



Minutes of Regular Public Board Town of Fremont Meeting

May 21, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on May 21, 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, **Chief of Police:** Paul Moats, and **Town Clerk:** Junnie Williams

Quorum Present: **Yes**

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

Invocation: Mayor Yelverton gave the invocation.

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

Approval of Agenda:

***Mayor Yelverton:** asked if anyone wanted to make any additions to the agenda?

Alderman Howell: Removal of Items 4 & 5 under Discussion.

Mayor Yelverton: asked for a **Motion** to approve the amended agenda. **Alderman Jackson**, so moved. **Alderwoman Lewis**, seconded the **Motion**.

Mayor Yelverton, is there any discussion? There were none. All were in Favor, **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes:

***Mayor Yelverton:** asked for a **Motion** to approve the Minutes for April 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and April 22, 2024 Ethics Training. **April 16, 2024 - Closed Session Minutes** will be approved on **June 18, 2024** - Regular Board Meeting.

Alderwoman Artis: so moved. **Alderman Jackson:** seconded the **Motion**. Mayor Yelverton, is there any discussion? There were none. All were in Favor, **Motion passed unanimously.**

Town Attorney Brian Pridgen

Mayor Yelverton: introduced the Town of Fremont, Attorney Brian Pridgen, who read a brief statement before the Public Comments.

Attorney Pridgen: As the Board and the public are aware the Town has received a Report from the State Auditor's office in which I will read at this time. In 2021 the Town of Fremont Board of Alderman/Alderwoman discovered various financial discrepancies. After an internal review of these issues the Board retain a forensic Auditing Firm to review the potential issues. Based upon the findings of the forensic Auditing Firm, the Board determine that serious financial issues had occurred and referred the matter to the NC Office of the State Auditor. The State Auditor has completed their investigation and the Report has been made public. Policies and Procedures have been put into place to make sure that the issues identified by the State Auditor will not occur again. The Board has and will continue to take all steps necessary to ensure that the Town's finances are properly managed and secure. Presently the Town is not committed to discuss the matter further pursuant to State Personnel Privacy Laws. Thank you.

Public Comments:

Mayor Yelverton: opened the Meeting for Public Comments and read instructions of how the Public Comments are to be carried out.

Name: Ashley Brown, **Address:** 1411 New Daniels Chapel Road, Fremont NC.

Purpose of Public Comments: Ms. Ashley spoke of the old Fremont Elementary School and the soon to open, new Fremont Elementary School. Ashley, asked the Town of Fremont Board to consider purchasing the site of the old Fremont Elementary School for an indoor/outdoor Community Center, as an establishment area where Fremont residents can play, learn, grow, as well as social interactions which leads to better physical health.

Mayor Yelverton: are there any other public comments? None. Public Comments section is now closed.

Action:

(1). Town Administrator Allen, read the Adoption of Proclamation Resolution for the 335th Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, asking the Board for the support of the Adoption of Proclamation Resolution.

***Alderman Jackson:** I would like to make a **Motion** to adopt the Proclamation Resolution for the 335th Squadron at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. **Alderman Mooring:** seconded the **Motion**. **Mayor Yelverton:** is there any discussion? All were in Favor, **Motion** passed unanimously.

(2). Dr. Harrell, Wayne County School – Approval for Powering New Fremont Elementary School Sewer Lift Station: Dr. Harrell stated as you are probably aware the New Fremont Elementary School on Hwy 222 is basically completed. We have had a good construction project and the school has been completed on time. The Sanitary Lift

Station located directly on Hwy 222 in front of the school is finished up and ready to be powered, so Wayne County Schools are coming to the Fremont Board this evening to request their of the powering of that Lift Station for the school. There was much discussion back and forth and many questions were asked by the Board to Dr. Harrell.

***Mayor Yelverton:** asked for a **Motion** that the Town put the Sewer Lift Station up at the School cost. **Alderman Jackson:** so moved. **Alderwoman Artis:** seconded it. **Mayor Yelverton:** is there any discussion? If all are in Favor, let it be shown by the raising of hands. **5** – Favor (L. Ruffin, T. Howell, J. Artis, W. Jackson, A. Lewis) and **1** – Opposed (O. Mooring). **Motion passed.**

Mayor Yelverton thanked Dr. Harrell for coming.

