



Minutes of the Regular Town of Fremont Meeting May 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on May 20, 2025. Present were:

Eddie Yelverton, Mayor
Leroy Ruffin, Mayor Pro tem
Oscar Mooring, Alderman
Tim V. Howell, Alderman
Wayne Jackson, Alderman
Joyce M. Artis, Alderwoman/Interim Town Clerk

Absent: Annie Lewis, Alderwoman

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Jonathan Allen, Finance Officer Shannon Moats, Police Chief Paul Moats, Assistant Police Chief Greg Bottoms, and Fire Chief Jeff Brooks.

Quorum Present: Yes

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

Invocation: Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Police Chief Paul Moats led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to accept the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked to add to the agenda Discussion #7: "DOT Regulations"

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to accept the amended agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There was none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: *Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.*

Alderman Jackson stated that on page 4 of the minutes, where it stated: “Mr. McAllister stated that option entails under cutting the soil until soft soil is reached”, should read: “Mr. McAllister stated that option entails under cutting the soil until firm soil is reached”; changing soft soil to firm soil.

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting as amended. Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin seconded the motion.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any further discussion. There was none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Mayor Yelverton opened the meeting for public comment.

- Nancy Bogue, who resides at 502 E. Main St., Fremont, North Carolina, thanked the Board for their service to the Town, and she also thanked the Board and Staff for their help in making sure that the railroad crossing at Wayne and Hwy. 117 was repaired. Mrs. Bogue, on the behalf of the Benton-Hooks Circle of Fremont United Methodist Church, stated that they wanted to participate more in the Town, and to share their love for the Veterans by erecting banners in the Daffodil Park on Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day. She went on to say that the Benton-Hooks Circle would be responsible for the cost of the banners, and would be responsible for the set up and take down of the banners as well.

Alderwoman Artis thanked Mrs. Bogue and the Benton-Hooks Circle for their willingness to take on this effort. Alderman Jackson also thanked Mrs. Bogue, and also stated that he was happy to see an organization that is taking interest in our parks. He went on to say that the Town and its facilities would benefit from the involvement of the citizens.

Alderman Jackson made a motion approve the request of the Benton-Hooks Circle of Fremont United Methodist Church. Alderwoman Joyce Artis seconded the motion.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any further discussion. There was none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Alderman Jackson spoke on the behalf of the Julian Nelms’ Family. He stated that before Mr. Nelms passed, he was contracted to shave the street shoulders of the Town of Fremont. Alderman Jackson went on to say that it was the desire of Mr. Nelms’ wife that the amount that the Town was going to pay Mr. Nelms would be used to maintain/improve the Daffodil park. He also stated that Alderwoman Artis should write a thank you note to the Mr. Nelms’ wife and family, and that Finance Officer Shannon Moats should keep a record of how the money would be spent. (Please see the action section for the motion that was taken on this agenda item.)*

Speakers:

1. John L. Pippin – Use of Old Library

Mr. Pippin was not present at the meeting. Town Administrator Jonathan Allen stated that Mr. Pippin had not called to inform him of his inability to attend the meeting. Alderwoman Artis stated that she had called Mr. Pippin during the meeting, who stated that he was not aware of the meeting.

2. Bruce Johnston – Town of Fremont’s IT Technician

Mr. Johnston, owner and operator of Red Lizard Technologies, Inc, and who is also the Town of Fremont’s Information Technology Specialist, presented to the Board his minimum recommendations concerning the security of the Town’s computer software system.

Product	Quantity	Price	Amount
Email Only User - W/o Training	17 Monthly	\$30.74	\$522.58
Device Monitoring & Management	15 Monthly	\$20.00	\$300.00
Backup and Disaster Recovery - Town	1 Monthly	\$100.00	\$100.00
Backup and Disaster Recovery - Police	1 Monthly	\$100.00	\$100.00
Microsoft 365 Apps for Business	5 Monthly	\$9.95	\$49.75

Mr. Johnston went on to say that with a shipping fee of \$10.00, there would be a total monthly cost of \$1,082.33. Alderwoman Artis asked if this would bring the Town into compliance with the State. Mr. Johnston stated that it would, and this plan does not include technical support. He informed the Board that this plan allows emails to be archived and recovered, whereas our current plan does not. He went on to say that the old emails addresses could be deleted, which would be a savings to the Town as well. He stated that the Town does not have a high call volume for support and most of the IT issues are resolved remotely. He also stated that the cost per hour for onsite support is \$100.00 and remote support is \$75 per hour, with a 15 minute minimum billing. Mr. Johnson also informed the Board that this plan would be approximately \$300 more than the Town’s current plan, and the Town would still be in need of a new server.

