Mr. Benton introduced himself as a Surveyor from Goldsboro, who will be administering the work of the Cottages on Vance Street for Mr. Tony Stone. Mr. Benton presented the Town of with the Preliminary Plat, along with the Final Plat, in which both of the Plats are identically the same. There is no real difference between the 2 of them. Mr. Benton stated they are just trying to avoid any more delays in getting this project off the ground.

Alderman Howell, asked were the Cottages going to be underground electricity or overhead?

Mr. Benton, stated its overhead power right now, but it is to my understanding it will go from the overhead power lines underground to the individual homes.

Alderman Howell, does anyone know what the water line size is?

Mr. Benton, stated that this was on the Preliminary Plat.

Alderman Artis, stated that the Towns, Attorney: Brian Pridgen was contacted about the approving of the Preliminary and the Final Plat at the same time and you are correct Mr. Benton and Mr. Pippin, due to the fact we are not installing any infrastructure such as water and sewer or anything like that, this can be done.

Mr. Benton, Very good.

Alderman Jackson, addressed a question to Mr. McAllister regarding the Cottages on Vance Street from the Planning Board and Adjustment Meeting, held on February 13, 2024, in regards to the Drainages for this new subdivision, and if this has been worked out with the Town of Fremont, as to what needs to be done in this situation?

Mr. McAllister, stated that the drainage still has to be worked out, but we have to see first what needs to be done with the property behind the Cottages, before the drainage

can be dealt with. Mr. McAllister talked about the concerns for the Power Poles being placed on the Streets and if the owner of each Cottage wanted their Power Poles moved due to these Power Poles sitting in the middle of their driveway or the middle of someone's lot, and whatever the owner's decision be, this will be on the owner. Mr. McAllister stated his other concern is about the Kiosk, and the location of where it sits, but there too again this will falls under the Postage Regulations, because this is not really a City Code, but the real concern is the ownership and the maintains of the Kiosk. We may need to talk with the Towns, Attorney: Brian Pridgen about this as well.

Aldерwoman Artis, what can we do about the Kiosk, as far as putting something in writing?

Mr. McAllister, I think maybe a conversation with Brian Pridgen, the Town of Fremont, Attorney would be in line.

Aldерwoman Artis, so would it be okay, to go ahead and approve the Cottages on Vance Street?

Mr. McAllister, with the stipulation that has been addressed that would be my recommendations.

Mayor Yelverton, do we have a **Motion** to approve the Cottages on Vance Street?

Alderman Jackson, I make a **Motion** that we approve this subdivision and the Plats and the Kiosk that has been addressed.

Mayor Yelverton, is there a Second?

Alderman Howell, Second the **Motion**.

Mayor Yelverton, asked are there any discussion? If not, all in Favor let it be shown by the raising of hands. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Mayor Yelverton, Budget Amendment, Mrs. Shannon Marie Berry, Finance Officer. **Shannon M. Berry**, as it has been stated in our Packet to remove the **Posted Closing BA-2023, Budget Amendment** and destroy it. I'm working with the CPA and our Auditor to get everything moving forward in which there will be another Budget Amendment **Posted Closing** coming this way soon, just not today. So for the **BA 07-2024**, a couple of things to walk through according to this in **Section 1** is to amend the Electric Funds, the appropriation to be changed is the **\$83** and the purpose is because when the original **2024 Budget** was written this **Line Item** was actually listed in what was presented at **Zero Dollars**, but it actually should have read **\$83**. The money is already allocated in the **Revenue Line**, and this is just a correction for Budget alignment only. **Section 2** to amend the **Water Sewer and Electric Funds**. Following the 6 months review by the LGC, and our year to date Budget, which is actually good. We are in a good place and space at this time. The request has been made by the LGC, is to make sure that we keep **Sewer Funds** in **Sewer Funds** and **Electric Funds** in **Electric Funds** and so what we are doing in this moment and time is restoring that **Electric Capital Improvement Line**, restoring that **\$50,000** and we are going to actually **Decrease** the purchase of **Sewer**, because in looking at the projection as, to our need of purchase, we are actually very well under Budget in that particular **Line Item** to allow for this transaction, so this is actually a correction to **Budget Amendment 06-2024** and this was done in December 2023, before the new sitting Board now. We need to amend the **Northern Wayne Fire District Fund, #15 Fund** and we need to **Decrease** the **Maintenance and Repair Vehicles** by **\$2,500** and **Increase** the **Maintenance and**

