



**The Daffodil Town**

**Minutes of Special Called Meeting**

**Budget Fiscal Year 24-25**

**June 25, 2024**

The Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC held a Special Called Meeting at 5:30 p.m. on June 25, 2024. **Present were:**

Eddie Yelverton, **Mayor**

Leroy Ruffin, **Mayor Pro tem**

Joyce M. Artis, **Alderwoman**

Oscar Mooring, **Alderman**

Annie Lewis, **Alderwoman**

Wayne Jackson, **Alderman**

**Also** in attendance were **Town Administrator** Jonathan Allen, Finance Officer: Shannon Daly, and **Town Clerk**, Junnie Williams.

Not present at the meeting was **Alderman Tim Howell**.

**Quorum Present: Yes**

**Call to Order:** **Mayor Eddie Yelverton** called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Invocation:** Given by **Town Administrator Jonathan Allen**.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** **Mayor Yelverton** led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Mayor Eddie Yelverton** – Mrs. Daly needs to add to the Agenda. Mrs. Daly, yes, add Transferring of Funds under Action Item. Mayor Pro tem Ruffin: wants to add the Remodeling of the Boardroom and Pictures for Board members and staff to be placed on the wall in the Receptionist Lobby of the Police Department,

under Discussion. **Mayor Yelverton** asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda. **Alderwoman Artis:** wanted to get a better understanding as to what we are doing as far as our **Public Hearing:** Budget Fiscal Year 24-25. Was the Public Hearing posted in the Goldsboro News Argus, Town Hall, Lobby, **Or** on the old Police Receptionist Lobby door? Town Clerk: Junnie Williams stated, no the Public Hearing wasn't posted due to receiving the notice today. **Public Hearing** will be **Deleted** and rescheduled for Friday, June 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. due to 48 hour notices to Public Citizen of Fremont NC.

\***Mayor Yelverton:** asked can we have a Motion to approve the Agenda, as amended. **Alderwoman Artis:** so moved. **Alderman Jackson:** seconded it. **Mayor Yelverton:** All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Mayor Yelverton:** asked is there any discussion on the Minutes of May 21, 2024 **Closed Session** for only the Names to be added that attended the Meeting.

**Mayor Pro tem Ruffin:** requested to go in Closed Session for the Minutes of May 21, 2024 adding of the Names presented at the May 21, 2024 Meeting.

**Mayor Yelverton:** stated this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time the Minutes on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 are addressed in Closed Session for discussion.

#### **Budget Fiscal Year 24-25:**

##### **Town Administrator Allen -**

Town Administrator Allen: stated there is one change that has come to our attention and that is Goldsboro has increased their Sewer Rates to 17% and that was not anticipated. Based upon that we have a couple of different items to cover that cost with zero, additional impact on our citizens as far as going up on the Rates or Taxes. 1 option is to increase the Sewer Rates to the Schools and to Eureka by 20% and the 2 option is 25% to both Eureka and the Schools. We would recommend the 25% in this way it would not have a lag on operations in Revenue for our Sewer.

**Alderwoman Artis:** I really appreciate the fact that you came up with other options to get that Revenue in here instead of passing it on through the backs of our citizens and I will go with that 25%.

**Town Administrator Allen:** stated it was a group effort as he thanked the Mayor and the staff for helping out as well.

\*Mayor Yelverton: We need a Motion for the increase of the Rate. **Alderwoman Artis:** I make a Motion that we will increase our Sewer Rate by 25%, which includes the Schools, Airport, and everything on the outside of our city limits. **Alderwoman Lewis:** Seconded it. Mayor Yelverton: All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Action Items:**

##### **1.) Amendment to Audit Contract - Town Administrator Jonathan Allen**

**Mr. Allen:** stated there is a Letter in your Agenda Packet from the Audit of Dana Layne, who stated there was more work that had to be done before the Audit could be completed and it required a little more involvement, so they need for the Audit Contract to be amended. The Original Contract Fee, was **\$10, 250**, but the modified amount of the amended Contract is now **\$15,450**. In the email it does state the reasoning for the Amendment to the Contract as well.

**Alderwoman Artis:** asked what was the 3.5 hours of minutes that she had to do?

**Mr. Allen:** stated it was where she had to go back and look at Documentation of Minutes to see if it had been approved and some Minutes from 2022 to 2023, Mrs. Daly and look for them to find the records as Mrs. Dana, waited to receive them.

**Alderwoman Artis:** is there any room for renegotiation?

**Mr. Allen:** we really don't have a lot of renegotiation room with this, but we can always go back to the table with this Action Items.