Finance Officer Shannon Moats stated that the proposal that Mr. Johnston presented last year was a whole lot more that what he was presented. Mr. Johnston stated that the \$20,000 a year “Included moving everything to the cloud, removing the server, and with full support.”

Action

1. Special Events Policy - Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that, as instructed, he removed the added information that included in the proposed Special Events Policy in April.

The Board agreed to add to the policy “Event organizer is responsible for paying Town Staff and obtaining and paying for portable restrooms.”

Alderman Mooring made a motion to accept the proposed Special Events Policy as amended. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There was none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Organizational Chart – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Town Administrator Allen stated that there were corrections that needed to be made to the organization that he first presented to the Board in April. He stated that he added: The Town of Fremont’s Citizens to the Top of the chart, and separated the Sanitation Department from the Street Department.

Alderman Jackson stated that Sewer Specialist Thomas Thompson should also be recognized as a licensed employee due to the fact that he has already obtained sewer certification.

Alderwoman Joyce Artis stated that she was under the impression that one of the Street Department Staff was the supervisor for the street department. Mr. Allen stated that he was seen as a supervisor, but he was not technically the supervisor for the street department.

Town Administrator Jonathan Allen stated that the classification of positions would be reviewed for each employee.

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin stated that if the staff member was classified as the “go-to-person or seen as a supervisor” that he should be classified as and compensated for being the street supervisor. He went on to say that the staff member should receive a 5% pay increase, which should begin July 1, 2025.

Alderman Howell stated that he agreed that every department should have a “lead person.”

Mayor Yelverton ask if there was a motion to approve this agenda item.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to: adopt the updated Town of Fremont’s Organizational Chart as amended, promote the street department staff member to supervisor of the street department, and to increase his salary by 5%, which would begin July 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Joyce Artis.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Time Clock Policy – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen informed the Board that the proposed Time Clock Policy is in line with line with the current State and Federal Labor Laws. He went on to say that the policy allows the non-exempt employee to clock early without accumulating overtime.

He went on to say that proposed policy includes, but not limited to:

1. The responsibility of the supervisor/department head
2. Disciplinary Actions
3. Enforcements

Alderman Jackson asked if the policy would deter any staff member from clocking in “7 minutes late and then clock out early?” Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked if the addressed excessive tardiness and extended meal hour.

Mr. Allen stated that he met with the Public Works staff to review the proposed time clock policy, each staff member agreed to follow the policy if and when it was approved by the Board.

Mayor Yelverton ask if there was a motion to approve the proposed Time Clock Policy.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to approve the proposed Time Clock Policy. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Mr. Julian Nelms’s Compensation – Alderman Wayne Jackson

Mayor Yeverton asked if there was a motion to approve accepting the compensation that Mr. Julian Nelms earned while working for the Town.

Alderman Wayne Jackson made a motion to use the money that Mr. Nelms earned, while contracted by the Town, to maintain/improve the Daffoldil Park, which was contributed back to the Town by Mr. Nelms’ wife and family, and to send the Nelms’ family a thank you note for contributing his compensation to the Town. Alderman Howell seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated Mr. Nelms’ family should be informed, as soon as possible, of the amount of money that Mr. Nelms earned while working for the Town.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. New Utililty Bill Vendor – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen thanked the Town Hall staff for their assistance in getting the utility bills out to the citizens in a short period of time, after the previous utility bill vendor, PMSI, abruptly went out of business. He went on to say that, at the request of the Board, the old card billing method was used for the May Utility Bills. He informed the Board that he was obtaining

information from a few utility billing companies, one of which has given him a firm quote, and hopes to have concrete information from the others for the Board's June meeting. Mr. Allen informed the Board that, due to the need of obtaining quotes from additional utility companies, the old billing method would be used for the June's Utility Bills.

