

Minutes of Regular Town of Fremont Meeting

April 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on April 16, 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 Town Administrator Jonathan Allen, Finance Officer, Shannon Daly, Police Chief Paul Moats, Town Clerk, Junnie Williams

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Yelverton at 6:02 p.m.

Mayor Yelverton asked if we all can stand and have a moment of silence for Former Alderman Mickey Drumming, who passed away.

Invocation was given by Alderwoman Lewis.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Alderman Jackson, who led all in attendance.

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Yelverton asked if anyone wanted to make any Additions to the Agenda?

Alderwoman Artis asked Alderwoman Lewis if she had anything to add?

Alderwoman Lewis replied yes. She stated new residents have move in her area, old residents have moved out of her area, and that she does not know who's in her District. Therefore, the Board needs to have their District changed, but not now.

Mayor Yelverton asked for a motion to approve the amended Agenda.

Alderwoman Lewis made the Motion.

Alderman Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Yelverton, asked if there was any discussion? There was none and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Yelverton asked for a Motion for the Approval of the Minutes

Alderman Howell stated there was a correction that needed to be changed In Regular Public Board Meeting, **number 5**, under **Discussion**, change **Bob** Evans to **Steve** Evans. Also, Alderwoman **Artis** stated that there was a correction under **Town Update**, **Spryfield** needed to be changed to **Spray Field**.

Mayor Yelverton, asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes with the necessary corrections.

Alderwoman Artis so moved.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin seconded.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there were any discussions. There were none and the motion passed.

Public Comments:

Mayor Yelverton, opened the Meeting for Public Comments and read instruction on how they should be conducted. No one had any comments, therefore, the Public Comments Section was closed.

Action:

Mayor Yelverton stated that the first Action item is the Budget Amendment 08-2024, which will be presented by Ms. Shannon Daly.

1. Finance Officer: Shannon Daly stated that this Budget amendment is to increase the Telephone and Internet expense and the Vehicle Maintenance for the Police Department: **\$1,500** for the Telephone and Internet expense and **\$2,500** for the Vehicle Maintenance. We are decreasing the Hospital Insurance by **\$4,000**. The reason why we have so much in the Hospital Insurance is because the Town had Budgeted for a Full-time Police Officer this year and the Police Department

has not been able to hire anyone. The **next item** is the Maintenance Repair on the Buildings and Grounds in the Sewer Department for **\$500**. We need to increase that and decrease the Sewer Treatment Fees by **\$500** to make up for the increase for the Repair of the Buildings and Grounds. The **next item** is the Vikca Salaries and Retirement that is in the Water Department. We have to increase that because when the Budget was done last year, we had in our Water Department an employee that was rehired and that salary was more than what was currently being paid, therefore, the expense for salary, some of the taxes, and benefits, increased. The total that we are taking from the purchases of Water is **\$15,700**.

Mayor Yelverton asked for a **Motion** to approve the Budget Amendment 08-2024 **Alderman Mooring** moved.

Alderman Howell seconded the motion.

There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yelverton stated that **the** next Action item is the sidewalks along the side of the Dollar General Store and the Northern Wayne Library by Mr. Ruffin.

2. Mayor Pro tem Ruffin stated that he previously spoke to the Town Board about sidewalks that need to be place in front of the new Dollar General Store, and the new Library. He mentioned that he was notified in regards to Sidewalks being placed down for the new Fremont Elementary School. He also stated that discussion as to where the Sidewalks will be placed, either alongside Main Street or alongside Hwy 222 needs to take place. He said that a budget needs to be set up for these 3 sectors: the new School, the new Library, and the new Dollar General Store and this should be an Action item so it will be on the books and we can Fund it as we really don't know what the cost will be for this job, and we don't need to wait until the last minute.

Alderman Jackson asked Mr. Allen if there were grants for school safety.

Town Administrator Allen stated there are safe routes to school grants, but he would have to look into this and follow up with the requested information.

Alderwoman Artis asked if it would be the County responsibility to put the sidewalks in front of the school.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin stated, that the sidewalks are in Fremont city limits and that it needs to get done, even if the Town has to pay for it.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin made a motion that we take care of these projects and at budget time, we will try to fund them.

Alderman Mooring seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Reports:

Finance Report

Finance Officer Shannon Daly stated at March 31, 2024, **that** in the Capital Management Fund, the General Investment Account had a little over **\$404,000**, the Power Bill Account had almost **\$89,000** which gives a Total in the Capital Management Account of a little over **\$493,000**. In our Southern Banking Account, there was a little over **\$1.9 million** and in the General Fund, the Payroll Account, a little over **\$2,200** and the Power Bill, a little over **\$16,000**, so the Total in our Southern Bank Account is a little over **\$1.9 million**. Property Tax's was budgeted for **\$302,905**, actual collected was **\$354,818**. We collected **\$51,913** more money than we actually budgeted. Under Wayne County Tax Collections, we have **\$264** that is in parenthesis. The reason for that is because we collected a lot more money on the Property Tax's than what Wayne County charges us due to a certain percentage of what we collect, so that's why that Expenses are higher. Shannon stated that she would check to see what percentage we are on our Expenses and considering we are right now in the middle of April, we should not be over **80%** of our Budget and Expense. We are only at **66%** in our overall budget.

