



The Daffodil Town

Minutes of Regular Public Town Board of Fremont Meeting September 17, 2024

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

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

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Jonathan Allen, Finance Officer Shannon Daly, Town Clerk Junnie Williams, and Chief of Police Paul Moats.

Not present was Alderwoman Annie Lewis

Quorum Present: **Yes**

Call to Order:

Mayor Eddie Yelverton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Mayor Eddie Yelverton** gave the Invocation. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

*Mayor Eddie Yelverton asked for a motion. **Alderman Wayne Jackson** made the motion to accept the amended Agenda. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously** with a **5-0 vote**.

Approval of Minutes:

*Mayor Eddie Yelverton asked for a motion. **Alderman Wayne Jackson** made a motion to approve the Minutes for August 20, 2024. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously** with a **5-0 vote**.

Public Hearing:

Town Clerk Junnie Williams affirmed in Curk T. Lane, and Town Administrator Jonathan Allen.

Hidden Hills Annexation and Rezoning – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen:

Stated that he has spoken with the Towns Attorney Brian Pridgen, as well as Mr. Michael McAllister, who provided feedback on the proposed site of Hidden Hills Subdivision off of Hwy 222. Mr. Allen stated that all the required setbacks, and conditions have been met, and are good. Mr. Allen also stated that the Preliminary Plat for the Hidden Hills Subdivision has been approved before the Planning Board & Adjustment members, and is now here before the Town Board for the annexation. Much discussion was made.

Public Comments:

Mayor Eddie Yelverton, open the meeting for Public Comments. The instructions was read for the public comments to the public. There was no public comments. Public Comments section is now closed.

Action:

- 1.) **Resolution for AIA Stormwater Planning Grant (DWI Project #SRP-SW-ARP-069/MEI Project #G22113) Preparing for Bld – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen.**

Tabled until next scheduled Town Board Meeting in October, 2024.

2.) **The Wall of Honor – Alderwoman Joyce Artis**

Stated to the Town Board of the request in which Julian Aycok, and his wife proposed in honor of the good deeds of the late Matthew Earl Hooks Jr., and his sister, Alma P. Hooks. Mrs. Artis stated that she would like for the Board to consider establishing a wall of honor which will allow everyone a chance to post their accomplishments in the lobby of Town Hall. Mrs. Artis also stated that she has spoken with the Town Administrator Jonathan Allen to write up a

policy, pretty much on the same order as the field of honor at Wayne Community College.

Mayor Eddie Yelverton asked do we want to wait until Mr. Allen has the policy, then we can read the policy, and vote from there possibly at our next Town Board Meeting in October 2024. Everyone was in agreement with that.

2.) **Transfer of Funds from the Capital Management Power Bill Account into the Capital Management General Investment Account – Finance**
Officer Shannon Daly.

Asked the Town Board if they would allow her to combine the funds in the Capital Management Power Bill Account with the Capital Management General Investment Account and just have 1, account. Mrs. Daly stated that the funds will be separated out within the account.

***Alderwoman Joyce Artis** amended her first motion and stated that she would like to make a motion to allow Mrs. Daly to transfer funds from the Capital Management Power Bill Account into the Capital Management General Investment Account. **Mayor Pro tem Leroy Ruffin** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

3.) **Lee Building and Electric Company Preliminary Plat – Town**
Administrator Jonathan Allen.

Presented before the Town Board the Preliminary Plat for the 11 lots, property of Lee Building and Electrical Company, owned by Mr. Jonathan Lee. Mr. Allen stated all criteria and setbacks have been met. The sewer capacity is good for the handling of the 11 lots. The town of Fremont will also provide the water for the 11 lots. The zoning ordinances for the subdivision is §154.033 (R10) - Residential District. Much discussion was made by the Town Board.

*Mayor Eddie Yelverton asked for a motion. **Alderwoman Joyce Artis** made a motion that we approve the Preliminary Plat for the 11 lots, located on N. Goldsboro Street, Pippin Street, N. Sycamore Street and Harrell Street, Fremont, NC, for Mr. Jonathan Lee. **Alderman Wayne Jackson** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

4.) **Hidden Hills - Annexation – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen**

It was stated by Mayor Eddie Yelverton to make an amendment to the Agenda to include Hidden Hills – Annexation, under Action from the Public Hearing.

***Mayor Eddie Yelverton** asked for a motion. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** made a motion that we amend the Agenda to include the annexation of Hidden Hills Subdivision. **Alderman Wayne Jackson** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously** with a **5-0 vote**.

***Alderman Wayne Jackson** made a motion that we incorporate Hidden Hills into the City of Fremont. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously** with a **5-0 vote**.

5.) **Contract to Audit Accounts – Finance Officer Shannon Daly**

Stated to the Town Board, you have in your Agenda Packets the Contract to Audit Accounts from Nunn, Brashera, & Uzzell, P.A., in its entirety. Mrs. Daly stated that Dana Layne, Auditor informed her of the Fiscal year ending in 6/30/2024 for the Town of Fremont needed to be submitted to the LGC by 10/31/2024.

***Mayor Pro tem Leroy Ruffin** made a motion that we accept the Auditor’s Contract for Nunn, Brasher, & Uzzell, P.A. **Alderman Joyce Artis** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously** with a **5-0 vote**.