6. Fire Department Salaries – Fire Chief Jeff Brooks

Chief Brooks stated that he was requesting to increase the Fire Department's salary line item by \$3500 and to decrease the department's air pack line item by \$3500. Alderwoman Artis asked Chief Brooks if there was a need for that money to remain in the air pack budget. Chief Brooks stated that the department would not need to purchase additional air packs because the department had been given 15 air packs and 20 air bottles from Polly Watson Fire Department of Nahunta, and that they were in good condition.

Alderwoman Artis stated that she appreciated the fire department for the services that they render to the Town. She went on to say that she did not understand why the fire department went over budget by \$3500 in the salaries line item. Chief Brooks stated that extra hours were worked to prepare the department's annual audit. He stated that the previous audit determined that department was going to lose one score rating point. He informed the Board that the State informed him that if the fire department could regain the point, the audit could be redone, which demanded additional hours to be worked. He went on to say that he felt that additional hours were needed to oversee the installation of the concrete pad, and other work at the fire department.

Alderman Jackson informed Chief Brooks that he appreciates what the fire department does for the Town. He also stated that Finance Officer Shannon Moats was bound by law, and took an oath not to pay for anything that was not budgeted. He went on to say that the Town could demand Mrs. Moats to repay what she illegally paid for from her own personal funds. Alderman Jackson stated that, although it is hard to stay within budget, but the amendment to the budget must be approved by the Board before the money is spent.

It was the consensus of the Board to add the fire department's amendment to BA-08-2025

7. Extension of the Town of Eureka's Sewer System – Town Admin. Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that he had contacted Wayne County and the City of Goldsboro concerning the Town of Eureka's sewer system, but had not received any information or updates. He also stated that, on May 19, 2025, he had received a phone call from Bob Taylor of DEQ concerning the rehabilitation of the Town of Fremont's sewer system, which should begin soon.

Alderman Jackson stated that he had been talking about Eureka's sewer system for over a year, and it seems like nothing is being done. He went on to say that, in his opinion, the option that is being discussed, by the City of Goldsboro, would cause the Town of Fremont to lose approx. \$2000-\$3000 a month, in which the Town of Fremont's citizen would have to pay to pump the Town of Eureka's sewer to the City of Goldsboro. He went on to say that he does not feel that it would be right to charge our citizens for something that they are not

responsible for paying, and does not plan to vote to extend the Town of Eureka's sewer system.

Alderwoman Joyce Artis stated that she agrees with Alderman Jackson, but she would prefer to discuss it further in closed session

8. Name Tags for Board Members – Mayor Eddie Yelverton

Mayor Yelverton stated that during his conversation with Alderwoman Artis they discussed the importance of the Board having name tags. He went on to say that it would be make everyone more identifiable.

Alderman Howell made a motion to authorize Alderwoman Artis to obtain prices for name tags for the Board. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Artis.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Contract for Auditor Danna Layne – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Mrs. Moats stated that Danna Layne had been the Town's auditor for three years. She went on to say that the Mrs. Layne's contract was due for a three year renewal; 2025-2027. She informed the Board that Mrs. Layne was asking for \$12,500 for the audit fee, and if needed, \$3500 for the preparation of the financial statements. Mrs. Moats informed the Board that she would ask the Town's accountant, Beverly Stroud how much she would charge to prepare the financial statements.

Alderwoman Artis made a motion to accept the three year contract of Auditor Danna Layne for 12,500 and an additional \$3500 for the preparation of the financial statements if the Town's Accountant, Beverly Stroud could not prepare the financial statements for a cheaper price. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Increase in Credit Card Fees – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Finance Shannon Moats informed the Board that, on April 1, 2025, the Town's Bank/Credit Card Fees would increase by 10% and .10 per \$100 in sells. She suggested that the increases should be passed along to the citizens that chooses to use a bank or credit card.

Alderman Jackson stated that the Town should notify the citizens about the increase. Mayor Yelverton suggested that the increase should take effect in June.