Billing & Collection Report

Town Clerk Junnie Williams: February and March Billing and Collection Report as of April 12, 2024.

- 1. Billing & Collections:** The difference between what was billed **versus** what was Collected is (\$229.72). The amount still owed to the Town at the end of March is **\$772.52**.
- 2. Vouchers:** There was **\$13.74** owed to the Town for vouchers.
- 3. Budget Billing:** There was **\$1,024.33** billed and **\$895** collected.
- 4. Cut-offs:** We had a total of **6** Cut offs which consist of **5** residents and **1** business. All accounts have been cut back on except for two accounts as of 04/12/2024.
- 5. 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 January.

6. Arrangements: There was a total of **\$382.93** that was owed to the Town from Arrangements and **\$35.00** was collected, leaving a total of **\$347.93** owed.

7. Work Orders: There were **6** connects, **2** disconnects, and **7** transfers for the month of March.

Police Report

Chief of Police Paul Moats stated that we don't have any major issues going on at this time, no more than our normal call volume which consist of issues within the Town of Fremont. Chief Moats also stated of the 40 Code Enforcement Letters that have been sent out to Fremont residents for a reminder of grass cuttings, before the Fremont Police Department and the Public Works Department get involved with having to cut someone's grass. Chief Moats stated a workshop to update some of our Ordinance that have come up in the past will be coming up soon. They will try to resolve some issues so that they can go ahead and get some affordable action done on them.

Town Update

Aldерwoman Joyce Artis announced this will be her last Town Update for the Board and that she enjoyed working as the Interim Town Administrator. She further stated the work that she accomplished and achieved during this as well as knowing that each department was held below the budget at 60% lets her know that she did something right. Mrs. Artis also stated that

Mr. Allen was a nice person and that she has enjoyed working with him and hopes that he feels the same way about her. She believes he will make an excellent Town Administrator.

Discussion:

1. Motion Detectors in the cemetery:

Alderwoman Artis stated that she received a call from a lady regarding missing floral items on her love one's gravel monument. Every time she placing something there, it gets missing and she is paying a lot of money for these floral arrangements. The lady wanted to know if the Town will invest in motion detectors in the Cemetery.

Alderman Jackson asked Chief Moats if he had any motion detectors that might be helpful for this situation.

Chief Moats responded that they have a Deer Cam, which can be used to detect motion and also photograph. It can be downloaded and detect what is going on in the cemetery.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin made a motion that Chief Moats, set up the Deer Camera's Detectors in the Cemetery.

Alderman Mooring seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Neuse River Basin Flood Resiliency Action Strategy, LaGrange, NC.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there a representative from the Town of Fremont Board that will be participating in the DEQ Workshop on April 29, 2024. Mayor Pro tem Ruffin and Alderwoman Artis stated they would let someone know, as the RSVP is due.

3. NCLM Personal Policies

On April the 2, 2024 Lou Bunch, Senior Municipal Human Resources Consultant and Sara Wilson, HR Field Consultant of the NCLM, met with the Town Clerk, Junnie Williams for training in HR 101. She sat in on the meeting. Lou Bunch stated that the NCLM has a third party that will be willing to come in and update the Town of Fremont Personnel Policies for us. There is a fee, but it would be a great help for the Town considering the third party knows the legal terminology and the General Status that need to be placed in the Town's Personnel Policies.

Alderman Mooring asked when could they meet with the third party of the NCLM in order to start on the Town's Personnel Policies?

Alderwoman Artis answered whenever we call them.

Mayor Yelverton asked for a motion to invite the NCLM to come in and talk to us about our Personnel Policies?

Alderman Jackson made the motion.

Alderman Howell second it and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was any other discussion for tonight and if not, he entertained a motion to close out the meeting?

Alderwoman Artis moved,

Alderwoman Lewis second the motion.

Mayor Yelverton adjourned the meeting as all were in favor.

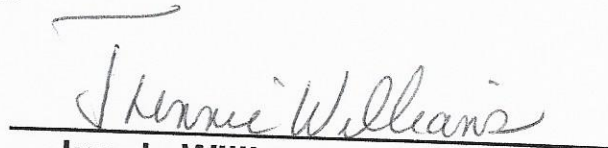
Meeting ended at 6:58 p.m.

Encourage Word:

"The only difference between success and failure is the ability to take action."

- **Alexander Graham Bell**


Mayor Eddie Yelverton


Junnie Williams, Town Clerk

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