



## **Board Retreat Minutes October 29, 2024**

The Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC held a Board Retreat, which was scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on October 29, 2024. Present were:

Leroy Ruffin, Mayor Pro tem  
Oscar Mooring, Alderman  
Wayne Jackson, Alderman  
Joyce M. Artis, Alderwoman

Also in attendance were: Town Administrator Jonathan Allen, Interim Town Clerk Joyce M. Artis, and Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley.

Those not in attendance were:

Eddie Yelverton, Mayor  
Annie Lewis, Alderwoman  
Tim Howell, Alderman

The Board held their second retreat at Lane Tree Conference Center in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

The retreat was facilitated by David Bone, who joined the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) as Executive Director in May of 2022. Mr. Bone stated that he has almost twenty (20) years of experience in local government management, having served as both a County Manager and Town Manager in various communities in NC. As Executive Director of ECC, David leads his staff in supporting local governments and serving the communities of the nine-county region.

The following is the agenda that was followed:

- **Morning Session**
- 10:00 -10:15 AM                      General Introductions, Ground Rules, Setting the Stage
- 10:15-10:30 AM                      Icebreaker/Team Building Activity
- 10:30 – 11:00 AM                      Roles and Expectations of the Board and Administrator
- 11:00 – 11:15 AM                      Break
- 11:15 – 11:45 AM                      Developing a Unified Vision for the Community
- 11:45 – 12:15 PM                      Lunch

- **Afternoon Session**
- 12:15 – 1:00 PM SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats)
- 1:00 – 1:30 PM Current & Potential Projects and Initiatives
- 1:30 – 1:45 PM Break
- 1:45 – 2:30 PM Priorities for FY 2025-26
- 2:30 – 3:15 PM Priorities for the Next 3-5 Years
- 3:15 – 3:30 PM Next Steps/Closing Thoughts
- 3:30 PM Depart

During the retreat, many issues were addressed, and ideas were formed to address such things such as:

1. The facades and maintenance of the Downtown Businesses – Committee of 100
2. Tree Trimming
3. Street Maintenance
4. Sewer Issues – Wayne County Commissioners
5. Parks – Obtain Grants
6. Personnel – Work First Development Board
7. Economic Development – Chairman of Wayne County Economic Alliance – Craig Fought

To accomplish these and other items discussed, it was determined that the Town would consider forming a Committee of 100, speak with the Chairman of Wayne County Economic Alliance Craig Fought, contact the Work First Development Board, and the Wayne County Commissioners.

David Bone and Kenneth Stanley both left the retreat at approximately 2:30 pm. The Board, Town Administrator, Finance Officer, and Interim Town Clerk remained until 4:10 pm to discuss matters pertaining to the retreat.

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Leroy Ruffin, Mayor Pro Tem

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Joyce M. Artis, Interim Town Clerk