(3). Alderman Mooring - The Fremont Market: presented handouts and stated he had addressed the Board previously in regards to the Fremont Rotary Club, who would like to start a Farmer's Market here in Fremont, and would like it to be held out at Daffodil Park, every Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The target date is June 18, 2024. Mr. Mooring had paperwork for those who would like to become vendors for the Farmer's Market. Mr. Mooring stated he would like to ask the Board, if they would approve permission for the Rotary Club, to use the Park for those days and during those hours.

***Mayor Yelverton:** is there a Motion to approve the Farmer's Market with the designated days and time. **Alderman Howell:** so moved. **Alderman Jackson:** seconded it. Mayor Yelverton is there any other discussion? None. All were in Favor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Reports:

1. Finance Report:

Finance Officer Shannon Daly: informed the Board of the Finance Reports being in their Agenda Packets. The Check Listings, the Budget to Actuals and the Total amounts in the Town of Fremont accounts. Shannon stated she will be glad to answer any questions that the Board may have of these Reports.

Mayor Yelverton does the Board have any questions. There were none.

2. Billing & Collection Report:

Town Clerk Junnie Williams: March and April Billing and Collection Report as of May 7, 2024.

- **Billing & Collections:** The difference between what was billed **versus** what was Collected is **\$44,558.79**. This overage amount is contributed to the **CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus)** Grant payment to help cover delinquent accounts during COVID. This leaves a difference of **\$889.39** to the good for the Town of Fremont.
- **Vouchers:** There was **\$0.00** owed to the Town for vouchers.
- **Budget Billing:** There was **\$742.85** billed and **\$895** collected.
- **Cut-offs:** We had a total of **3** Cut offs, which consist of **1** resident, **2** business.

All accounts have been cut back on except for two accounts as of 4/12/2024.

- **Debt Setoff:** There was **\$0.00** put into Debt Setoff from delinquent accounts for the month of January and there was **\$1,221.28** collected in the month of
- **Arrangements:** There was a total of **\$352.93** that was owed to the Town from arrangements and **\$35.00** was collected, leaving a total of **\$317.93** owed.
- **Work Orders:** For the month of April there were **5** connects, **1** disconnects, and **12** transfers.

Mayor Yelverton does the Board have any questions. There were none.

3. Police Report:

Chief of Police Moats: informed the Board of nothing major happening in the Town of Fremont, however Chief Moats did state beginning next month the Fremont Police Department, will be doing a more detail monthly report which will included monthly numbers for how many calls the Police Department has answered, citations given, arrest made, property or major crimes that has occurred in the last 30 days, which gives a better idea of what our call volume in a day as well as month to month are, so no one will think there isn't anything happening in the Town of Fremont. It is the major crimes that I try to keep the public aware of.

Mayor Yelverton does the Board have any questions. There were none.

4. Town Update:

Town Administrator Allen: informed the Board of the update from **Duke Progress** for the scheduled bushing repairs at the Substation between Pikeville and Fremont just off HWY 117, beginning June 8, 2024. There will be power outages from 11:55 pm for approximately 30 minutes in order to switch over to a temporary or mobile station. Duke Progress will keep the Town of Fremont up-to-date during this process. **Mr. Allen** reminded those on the Board who signed up for the **Wayne County Partnership** meeting scheduled **May 29, 2024** from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Maxwell Center in Goldsboro, in regards to the presentation of the (MRF) Merger and Regionalization Feasibility Study final report. **Mr. Allen** reminded those on the Board who signed up for the **Municipal Finance: Comprehensive Fiscal Training for Local Government** scheduled June 4, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Event Center in Goldsboro. .. Mayor Yelverton does the Board have any question. There were none.