Alderwoman Artis made a motion to pass the 10% rate increase to the citizens who uses a credit card or a bank card to pay their utility bills effective June 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Budget Amendment BA-08-2025 – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Ms. Moats presented the following amendments to the budget.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the Town of Fremont, North Carolina, that the following amendment is made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

Account	Current Budget	Increase (Decrease)	Amended Budget
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Section 1: To amend the Fire Department Fund to increase Telephone & Internet and Propane Gas Expense and decrease Maint. & Repair to Vehicles. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

15-5300-1100 (Telephone & Internet)	\$ 2,100	\$ 740	\$ 2,840
15-5300-1400 (Propane Gas)	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,400
15-5300-1700 (Maint. & Repair Vehicle)	\$16,000	(\$1,740)	\$14,260

Section 2: To amend the General to increase Professional Services, Telephone & Internet, Utilities, and Computer Repair/Updates; and decrease Hospital Insurance and Retirement Expense. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

10-4200-0400 (Professional Services)	\$20,000	\$3,733	\$23,733
10-4200-1100 (Telephone & Internet)	\$ 7,500	\$1,200	\$ 8,700
10-4200-1300 (Utilities)	\$ 1,500	\$ 600	\$ 2,100
10-4200-3400 (Computer Repair/Updates)	\$ 6,000	\$ 500	\$ 6,500
10-4200-0600 (Hospital Insurance)	\$ 8,086	(\$3,919)	\$ 4,167
10-4200-0700 (Retirement Expense)	\$ 5,998	(\$2,114)	\$ 3,884

Section 3: To amend the General Fund (Street Department) to increase Departmental Supplies & Materials and decrease Fuel. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

10-5600-3300 (Departmental Supplies)	\$5,000	\$500	\$5,500
10-5600-3700 (Fuel)	\$6,500	(\$500)	\$6,000

Section 4: To amend the Water & Sewer Revenues to increase the budget; and increase Professional Services, Telephone & Internet, Statements, Computer Repair/Updates, Logics Billing, Departmental Supplies & Materials, Water Analysis Expense, Electric, and Propane Gas; and decrease Departmental Supplies. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

30-3730-0000 (Taps & Connection Fee)	\$17,100	\$40,352	\$57,452
30-3290-0000 (Interest Earned)	\$21,600	\$ 5,468	\$27,068
30-8200-3300 (Departmental Supplies)	\$58,500	(\$ 7,130)	\$51,370
30-7200-0400 (Professional Services)	\$65,000	\$20,000	\$85,000
30-7200-1100 (Telephone & Internet)	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 5,600
30-7200-1201 (Statements)	\$ 750	\$ 500	\$ 1,250
30-7200-3400 (Computer Repair/Updates)	\$ 3,000	\$ 750	\$ 3,750
30-7200-3450 (Logics Billing)	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000
30-8100-3300 (Departmental Supplies)	\$17,858	\$25,000	\$42,858
30-8100-8000 (Water Analysis)	\$12,000	\$ 500	\$12,500
30-8200-1300 (Electric)	\$18,000	\$ 3,100	\$21,100
30-8200-1400 (Propane Gas)	\$ 400	\$ 500	\$ 900

Section 5: To amend the Electric Fund to increase Computer Repair/Updates, Logics Billing, and Property Insurance; and decrease Departmental Supplies. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

31-7200-3400 (Computer Repair/Updates)	\$ 3,000	\$ 750	\$ 3,750
31-7200-3450 (Logics Billing)	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000
31-7200-5400 (Property Insurance)	\$33,138	\$ 150	\$33,288
31-8320-3300 (Departmental Supplies)	\$86,862	(\$ 1,900)	\$84,962

Section 6: To amend the Fire Department Fund to increase Salaries & Wages Expense and decrease Maint. & Repair: Airpacks. The appropriations are to be changed as follows:

15-5300-0200 (Salaries & Wages)	\$ 9,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 12,500
15-5300-1900 (Maint. & Repair: Airpacks)	\$ 4,500	(\$ 3,500)	\$ 1,000

Section 7: Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Town Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

Mayor Yeverton asked if there was a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented.

Alderman Wayne Jackson made a motion to approve BA-08-2025 as amended. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Acceptance of Alderwoman Annie Lewis' Resignation – Alderwoman Joyce Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that Attorney Brian Pridgen sent her the resignation letter of Alderwoman Annie Lewis, which was signed on April 29, 2025.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to accept the resignation of Alderwoman Annie Lewis.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to accept the resignation letter of Alderwoman Annie Lewis. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Joyce Artis.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ways to fill a vacant Board seat

Alderwoman Artis stated that Attorney Brian Pridgen stated that the Board could appoint someone to the Board.

