



Minutes of the Regular Town of Fremont Meeting June 17, 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

Also in attendance were Town Administrator Jonathan Allen, Finance Officer Shannon Moats, Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley, Police Chief Paul Moats, and Assistant Police Chief Greg Bottoms.

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: 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 Discussion #3 "Houses that need to be removed in District 5, and Discussio #4 "The Old Corn Mill on Main Street.

Alderman Howell 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.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Yelverton asked if any Board member wished to remove an item from the consent agenda to discuss separately.

Consent Agenda:

1. *Budget Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2025*
2. *Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2025*
3. *Closed Session Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2025*
4. *Special Called Meeting/Budget Meeting Minutes – May 27, 2025*
5. *Closed Session Meeting Minutes – May 27, 2025*
6. *Finance Report*
7. *Billing & Collection Report*
8. *Police Report*
9. *Public Works Report*
10. *Town Administrator's Report*
11. *Budget Amendment BA-09-2025*
12. *Regionalization MOU*

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked to remove #6 - finance report from the consent agenda.

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

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

Mayor Yelverton asked for any 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.

- Beatrice Jones, who resides at 108 W. Wayne St., Fremont, North Carolina, stated that she owns an additional home in Fremont, and that the utilities are in her name. She went on to say that the tenant had expressed a desire to have the utilities transferred into his name, and that he had lived at the residence for 5-6 years. Ms. Jones stated that she is aware of the Town's policy that requires \$400 to transfer the utilities, and \$50 for a minimum housing inspection. She requested that the \$50 minimum housing inspection fee would be waived, due to the fact that the tenant had lived at the residence for several years.

Town Administrator Jonathan Allen stated that the \$50 minimum housing inspection fee was implemented by the Board to insure that the property was safe, and a new inspection was required.

- Keith Spivey, who resides at 509 Memorial Church Road, Fremont North Carolina, asked if the State had sent out notifications concerning the work that was about to take place on Memorial Church Road.

Mr. Allen informed Mr. Spivey that the work that was about to begin on Memorial Church Road, and in other areas of the Town, was related to the Sewer Rehab Project.

Mr. Spivey also expressed his concern about the potential conveyance of the old Fremont Library to the Historical Society. He stated that, at this time, doing so was not a viable option because the Town of Fremont is not financial sound, and that the Town was currently on the Local Government Commission's Watch List. He went on to say that, "To take this action could also open up the Town to a possible lawsuit, because we had a previous nonprofit organization that had asked to use the old library, and they were denied. He encouraged the Board to read the stipulations found in Local Government Finance; article 1, section 22 before a decision was made about the use of the old library.

- Dave Varnell, Pastor of Cross Pointe Baptist Church, 400 E. Main Street, Fremont, North Carolina, expressed his support for the preservation society to use the old Fremont Library as the new museum. He stated that the current museum contained rich history of the Town, which a lot of other towns do not have. He went on to say that, "There are so many things that are either in boxes, stacked up in a corner, or piled on top on one another, and cannot be properly displayed."
- Megan Hoyle, who resides at 201 N. Vance Street, Fremont, North Carolina, expressed her interest in renting the old Fremont Library to use it as a coffee shop, and to give a place for the youth and future generations to have a place gather. She stated that, in addition to a coffee shop, she wanted to create a space for the community to hold different events (i.e. Bible Studies, movie nights, etc.) She also stated she was open to partnering with another organization or business as well (i.e. retail, non-profit, etc.).

Speakers:

1. John L. Pippin – Use of Old Library

Mr. Pippin, who serves as president of the Fremont Heritage Museum and Preservation Society, spoke on the behalf of the organization, and expressed the desire to use the old Fremont Library as the Fremont Heritage Museum, which was formed in 2000 and is currently housed in the old First Federal Savings and Loan Bank Building of Fremont, North Carolina. He went on to say that after Heritage Bank merged with Southern Bank in 2010, the property was given to the Fremont Heritage Museum and Preservation Society. He also stated that over the last 25 years, the museum had outgrown its space, and could no longer receive items for the museum. Mr. Pippin stated that the building next door to the museum was donated to them in 2022, and after obtaining a quote for \$200,000 to repair the building, they discovered there were serious issues with the building. He stated that, "The roof started to separate, there was nothing else for us to do, but to completely gut the building." He stated that, after hiring an engineer to obtain a site plan to bring the building up to code, it was determined that it would cost \$500,000 to renovate the building, which the preservation society felt would be too costly.