Repair Building and Grounds by \$2,500. This is due to the over **Expenditures** in the **Building and Grounds Line Item.** The final thing is to the **General Fund, Section 4.** We want to **Increase** amend **Propane Gas.** We want to **Increase Library Propane Gas** and we want to **Decrease the Tax's, Ad Valorem,** by **\$2,600** and the purpose for this is because when the **Propane Gas Lines** were **Budgeted in 2024,** they were Budgeted at more than half of what the **Expenditures** last year was, so both of those **Lines in 2023** had a **\$1,000 Budget Line.** In **2024** the amend **Propane** was **Decreased** to **\$400** and the **Library Propane** was **Decreased** to **\$500,** which is completely unrealistic given the cost of **Propane Gas** and the number of fields in which we need to do. This should allow us to get through the **2024** year without having to do this process again. I tried to project based upon what the previous field amount have been, the timing of those amounts, and the amount that I expected it to cost, so I believe that **\$1,300 Line Item** for both of those should be very adequate and the reason why I am **Decreasing the Ad Valorem Line under Tax's** is because we have actually made money in that **Line Item** this year above what we have originally Budget, so that Line actually provides us actual Funds, that we have available for us at this time.

Mayor Yelverton, do we have a **Motion** to accept these Budget Amendments?

Alderman Artis, So moved.

Mayor Yelverton, Is there a Second?

Alderman Lewis, Second the **Motion.**

Mayor Yelverton, asked are there any discussion? If not, all in Favor let it be shown by the raising of hands. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Reports:

Finance Report

Finance Officer, **Shannon M. Berry:**

What I have provided for you is the end of the month Balance. You will also see that we have been steady growing in those Account Balances. You have received the Budget to Actuals and other than our Budget Amendment there is nothing that has stood out to me as a problem. I think we are on a good little path forwardly as we continue to move.

Alderman Howell, I was looking over the Budget to Actuals and there is on Page 5, a Land-Fill Fee. Is this for the Daffodil Festival?

Shannon M. Berry, This can be used for several different things, but the **GFL Funds** those funds will cover items going to the Land-Filled also.

Mayor Yelverton, are there any questions for Mrs. Berry? Thank you, Mrs. Berry.

Billing & Collection Report

Town Clerk, **Junnie Williams:**

We have before us the January/February Billing and Collection Report as to what was collected as of March 13, 2024.

Billing and Collection: The difference between what was billed versus what was collect is **\$13,923.49.** \$8,691.74 is due to an error in the readings/billing for one account. We credited back **\$2,086.16** in water and **\$6,605.58** in sewer. This still leaves a difference of **\$5,231.75** which we still had **\$3,662.14** owed to the Town at the end of February.

Voucher: There was **\$1,011.12** owed to the Town for vouchers.

Budget Billing: There was **\$1,190.25** billed and **\$895** collected.

Cut-offs: We had a total of 11 Cut-offs. Which consist of 9 residents and 2 businesses. All accounts have been cut back on except 4 residents as of 3/13/2024.

Debt Setoff: There was \$0.00 put into Debt Setoff from delinquent accounts for the month of December and there was \$0.00 collected in the month of February.

Arrangements: There was a total of \$488.58 that was owed to the Town from Arrangements and \$105.65 was collected, leaving a total of \$382.93 owed. This amount is the total owed from 3 residents.

Work Orders: For the month of February, there were 1 connects, 1 disconnects, and 1 transfers. This so ends my report.

Mayor Yelverton, are there any questions for Mrs. Williams? Thank you, Mrs. Williams.