1. Advertising the vacancy and interviewing interested candidates
2. Immediately appointing someone to fill the seat

Alderman Jackson made a motion to advertise the vacancy and to interview the interested persons, after which a person would be chosen to fill the district 6 seat. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Ruffin seconded the motion.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recognition for Alderwoman Annie Lewis

Mayor Yelverton stated that he and Alderwoman Artis had discussed presenting a plaque to Alderwoman Annie Lewis for her dedicated years of service to the Town of Fremont. He also stated that, in hopes of further recognize her, he would like to speak with someone at the Norwayne Alumni Association and Mrs. Sherri Stewart concerning the possibility of allowing Alderwoman Lewis to be the Grand Marshall of one of the parades.

13. Date of the State of the Town Address – Alderwoman Joyce Artis

Alderwoman Artis suggested that the Town should hold its 4th Annual State of the Town Address on August 12, 2025 at 6pm. Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin suggested to hold the event at New Daniels Chapel Church, which is the church that he attends.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the State of the Town Address at New Daniels Chapel Church on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 @ 6pm

14. Disinterment Permit – Alderwoman Joyce Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated as a result of the discussion that the Board had about the three bodies that were exhumed/removed from the Elmwood cemetery without proper notification, the Board discussed the need of implementing a Disinterment Permit. Alderwoman Artis presented a permit that must be completed by the funeral home, and approved by the Town

Administrator and witnessed by the Town Clerk. She went on to say that, if approved, the permit would be uploaded on the Town's website, and that she would notify the funeral homes in the surrounding areas about the disinterment permit.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to approve the disinterment permit.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to approve the disinterment permit as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

(1) Finance Report – Shannon Moats

For the Board's review, Finance Officer Shannon Moats included in the Board's packet the following: Cash Trending Report, an Up-to-Date Budget to Actual Report, and a Check Listing Report. She informed the Board that there was less money in the Town's checking account in April than in March. She stated that was due to public works purchasing the supplies that they needed to continue to provide services to the citizens and to also make repairs that were needed. She referred the Board to the list of checks for better understanding. She also asked the Board to come to her with any questions.

(2) Billing & Collections Report – Interim Town Clerk Joyce M. Artis

In addition to the other information listed in the Billing & Collections Report, Alderwoman Artis informed the Board that the Town had received the final utility assistance reimbursement from the NC Department of Commerce in the amount of \$9939.82. She went on to say that the Town of Eureka had sent in a partial payment in the amount of \$15,000 for the transmission of their sewer to the City of Goldsboro.

(3) Police Dept. Report – Chief Paul Moats

Chief Moats reported that during the month of April, the Fremont Police Department received 80 calls for service. He went on to say that there was 5 misdemeanor and 1 felony arrest, 2 traffic stops, 2 checkpoints and the department issued 2 verbal warnings and 1 written warning. He also stated that the Fremont Police Department conducted: 109 area checks, 925 business checks, 3 of which were left unsecured, 70 business escorts, and 4 residence checks. He went on to say that the Fremont Police Department completed 96 hours of in-service training, and had a total of 1,188 calls for service, which included 911 dispatch calls and officer self-initiated activities. Chief Moats also informed the Board that the police department had written 16 reports, and had assisted with 2 car wrecks in the month of April, and 16 reports were filed as well. He went on to say that in the month of April the police department issued one citation, assisted the Town of Pikeville 12 times, the Wayne County Sheriff Department 1 time, the NC State Highway Patrol Office 1 time, and addressed 5 animal complaints. Chief Moats informed the Board that 20 letters was mailed concerning debris, and 10 properties were sent for abatement.

(4) Public Works Report – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

In the absence of Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley, Town Administration Jonathan Allen informed the Board that the Sewer Rehab Project was expected to begin within the next week or so. He went on to say that he should be informed of a more definite date in the next day or so. He also stated that the contractors had begun to stage their equipment at the lagoons, and have placed approx. two loads of rocks at the dead-end section of Ward Street.