Mr. Pippin also stated that, because of the museum's rich history, (i.e. the school Governor Aycock attended in the late 1800's, home of the Nahunta Masonic Lodge, Wayne County Health Department, Branch of the Wayne County Library), Mr. Pippin stated that he, and the preservation society felt that the old library would be a great location for the museum. In combination with using the old library as a museum, he stated that the preservation society would like to use it as a Welcome to Fremont Center

and a future commerce office. He went on to say that the benefits of the proposed location would “Give better visibility to out-of-town travelers that are exiting off I-795... and also bring revenue to the Town.”

Mr. Pippin recognized the people that came to support the cause and also submitted a petition with 64 signatures of people who were in support of it as well. He went on to say that the petitioners “Either lived in Fremont or had moved away.”

Alderman Howell asked Mr. Pippin if he had any artifacts that were stored in boxes at his place of residence. Mr. Pippin stated that there were artifacts, which were housed in his barn, and there were also artifacts that could not be properly displayed in the museum as well.

Alderman Jackson asked Mr. Pippin what plans the preservation society had for the present location of the museum, if the Town allowed them to use the old library. Mr. Pippin stated that they had two people that had shown interest in purchasing the building. He went on to say that preservation society would not leave the current museum vacant.

Alderman Mooring asked if the building that had been gutted out would be sold as well. Mr. Pippin stated that both buildings would be sold together.

Alderwoman Artis stated that she wanted to make sure that the building that had been gutted out would be sold along with the museum’s current location, if the Board decided to convey the old library to the preservation society. Mr. Pippin stated that “It would all be sold together, if it’s sold. Our board hadn’t gotten in depth right at this particular moment, but it would be sold, eventually.”

Mayor Yelverton asked Mr. Pippin if the preservation society would consider changing its hours of operation from the current two days per month. Mr. Pippin stated that the committee had spoken with a legislative representative about obtaining more grant money to pay someone to hopefully be on staff so that the doors would be open more often., but he was not sure if it would be on a daily basis.

Mayor Yelverton also asked Mr. Pippin if the preservation society would be interested in partnering with Megan Hoyle, who wanted to use the old Fremont Library as a coffee shop. Mr. Pippin stated that could be a possibility, but he would have to speak with the committee concerning his question.

Alderman Mooring asked Mr. Pippin would the preservation society be able to sustain the utility cost of the Old Fremont Library. Mr. Pippin replied with saying, “For a while, we do. We have enough money left out the grant that we received, which is in a savings account. \$25,000 of it would be used to make the necessary repairs.”

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked Mr. Pippin for a clarification on whether or not the preservation society would be interested in partnering with Megan Hoyle. Mr. Pippin stated that he could not speak on the behalf of the committee concerning that issue, but it

could be a possibility. He went on to say that he would discuss doing so with the preservation society.

Mayor Yelverton informed Mr. Pippin of the due diligence that Town must take before it conveys any of its properties.

Alderman Jackson asked Mr. Pippin if he would be interested in renting the museum's location to Megan Hoyle. Mr. Pippin stated that there could be a possibility of renting the museum's current location to Megan Hoyle, but he would have to speak with the committee about doing so.

2. Beatrice Jones - Norwayne Alumni Labor Day Weekend Briefing

Ms. Jones informed the Board that the Norwayne Alumni Labor Day Weekend festivities will begin with an opening ceremony at 106 E. Norwayne Alumni Way on Thursday, August 25, 2025 @ 12pm.

- Thursday, August 28, 2025 @ 12pm – Opening ceremony at 106 E. Norwayne Alumni Way.
- Saturday, August 30, 2025 @ 7am – 5k Walk or Run
- Saturday, August 30, 2025 @ 10am – Parade, after which the alumni will host a cookout at the MKL Park
- Saturday, August 30, 2025 @ 5pm – Maxwell Center

Ms. Jones invited the Board to take part in any of the festivities that the Norwayne Alumni Association had planned during the Labor Day Weekend.

3. Brenda Paul – Daffodil Festival

Brenda Paul and Linda Stewart both gave a review of the 37th Annual Daffodil Festival and the 5K walk and run. Mrs. Paul stated that a 219 vendors applied for festival, but due to the limited space, 169 were accepted. She went on to say that the festival received \$7100 in donations, and their expenses were:

- Entertainment - \$6800
- Stage - \$2100
- Sound - \$750
- Advertisement - \$800
- Portable Toilets - \$680
- Inflatables - \$1,000
- Licensing - \$450 per year
- Dumpster Fee - \$276
- Police Officers – Each officer was paid on a per hour basis

Mrs. Paul also informed the Board that the Daffodil Festival pays, quarterly, for the maintenance of the Daffodil Park (i.e. mulch, pulling of weeds, etc.), and the area in front of the Town of Fremont's sign. She went on to say that the total expense for the 34th Annual Daffodil Festival was \$17,081.32, and in their profit was \$3000.00. She also stated that there were 20,000 people in attendance, and for the 3rd year, the Daffodil Festival outnumbered the Mt. Olive Pickle Festival. Mrs. Paul informed the Board that the committee uses the profit, in which it earns, to

give back to the community (i.e. Rotary Club, Fremont Fire Department, Boys Scouts, putting names on the monument in the Daffodil Park). She went on to say that the Daffodil Festival will be featured in the Our State Magazine in March or April of 2026.