Police Report

Police Chief, Paul Moats:

Chief Moat, addressed the additional traffic flow on Main Street with the 2 new business here in the Downtown, Fremont area on Friday and Saturday nights and the different events going on at their establishments. Chief Moats stated that he has run into a few issues and complaints from these Business. Chief Moats has spoken and met with the owners of these Business in coming up with some ways and an agreement to resolve these issues on both sides. Thus far things are going according to the agreement in which we talked about. The Fremont Police Department is still continuing to monitor and keep an eye on things in the Downtown area, due to the certain events taken place on the weekends from these 2 new business establishments.

Mayor Yelverton, are there any questions for Chief Moats? Thank you, Chief Moats.

Town Update Report:

Alderwoman Joyce Artis:

Mrs. Artis, spoke on two Town updates accomplishments since the last Meeting. *The Pump Station located on HWY 222 near the West Family Farm the piping has been installed inside the wet well. The suction and discharge, we are just waiting on KBS Construction to install the Floaters before we can put it back on-line, because it hasn't been working for over a year or two, due to issues with Rust have been found, so they have to dig up the Slab through the wet well in which you can see from the picture that Mr. Kenneth Stanley has provided for the Town in our Packets. *On Goldsboro Street the owner of Asphalt Services called today and stated that he would be starting next week. He will be installing an additional tile in a ditch on the South end of Goldsboro Street, which is Mayor Pro tem Ruffin, project. *The heating and air unit within our Public Works Department is not working and I have reached out to Herring Heating and Air, who will be here on Friday the 23rd at 8:00 a.m. to check the unit out. The Reclosers, Mayor Yelverton was in my office on yesterday, Friday 16th, and we both spoke with our Electric Lineman, Ray Bostic concerning the quote for the Reclosers and Ray told us that he was unable to obtain a quote as he originally thought from one company because they didn't know exactly what needed to be done with the ones in which we currently have. I spoke with Ray today, Tuesday 20th and he still hasn't heard back from either Company in whom he called regarding the refurbishing of the Reclosers. *The Leaf Truck had to be repaired due to the brake calipers sticking causing the brakes to get hot. The wires and spark plugs were changed out too, so our vehicles are looking as though they are on the road to recovery, hopefully. *The motor in the Bucket Truck that raises and lowers the bucket has been repaired. *In your

Packets, you have the Recertification Form for both the Pole and Bucket Truck. The last Recertification was completed on October the 4th, 2023 for both Trucks, and was conducted by Southeastern Testing Laboratories but only the Dielectric Test was performed then. The next Recertification is due April of 2024, so we are on track with our Recertification as far as the Dielectric Testing concerning.

Alderman Howell, the Dielectric Testing is on Contract and done once a year, but my concern is the cables on the Bucket Truck, which are to be replaced every 10 years, and the Truck is 25 years old.

Alderman Artis, yes, and I have reached out to Altec and they will be here on next week to check the Cables and to do a full Recertification, even the DOT Inspection, also which this hasn't been done in years. He also told me that it would take about 6 hours for this testing to be done. *In my meeting with Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley, he informed me that the soil samples for the Spray Fields must be completed, due to State mandated and there is a cost of \$7.50 per zoning which the Town of Fremont has at least 15 zones. *Alderman Artis stated that on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., Brittany Shipp will be here at the Town Hall to meet with us. She is the Southeast Region Consultant at the Recreation Resource Service Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management and the reason why I included her Letter in our Packets is because I wanted to open it up unto the whole Board to find out who would like to attend the Meeting with Mrs. Brittany Ship. Later after the meeting, we will go out to the Park and she is going to talk with us about some great opportunities.

Alderman Jackson, asked Alderman Artis, there is a flow of the City of Goldsboro Sewerage and then we have a flow that is received in Goldsboro, and it is a right much differences. Is that inflow in the pipes from Fremont to Goldsboro?