Mr. Allen also informed the Board that the public works department is continuing to flush the water lines and installing the lights in the public works shop as well. He commended the public works department for the work that they did during the storm that came through Town on May 15, 2025.

Alderman Howell stated that he was pleased with how the public works department responded very quickly to isolate the outage, and focused on the damage area.

(5) Town Update Report – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen provided a written report to the Board. He stated that he wanted to update the Board on the Public Works Director Position. He informed the Board that he had received 6 applications before the deadline, and 2 after the deadline, which were not reviewed due to not making the date of closing.

Mr. Allen stated that ECCOG informed him that the International Economic Development Commission would like to send an economic development team to the Town to help develop an economic plan, at no cost to the Town. He stated the commission asked the Town would provide a survey for the citizens, which had been uploaded on the Town's website. Mr. Allen also informed the Board that the commission would like to meet with the following stakeholders: Citizens, Town Board, Nonprofits, Business Owners, and Faith Based Leaders. He went on to say that he would inform the Board of the times of each session when a schedule had been confirmed for June 2nd & June 3rd. He also informed the Board that the Town of Fremont was one six communities within the ECCOG that is participating in the economic development program.

Live Streaming

Alderman Howell stated that a citizen asked him why did the Board discontinued live streaming their meetings. Finance Officer Moats stated while the former finance officer was here, and she, being the pastor of the United Methodist Church, allowed the Town to use the equipment that belonged to the church to live stream the Town's meetings. Mrs. Moats went on to say that before the former finance officer left, she informed the Town of everything that needed to be purchased in order for the Town to live stream its own meetings. Mrs. Moats also stated that the former Town Board had several issues with live streaming the meetings and discontinued doing so. Former Alderman Keith Spivey stated that the computer or iPad that was used did not have enough bandwidth to flow through the computer in order for it stream.

Old Business:

1. Contacting the County about Grant Writer – Mr. Allen, Town Administrator

Mr. Allen stated that, on two separate occasions, he had contacted Wayne County concerning the Town's use of the County's Grant Writer and was told by both the finance and administration department that there was no one on the County level to help with the writing of grants.

Alderwoman Artis stated that Wayne County hired a grant writer approx. two years ago, and at that time, the Town was told that the grant writer could be of assistance.

Alderman Jackson stated that, for a fee, the ECCOG could assist with writing grants. Mr. Allen stated that he would call the ECCOG to obtain some information concerning a grant writer.

2. Trimming of Limbs from Power Lines – Mr. Allen, Town Administrator

Mr. Allen stated that the Town of Lucama is continuing to trim the tree limbs from the power lines on Fridays.

3. Grading of Street Shoulders – Mr. Allen, Town Administrator

Mr. Allen stated that the Town was still in search of someone to grade the Town's street shoulders.

4. Benefit Package for New Employees & Personnel Policy – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that the proposed personnel policy was included in each Board member's packet. He went on to say that there was a list of items that had been amended. He stated that the proposed personnel policy included recommendations from the Board and from the State Auditor. He asked the Board to review the policy and to inform him of any concerns, questions, or suggestions before June 1, 2025 in order for Erica Phillips to have time to make the corrections and to make her presentation of the policy during the June Board meeting.

5. Flushing of the Town's Water System – Mr. Allen, Town Administrator

(This item was covered in the Public Works report)

6. Public Works Director Position – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

(This item was covered in the Public Works report)

7. Hiring a Contractor to Install and Cover Water & Sewer Taps – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that Mr. Stanley was obtaining quotes from contractors to install and cover water & sewer taps.

Alderwoman Artis stated that the first cut that Jonathan Lee made, which was located Norwayne Alumni Way, had not been paved. She went on to say that she had received complaints concerning it, and wanted to know if Mr. Allen had been able to make contact with him. Mr. Allen stated that he had left messages with him and had not received any response from Mr. Lee, and would be sending him a letter.

Alderman Jackson stated that Contractor Jonathan Lee had patched a cutout on North Street, and then cut out a hole in the patch, which needs to be re-patched. He also stated that the Kiosk that Mr. Lee installed on Vance Street is tilted towards the road, and when it rains, the water floods the street at the corner of Vance St. and Balance Rd.