(5). Alderwoman Artis: Inside the Packets of the Board is a Slide Show presentation of the (DEQ) **Department of Environmental Quality**, NC Flood Resiliency Blueprint in which Mayor Pro tem Ruffin and I attended in April 29, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Basically the workshop was about "What can we do to make North Carolina less likely to be flood in the case of an hurricane." We are at the second phase of the blueprint and we are hoping that we can come up with ways to reduce the flood waters, if we have another hurricane. Mrs. Artis stated there is a **\$900,000** Grant for the study, so hopefully DEQ, are able to come up with something.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin: asked the Board not to be discouraged about the flood plan because Fremont, looks as if it is in a hole, but it's really on a hill and it doesn't flood in Fremont like some other areas.

Discussion:

(1). Town Administrator Allen: informed the Board that he has follow-up through the Maps Group in regards to the (NCLM) **North Carolina League of Municipality**, a third party working for the Town of Fremont, in order to update the Town's, Personnel Policies. Mr. Allen hopes to have some more information for the Board at our next Board Meeting. Mr. Allen thanks Alderwoman Artis during her time of help, and hard work as an Interim Town Administrator.

(2). Alderwoman Artis: wanted to know the Boards thoughts, if we should have the **State of the Town Address**. **Mrs. Artis** said for the 1st year the State of the Town Address was held at the Methodist Church and the 2nd year it was held at St. James Disciples, Church of Christ. **Mrs. Artis** stated normally the State of the Town Address is in July each year.

Alderman Jackson: I think it would be a good thing. I've heard very positive outcomes from the citizens.

Alderman Mooring: I would support it.

*Mayor Yelverton: We need a **Motion** to setup a time and a place for the State of the Town Address in July or we rather to continue that the State of the Address be held at one of the previous locations. **Alderman Mooring:** so moved. **Alderwoman Artis:** seconded the **Motion**. Mayor Yelverton: asked if there was any discussion? There were none. All were in Favor, **Motion passed unanimously.**

(3). Town Administrator Allen: asked the Board for a recommendation in regards to the new Server Software in which Bruce Johnston, the Town of Fremont, IT person with Redlizardinc, presented to the Board during the Regular Board Meeting in March, 2024. Mr. Allen basically wanted this project back on the radar due to the final preparation of the Town's budget approaching at the end of June 2024. Mr. Allen stated the cost of the **New Server** is about **\$4,000** and the cost of the **Cloud**, yearly is **\$15,000**.

Mayor Yelverton: it sounds like we need to be more secure than what we have, especially with everything taking place as far as computers.

Information:

Mayor Yelverton: read the Flyer in regards to the **month of May** being recognized as **Mental Health Awareness** month. **Mayor Yelverton:** read the Flyer concerning Town Hall, Fremont being closed on **May 27, 2024** - Monday, **Memorial Day**.

*Mayor Yelverton: we need a Motion to go into Closed Session. **Alderwoman Artis:** so moved. **Alderwoman Lewis:** seconded the Motion. Mayor Yelverton: is there any discussion? There were none. All were in Favor, **Motion passed unanimously.** We are now in Closed Session.

Mayor Yelverton stated we are now back in Open Session. Mayor Yelverton asked is there any other discussions?

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin asked if we were going to get together pretty soon with the Budget and if so he needs all dates.

Town Administrator Allen stated he did send an email out to the Board, in regard to the Budget Fiscal Year 24-25. Mr. Allen asked the Board to please get any information back to him, by the close of the day on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, whereby he and Shannon will have enough time to put everything together by the time presentation comes to present the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 24-25 to the Board on June 3, 2024, it will be together. **Mayor Yelverton** asked if June 3, 2024, public comments section. **Town Administrator Allen** stated no sir. June 18, 2024, if the Budget is not approved by the Board, and the Budget has to be modified, then we will have to come back at another time.

Mayor Yelverton is there any other business to discussions? None.

*Mayor Yelverton we need a **Motion** to Adjourn? **Alderwoman Lewis** made the **Motion**. **Alderwoman Artis** seconded it. All were in Favor. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting ended at 7:42 p.m.

Encourage Word:

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear."

~ Mark Twain

Mayor, Eddie Yelverton

Town Clerk, Junnie Williams