**Alderwoman Artis:** when did she say that the Audit will definitely be ready?

**Mrs. Daly:** Dana stated she would have it ready by next week, in which we just received this Letter today, and that is granted that we have her Contract, signed and approved by the Board.

\*Mayor Yelverton: Can we have a Motion on the Amendment to Audit Contract?

**Mayor Pro tem Ruffin:** Can I suggest that we go ahead and make a Motion on the Amendment to the Audit Contract for the **\$15, 450** but still do the telephone

call. **Alderman Mooring:** seconded it. **Mayor Yelverton:** All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2.) **Daffodil Springs Preliminary Plat – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen**

**Mr. Allen:** stated to the Town Board that you have your Preliminary Plat before you as it has already gone before the Planning Board and Adjustment members and approved along with all the set-backs and side sets covered in the July 9, 2024 Meeting and now they have come before the Town Board for an Approval or Non-Approval of the Daffodil Springs Preliminary Plat.

**Alderwoman Artis:** asked of the 6 lot that was showing on the 5 Final Daffodil Springs Minor lots but not stipulated as to whether it would be Septic or Sewer Line with the Town of Fremont.

**Mr. Bryan K. Jones:** stated we prefer to have the 6 lot with the Town, because it has access to the Sewer Line with the other 5 Final Daffodil Springs Minor lots, if possible.

**Alderwoman Artis:** so you are saying, you want the 6 Final Daffodil Springs Minor lot on the Town's, Sewer System?

**Mr. Bryan K. Jones:** yes.

**Mayor Yelverton:** asked can we have a Motion for the Daffodil Springs Preliminary Plat.

**\*Alderwoman Artis:** I would like to make a Motion to approve the Preliminary Plat of the Daffodil Springs Subdivision. **Alderman Mooring:** seconded it. **Mayor Yelverton:** are there any other discussion? None. All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3.) **Budget Amendment BA-10-2024 – Finance Officer Shannon Daly**

**Mrs. Daly:** stated that this should be the last Budget Amendment for this Fiscal Year 23-24 and that she doesn't plan on cutting anymore checks, except for Dana Layne, our Auditor for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This Budget Amendment BA-10-2024 basically cleanup the Books, so to speak.

**\*Mayor Yelverton:** Any other discussion? None. Do we have a Motion to approve the BA-10-2024 Budget Amendment? **Alderman Mooring:** so moved.

**Alderwoman Artis:** Seconded it. **Mayor Yelverton:** Any other discussion. None. All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**4.) Contract to Repair Town Hall – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen**

Mr. Allen: gave the Town Board an update on Town Hall as far as where everything was standing at this point for repairs to the Building. The Town has received an estimate from Ernest Grass Company regarding the cost of the repair of the glass, outside the amount is **\$12,545**. We received a quote today for repairing the inside portion of Town Hall Building and that amount is **\$19,515**. I have sent the estimate to the insurance company in which the car owned by the grandmother is insured by 2 different Insurance Companies, Progressive and Farm Bureau, but I haven't as yet heard anything from Progressive. The total the amount of the damage done to the side of the Town Hall Building is a little over **\$32,000**, both quotes together. Mr. Allen stated the reason why he put this under Action Item, is because he wanted to make the Board aware of where we are with everything. The inside will be completed before beginning on the outside of the Building.

**Mayor Yelverton:** stated we will Table the Contract to Repair Town Hall, until Friday, June 28, 2024 in which Mr. Allen will come back to the Board with a brief update.

**5.) Approval of the Budget Fiscal Year 24-25 – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen.**

**Alderwoman Artis:** had a question for Mr. Allen. You stated, Mr. All the only difference in the Budget was the 25% increase to the Sewer, but we did say as far as the Fire Department, we are looking at doing exactly what the County is doing, which is a 7% per 100.

**Mr. Allen:** yes, that will bring it down to 10,000 if the Board so choose to do so.

**Mayor Yelverton:** asked Mr. Allen to check and see, if the Town can separate its Bill Tax from the Fire Department and our Property Taxes, if that is possible, because then it will be a true reflection of our Property Taxes. In that 0.68 cents that we charge is .07 cents for Fire Taxes, so really our Property Taxes is 0.61 cent and this make it more transparent, if we could separate them.