Mrs. Paul also informed the Board of the upcoming Daffodil Festival's projects, which is to replace the white chains around the Daffodil Statue, and to clean and paint the daffodil statues. She went on to say that, in honor of Mr. Keith Stewart, she wanted to install Christmas lights on the Town's water tower, but due to the cost of \$68,000, she felt that the expense was too much for the committee to undertake.

Mrs. Paul also stated that the main reason that the Daffodil Festival is held each year is to give back to the community, and the committee would support as much as their budget would allow them to do so. She thanked the committee for the given and Vanessa

Mrs. Linda Stewart informed the Board that the 4th Annual Keith Stewart Memorial 5K was completed during the 34th Annual Daffodil Festival. She went on to say that the Daffodil Dash was a \$500 sponsor of the Daffodil Festival, and helps to maintain the Daffodil Park. She also informed the Board that the Daffodil Dash committee donated the large whirligig to the Town, which was in honor Keith Stewart, and for the last two years, the committee had paid for the flyovers that takes place at the beginning of the Daffodil Festival.

Mrs. Stewart also stated that she had met with Town Administrator Jonathan Allen about the committee's desire of renovating the Main Street Park. She went on to say that another family is interested in helping with the project as well.

She expressed her appreciation to the Town of Fremont's Police and Fire Department for their help in making sure that the participants were safe during the 5k dash. She went on to say that the committee had donated money to different needs and organizations of the Town (i.e. Fremont Fire Department).

She also thanked the public works staff for their hard work and dedication in making sure that everything was clean throughout the entire day.

Alderwoman Joyce Artis expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Brenda Paul and to Mrs. Linda Stewart. She stated, "The Daffodil Festival and the Daffodil 5k Dash could have not been successful without the both of you."

Alderman Wayne Jackson stated that the infrastructure committee would like to work with Daffodil committee and the Daffodil Dash in renovating the Main Street Park. He also informed Mrs. Paul and Mrs. Stewart of the donation that the Julian Nelms' family gave to help maintain the Daffodil Park.

Mr. Jackson asked about the status of the Fall Festival. Mrs. Paul stated that more discussion was needed to take place before a definite decision was made.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked if the Daffodil Committee still had the small daffodil statues for sell. Mrs. Paul stated that due to the passing of the ones who made the statues, they would have to find another company to make them. Mrs. Paul also stated that the Daffodil Bulbs that were sold are no longer available due to the fact that the Fremont Garden Club is no longer in existence.

4. Erica Phillips, MAPS Group – Proposed Personnel Policy

Mrs. Phillips stated that the MAPS Group was based in Wake County, and that they have consultants across the State of North Carolina that provide a variety of HR consultant services for public employers (i.e. municipalities, counties).

She informed the Board that she had been employed with the MAPS Group for approx. 8 years and that she had previously worked for 30 years in Human Resources in both State and Local Government within North Carolina.

She stated that the Town's current personnel policy had not been updated since 1997, and gave several important reasons that the Town should keep an updated/current personnel policy, which are:

- Laws and regulations change
- Practices in human resources change
- It Provides clear guidance
- It Provides documentation on how employment situations would be handled
- Benefits change

Mrs. Phillips presented the following purposed changes/recommendations to the Town's current personnel policy.

Article/Section in Updated Policy	Proposed Update/Change
Article I / Section 2 / Pg. 4	Added the At-Will statement
Article I / Section 5 / Pg. 4-5	Updated the Town Administrator responsibilities
Article I / Section 3 / Pg. 4	Updated the protected classes (<i>throughout the policy</i>)
Article I / Section 6 / Pg. 5	Added Responsibilities of Department Directors section
Article I / Section 7 / Pg. 6	Added Responsibilities of Employees section
Article III	Updated the Pay Plan section – no major changes in practices
Article III / Section 6 / Pg. 11	Added Annual Bonus based on funding and Board approval
Article III / Section 11 / Pg. 13	Update Overtime section – 24 hr. comp time threshold
Article III / Section 12 /Pg. 13-14	Added Call-Back Pay section
Article III / Section 15 / Pg. 14	Added Acting Assignment Pay
Article III / Section 16 / Pg. 14	Updated Holiday Pay
Article III / Section 17 / Pg. 14	Updated Longevity Pay to be comparable with market
Article III / Section 18 / Pg. 15	Added Christmas Bonus
Article IV / Section 1 / Pg. 16	Updated the protected classes