Mr. McAllister, let me see if I can help you with this Mrs. Artis. Mr. McAllister stated just about everything in Town that you see goes down towards Hillendale Drive, which goes through actually 2 Pump Stations. Hillendale Drive is the large Stream and the First Pump Station, you see in which you refer to as **Goldsboro #1**, pumps to Goldsboro and **Goldsboro #2**, which is at Norwayne School, and the Airport is Northeast Elementary, Charles B. Aycock, and Norway, all that goes to Goldsboro, because it can't go anywhere else, so that maybe a little bit of the discrepancy that you see. We have had some issues over the years with Calibration Meters at Goldsboro, and sometimes it has worked out really great in their favor and sometimes not, but they actually read their Meters and another thing is a lot depends upon how much it rains too.

Alderman Howell, a lot of it goes to the Lagoon too.

Mr. McAllister, the stuff that's dry goes to the Lagoon, which is very little, unless School are in but the rest will go to Goldsboro. We always have stuff going to Goldsboro, because we have the few connections that the Town has out there.

Discussion

Mayor Yelverton, Mrs. Artis, can you go ahead and talk about the Name Recognition of the MLK Park.

Alderman Artis, yes, there is a lady who has been taking care of the MLK Park, in between with what the Towns Public Works Department does and the ladies name is Mrs. Lucille Jones. After speaking with a couple of the Board members and the Mayor, as to how the Town of Fremont, should recognize Mrs. Lucille Jones for her dedicated

work, Mayor Yelverton had a good suggestion to present Mrs. Lucille with a Plaque at one of the Town's Board Meetings, so I am bring this to the Board to get your thoughts. **Alderman Howell**, Mrs. Lucille, has been doing this for years, and I'm all for it. **Alderman Jackson**, if we are really going to recognize her, we should get her a real Plaque and have her name engraved on it and mounted at the Park. I mean, I don't want to change the Name of the Park, but that will allow everyone to see the recognition in which Mrs. Lucille deserves.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin, I think that is a good idea, Mr. Jackson.

Alderwoman Artis, stated that is a good idea. We can have everything painted and I will look at some Plaques and bring this back to the Board.

Mayor Yelverton, Okay, Alderwoman Artis will get back with the Board, once everything has been decided upon.

Mayor Yelverton, Mr. Pippin, Chairman of the Planning Board and Adjustment will speak with us on the Zoning of the Old School Building.

Mr. Pippin, one thing the Planning Board wants to mention to the Town, and that is the Town of Fremont, North Carolina Code of Ordinances, if it can be looked at, due to the ones for the Planning Board not being current and a lot of these Ordinances were done back in 1985 and 1986, so I would ask the Town, if they would go in and update the Town Ordinances itself. 3247 under General Powers and Duties of the Planning Board is to make studies of the areas within its jurisdiction and surrounding areas to enquire and maintain current Forms, and such basic information and materials that are necessary to understanding of past trends and present conditions and the last part enforces it works that will cause changes in those conditions. We all know the new School will open in the Fall of this coming year and we got something that hasn't been done in the Town that is being Zone by the School this particular minute because the Town does have an jurisdiction in that particular area. When the School is released, I don't know whether it will be sold back to the Town or whatever it maybe. It may be sold to any individual which he or she may want to put apartment above or a Shopping Center down in the area. Once it falls back, after it sells and comes back to the Town of Fremont for jurisdiction. The Planning Board at the particular time would like to do a study on that and I think we have the authority to do so with the help of the Town. It may take a small amount of people to go in and talk to the School Board or either the County Commissioners or maybe both. I don't suggest going in at the point of demanding what they are going to do with the School or anything like such as that. If it's something as to negotiations, then the Town needs to be involved in that because it's a large area, setup as R10 and I think it is something that the Town needs to go in and look at and let us do a brand new study in that particular area.

Alderwoman Artis, stated to Mr. Pippin, I do know but there is a great possibility that the Town will not be receiving the School. It was told to me by the Chairman of the Facility Committee that someone here, informed them that we did not want the School, so I don't think that we will receive it at this time.

Mr. Pippin, oh, well is there any questions, anyone might have at this time?