6.) **Evaluation – Alderwoman Joyce Artis**

Informed the Board of 2 staff members still under their probationary period. Mrs. Artis stated the Town Administrator and our Public Works Lineman. The Town Administrator evaluation is due on October 9, 2024 and the Lineman evaluation is due on 11/29/2024. Mrs. Artis also stated that she wanted to bring to the Boards attention that we have not been following our Personnel Policy, which will get us in trouble, when we don’t do what is required.

Reports:

1.) **Finance Report** was read by **Finance Officer Shannon Daly**, who gave the Town of Fremont Central Depository Check Listing for 8/1/2024 to 8/31/2024. The Budget to Actual Totals: 2024 – 2025 for the Period Ending: 6/30/2025. Mrs. Daly also gave the Cash Trending Report.

2.) **Billing and Collections Report** was read by **Town Clerk Junnie Williams** who gave the Billing and Collections Report as of September 10, 2024 as to

what was collected and billed for the month of July/August 2024. Mrs. Williams also included the July adjustments (Billed but not collected) for Leaks and Filling of Pools.

3.) **Police Report** was read by **Chief Paul Moats** of the Monthly Activity Report Summary during the month of August 2024 for the Fremont Police Department.

4.) **Town Update Report** for September 17, 2024, was read by the **Town Administrator Jonathan Allen** who spoke of the CDBG Grant Updates, the Electrical Lines, the Old Fremont School, the Personnel Policy Update, the Norwayne Alumni Weekend Events, the Arrest made, the Grading of Street Shoulders, the Part-time Zoning Officer, the Fremont Elementary School, the Finance, the Fall Banners Downtown, the Board Retreat/Strategic Planning Meeting, and Important Dates to Remember.

***Alderman Wayne Jackson** made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator Jonathan Allen to enter into a contract at \$125 an hour to clean the shoulders, the roads, the streets in Fremont. To pick out the streets that need it worst and proceed from there, and to clean the ditch off of Vance Street with a cap of \$20,000. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

Discussion:

1.) Grant Writing – Mayor Pro tem Leroy Ruffin

Stressed to the Town Board the importance of the Town of Fremont needing a Grant Writer. Mr. Ruffin asked a question, if someone will be willing to help him with this.

Mayor Eddie Yelveton made mention of the lady at the State of the Town Address, who stated that she had written grants before during the Public Comments section.

2.) Fall Clean-up – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

After much discussion during the Finance Committee Meeting in September 2024 and the Town Board Meeting this evening, a decision has been made by the Board to eliminate Fall Clean-up starting this year in October 2024, and going forward.

***Alderwoman Joyce Artis** made a motion that we would eliminate Fall Clean-up for 2024, and going forward. **Mayor Pro tem Leroy Ruffin** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

3.) Public Works Hours of Operation – Alderwoman Joyce Artis

Due to Day Light Saving Time ending on November 3, 2024 at 2:00 a.m., it would be wise to consider changing the hours of operation for the Public Works Department. The hours of operation would be Monday thru Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Friday's the hours of operation would be from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

***Alderwoman Joyce Artis** made a motion that we change the Public Works hours of operation starting November 3, 2024 to 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, and 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on Fridays. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

4.) Board of Education Meeting – Mayor Eddie Yelverton

Stated to the Town Board that he and the Town Administrator Jonathan Allen, attended the meeting at the Board of Education concerning the Old Fremont Elementary School. Mayor Yelverton, informed the Board that the process had begun for the school and an appraisal has been received. He also stated to the Board that there are 2 deeds to the Old Fremont School, and the goal is to sell both deeds as one, but if someone wants to buy the school and does not want the land behind the school, then this can be done as well. Mayor Yelverton, also stated nothing will be decided upon until everything is presented before the Wayne County Commissioners, and if they decide they don't want the Old Fremont School, then it will go back to the Wayne County School Board to be declared as surplus, and from there placed up for auction. The appraised property total for the school and the land behind it is \$1,350,000. Much more discussion was made.

***Mayor Eddie Yelverton** entertained a motion to go into closed session. **Alderwoman Joyce Artis** made a motion that we go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel issues. **Alderman Wayne Jackson** seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

Mayor Eddie Yelverton stated that were back in Open Session.

* **Mayor Yelverton** asked for a motion to approve the closed session minutes for June, July, and August. Alderman Wayne Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes for June 25, 2024; June 28, 2024; July 11, 2024; July 16, 2024; and August 20, 2024. The motion was seconded by Alderman Oscar Mooring. The motion passed unanimously.

***Alderman Oscar Mooring** made a motion to accept Chief Moats' request, which was to increase Assistant Police Chief Greg Bottoms' hourly rate from \$24.89 to \$30.00. *(The increase will be a \$5.61 an hour increase.)* The motion was seconded by **Alderwoman Joyce Artis**. The motion passed unanimously.

*Mayor Eddie Yelverton asked for a motion to adjourn. **Alderman Wayne Jackson** made the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Alderman Oscar Mooring** seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

The meeting ended at 10:38 p.m.

Encouraging Words:

“Let your light so shine before men, that they might see the good works of glory in you.”

~St. Matthews

Mayor Eddie Yelverton

Town Clerk Junnie Williams

Recorded minutes on September 17, 2024

Resigned on Friday, October 4, 2024

Interim Town Clerk Joyce M. Artis

Attesting to Town Board's Approval of these Minutes