**Mr. Allen:** I will email the Tax office.

6.) **Transferring of Funds from the Southern Bank to the Capital Management Account - Finance Officer Shannon Daly.**

**Mrs. Daly:** Money has been transferred from the Powell Bill, Southern Bank Account to the Capital Management and we discussed possibly transferring some from the General Fund, Southern Bank, to the Capital Management Trust, General Fund. What I would like to do, if the Town Board agree with this is only leave enough Funds in the Southern Bank for day to day operations, somewhere around **\$400,000 to \$500,000** to cover other monthly bills that the Town has to pay. Mrs. Daly stated she has a Letter in which she read to the Town Board and they had to Sign if they agree, allowing her to be able to do the Transferring of Funds from the Southern Bank to the Capital Management Account. Town Clerk did not obtain a copy of the Signed agreement document for each Town Board member to signed, only the notification in these Minutes.

Alderman Artis: we have 2 Powell Bill Accounts, right?

Mrs. Daly: that was changed, we only have 1 now. **\$16,000** some dollars, I transferred over, so we have a like **\$105, 000** in the Capital Management Powell Bill and it's gaining 5.22% interest versus .027%

\*Mayor Yelverton: Do we have a Motion on Mrs. Daly, Transferring of Funds from Southern Bank to Capital Management Account. **Alderman Artis:** so moved. **Alderman Jackson:** Seconded it. **Mayor Yelverton:** are there any discussion.

**Alderman Artis:** that was a great find, Mrs. Daly, we really appreciate you for finding that. **Mayor Yelverton:** All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7.) **Remodeling of Boardroom - Mayor Pro tem Ruffin**

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin: stated it has been a while since anything has been done to the Boardroom. It can use some painting and some up-to-date pictures. I feel we should want to bring the Boardroom up to a modern day look. We can put this in the hands of the ladies and Mr. Jonathan to take care of the particulars and this Board would approve it.

8.) **July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Holiday - Town Administrator Jonathan Allen**

Mr. Allen: stated the staff had approached him about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024 Holiday and if instead of being off, Thursday, July 4, 2024 and come back in on Friday to work, 4.5 hours. What about working Thursday, July 4, 2024 for the 4.5 hours on Friday and being off Friday as the Holiday of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024 for the closing of Town Hall instead.

**Alderwoman Artis:** asked so with Thursday, being the Holiday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, will this be time in a half for the workers of Town Hall, if they work that day instead of being off?

**Mr. Allen:** no, it will not be.

**Mayor Pro tem Ruffin:** Someone needs to check on this, because you do receive more money working on Holiday's. Mayor Pro tem Ruffin asked Mr. Allen to check with the Labor Board to make sure about the time and a half pay amount to work on a Holiday.

9.) **Pictures for the Board and Staff - Mayor Pro tem Ruffin**

**Mayor Pro tem Ruffin:** reminded the Board and Staff that we needed to have our Pictures taken as a Group and those who has not yet taken their Pictures for the Town's Website needed to do so, as soon as possible.

\***Mayor Yelverton:** asked if there were any other discussion. We need a Motion to go into **Closed Session** and talk about the Minutes for May 21, 2024 - Closed Session. **Alderwoman Artis:** so moved. **Alderwoman Lewis:** seconded it. All in Favor: All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

\***Mayor Yelverton:** We are now back in **Open Session** and we need a Motion to approve the **Minutes of May 21, 2024** - Closed Session. **Alderman Mooring:** so moved. **Mayor Pro tem Ruffin:** seconded it. **Mayor Yelverton:** are there any discussion on these Minutes? None. All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

\***Mayor Yelverton:** We need a Motion to ask Mr. Allen to contact our Attorney Brian Pridgen to come back on the Town's, next Regular Board Meeting, July 16, 2024 to find out what is the next step in going forward with the Findings and

Recommendations from the Final NC State Audit. **Alderswoman Artis:** so moved. **Alderman Jackson:** seconded it. All in Favor? **4** in Favor. Any Opposed? **1** – Opposed (**Alderswoman Lewis**). **Motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote.**

\*Mayor Yelverton: Do we have a Motion to adjourn? **Alderswoman Lewis:** so moved. **Alderman Mooring:** seconded it. All in Favor? All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**


**Meeting ended at 9:04 a.m.**

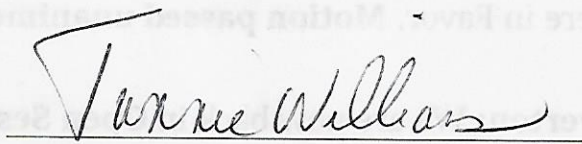
**Encouraging Words:**

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**"Virtue never dwells alone; it always has neighbors"**

**~ Proverbs**

  
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**Mayor Eddie Yelverton**

  
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**Junnie Williams, Town Clerk**