Mayor Yelverton, asked Mr. Pippin if there was any update on the Museum?

Mr. Pippin, at this present time we have hired an Engineer to look at the Museum, because State Law requires us to do so, since it is a 2-story building. Mr. Pippin stated they received \$100,000 from the State of North Carolina and paid out approximately

\$35,000 for just gutting the building out and getting the roof out. The Engineer went to Wayne County to get the approval on the building and within a couple of days after that, we received an estimate back of **\$297,000** just to put a roof on and the Foundation in, so we had to stop at this present time until we can find some more money on that project, which is probably going to wind-up costing over a half million dollars before we can get through.

Mayor Yelverton, the review of Town of Fremont Ordinance Chapters: 70.99: Penalty, 71: Traffic Regulations. **Mayor Yelverton**, asked a question of what we needed to go through in order to update the Town's Ordinances?

Police Chief Moats, stated a workshop made up of a couple of Committee members, and a sit down with the Fremont Police Department.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin, and Safety.

Mayor Yelverton, asked if there were any more Discussions?

Alderwoman Joyce Artis, stated that it was brought to her attention that there were not enough Parking Spaces at the Downtown Post Office, so I'm asking if we can dedicate at least 2 Parking Spaces to the Post Office or at least place a time limit on 2 Parking Spaces in front of the Post Office now?

Chief Moats, I suggested that someone from the Board reach out to the DOT, just to make sure of this.

Alderwoman Artis, also stated that she was contacted by Jennings Gray of Electricities in regards to Main Street Conference on March 12th through the 14th, 2024, wanting to know if anyone from the Town of Fremont Board wanted to attend this Conference. The cost of Registration is **\$250** but because no one of the Electricities Team will be able to go, there is an available Free Ticket for a Board member here at Town Hall for all 3 days of the Conference. Just let me know, if you are interested.

Information:

Celebration of Life for Mr. William Balance:

Mayor Yelverton, reminded everyone of the Service for Mr. William Balance, on April 20th, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m, at the Missionary Baptist Church.

Celebration of Black History Month:

Alderwoman Artis, reflected on this month being February, Black History Month and the fact that it is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. This great event grew out from the "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian **Carter G. Woodson** and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history. **Alderwoman Artis** also acknowledge in the audience, a former Town Board member of Fremont, Beatrice Jones, who always plays a prominent role in providing Town Hall with great resource of tremendous history of wealth during Black History month for the Town of Fremont. Thank you, Mrs. Beatrice Jones a commencement well done.

Alderman Jackson, I make a **Motion** that Fremont recognize Black History Month, in the month of February.

Mayor Yelverton, Is there a Second?

Alderman Mooring, Second the **Motion**.

Mayor Yelverton, asked are there any discussion? If not, all in Favor let it be shown by the raising of hands. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Mayor Yelverton, spoke on the Spring Cleanup for the Town of Fremont on March 11, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. This is the day all items will placed side the road for pick-up that final day.

Mayor Yelverton, are there other business for Discussion at this time? Do I have a **Motion** to come out of Open Session?

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin, so moved.

Mayor Yelverton, Is there a Second?

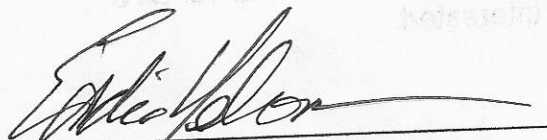
Alderwoman Lewis, Second the **Motion**.

Mayor Yelverton, tap the table with his gavel on the lectern. Meeting adjourned.

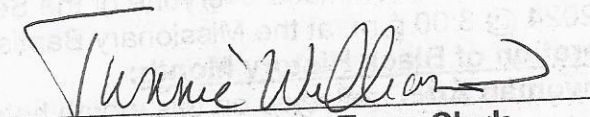
Meeting ending at 8:58 p.m.

Encouraging Words:

"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation." – Herman Melville



Mayor Eddie Yelverton



Junnie Williams, Town Clerk