Alderwoman Artis made a motion to suspend Jonathan Lee's construction of the Cottages on Vance Street until he re-paves the cuts on Vance and North Streets, and also paves the cut on Norwayne Alumni Way. She went on to say the paving of the cuts should also be addressed in the letter that Mr. Allen plans to send him. The Board agreed to do so as well. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Allen stated that, as requested by the Board, he would send the letter to Mr. Jonathan Lee on the next business day.

Discussion:

1. Adding the Parking of RV's to Ordinance - Alderman Oscar Mooring

Alderman Mooring presented a proposed ordinance concerning the parking of RV's and large vehicles on the side of the streets. He stated that he had received complaints from citizens concerning RV's being parked on the on the side of the roadway. He went on to say that he could not obtain any information concerning the parking of large vehicles in the streets in the Town's ordinance, therefore, for the Board's review and consideration, he brought in a sample ordinance. He informed the Board that the information did not include any fees, and that he was opened for suggestions.

Chief Moats stated that a parked Recreation Vehicle a few feet from the stop sign is a safety violation. He went on to say that the Assistant Chief Bottoms had spoken to the owner of the RV on Sycamore St., and he hasn't adhered to his verbal warning.

Town Administrator Jonathan Allen stated that he had also spoken with the owner, and he stated that he would have the RV moved by last Friday. Chief Moats stated that the owner would be given a citation after the Board meeting.

2. Proposed Fee Schedule – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that the updated proposed fee schedule was included in the Board's agenda packet for their review, and would like feedback concerning the fee schedule by Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

3. Number of Urns Per Plot – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that she had received a call from someone who asked how many urns could be placed on an unoccupied burial plot. It was the consensus of the Board for Alderwoman Artis to call Town Engineer Mike McAllister concerning the inquiry.

4. Buy Back of Burial Plots – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that she had received a call from someone who was interested in selling the Town four plots that he owns. She went on to say that the previous Board was asked the same question and, at that time, they did not think that the Town was financially able to do so.

It was the consensus of the Board not to buy back any plots at this time.

5. Cemetery Monument Installation Fees/Permit – Alderwoman Joyce Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that the Town should know when anyone (i.e. funeral home, Monument Company) is in either one of the Town's cemeteries. Alderwoman Artis presented a Cemetery Monument Installation Fee Permit for the Board to consider to implement.

It was the consensus of the Board to implement the Cemetery Monument Installation Permit, but not to charge a fee for erecting a monument/head or foot stone.

6. House Bill 765 – Alderman Wayne Jackson

Alderman Jackson informed the Board that House Bill 765 would uproot all the zoning ordinances of the Town, which allows the Town to organize growth.

After much discussion, Mayor Yelverton for a motion on this discussion item

Alderman Jackson made a motion to have Town Administrator Jonathan Allen write a resolution that opposes House Bill 765, and that each Board member and Mayor would sign it as well. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. DOT Regulations – Mayor Pro Tem Leroy Ruffin

Mayor Pro tem Ruffin stated that he and Alderman Jackson spoke with a representative from the Department of Transportation, who informed them that the Town should consider adopting the DOT regulations that demands that a contractor would pave 25ft on each side of a sewer cut in the roadway. Mr. Allen stated that he would obtain the DOT regulations for the Board to review, and it would be included in the June's agenda packet.

Motion to Go in to Closed Session

Mayor Yelverton asked for a motion to into closed session

Alderwoman Artis made a motion to go into closed session. Alderman Mooring seconded the motion.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

Alderman Jackson made a motion to authorize Finance Officer Shannon Moats to inform the LGC that the Town was not going to extend the termination date of the Town of Eureka's sewer agreement, and to authorize Town Administrator Jonathan Allen to call Town Attorney Brian Pridgen to obtain attorney cost for legal action against the Town of Eureka for not paying their sewer bills to the Town of Fremont in full. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer

Alderman Mooring gave the closing prayer.

Motion to Close Open Session

Mayor Yelverton asked for a motion to close the regular session.

Alderman Howell made a motion to close regular session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There was none. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Eddie Yelverton, Mayor

Joyce M. Artis, Interim Town Clerk

Meeting ended at 10:35 pm