Article V / Section 6/ Pg. 20	Increased the Workplace Harassment Prohibited section
Article V / Section 11 / Pg. 22	Added Technology Policy section
Article V / Sections 12, 13, 14	Added these new sections
Article VI / Section 1 / Pg. 26	Strengthened the eligibility section
Article VI / Section 7 / Pg. 27	Updated Retiree Health Insurance section
Article VI / Section 9 / Pg. 28	Updated Workers' Compensation section
Article VII / Section 6 / Pg. 30	Updated vacation leave accrual – to be market competitive
Article VII / Section 13 / Pg. 32	Added Transfer of Sick Leave for new hires
Article VII / Section 17 / Pg. 33	Updated Parental Leave
Article VII / Section 18 -19/ Pg. 33	Updated Leave of Absence and Leave Without Pay sections
Article VII / Section 20 / Pg. 34	Updated Worker's Compensation Leave section
Article VII / Section 21 / Pg. 35	Updated Military Leave section
Article VII / Section 24 / Pg. 36	Added Parental School Leave per State law
Article IX	Updated the Disciplinary Actions section – made it separate section
Article X	Updated the Grievance Procedure section
Article XI / Section 1 / Pg. 47	Added dismissal letter as public information

Action

1. Proposed Personnel Policy - Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that the proposed personnel policy that Mrs. Erica presented was ready for the Board's consideration/approval.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion on to accept the proposed personnel policy.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to accept the proposed Personnel Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Artis.

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

2. Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen informed the Board that the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution had to be passed in order for the Town to receive FEMA Funds whenever there is a natural disaster.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. 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. Proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that the he, Finance Officer Shannon Moats, and the finance committee had be in the budget process for quite some time. He also stated that in addition with several budget meetings with the entire board, he was ready to present the FY 25-26 Budget to the Board for their consideration and approval. He distributed an updated budget message and explained that the City of Goldsboro passed their on June 16, 2025, and that they had reduced their sewer rate from 9% to 7.5% increase, which made a difference of approx. \$23,000 in the Town's proposed budget.

Mayor Yelverton ask if there was a motion to approve the proposed budget.

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

Mayor Yelverton asked if the budget included the changes that was made last week. Mr. Allen stated that budget did include the changes in the budget, and that the changes were notated in the Town Administrator's budget message.

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

Old Business:

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

Mr. Allen stated he contacted Wayne County concerning the Town's use of the County's Grant Writer and was told that the County has a contracted grant writer on staff. He went on to say that that the use of the grant writer would be a cost to the Town, and that the grant writer would be paid from the awarded grant.

Alderman Jackson asked for an update on the use of the grant writer from the ECCOG. Mr. Allen stated that he had reached out to them, and was waiting for a return phone call.

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

Mr. Allen stated that the Town of Lucama, along with the Fremont Public Staff are continuing to trim the tree limbs from the power lines every Friday.

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.

Mayor Yelverton suggested that the Town would solicit the help of Eastern Earth Scapes of Eureka concerning the grading of the street shoulders. Mr. Allen stated that he would reach out him to on the next business day.

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

**See Action Number 1*

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

Mr. Allen deferred this item to Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley. Mr. Stanley stated that Mr. Pulley is continuing to flush the Town’s water system on a consistent basis.

6. Public Works Director Position – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

(Discussed in closed session)

7. DOT Regulations – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen provided each Board member a copy of possible ordinances that are currently being used by other municipalities, counties, and the State.

Alderman Jackson stated that the DOT representatives suggested to him and Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin that the patch should be wider than the actual cut; 25ft each way. He went on to say that the ordinances that Town Administrator Jonathan Allen provided did not address the issue that the Town is currently experiencing on Vance Street, which was the purpose of searching for ordinances that would protect the Town from this issue in the future. He also stated that the Board needed to implement a standard policy that would be applicable to the needs of the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that Board should determine how wide the patch should be. He went on to say that the sample ordinances that were provided did not address what the Board requested.

Mr. Allen stated that he would contact other areas to obtain ordinances that were more specific to the DOT’s Standards.

Alderman Jackson suggested that the issue to research by the infrastructure committee, and that their results should be presented to the Board.

Sewer Cuts on Norwayne Alumni Way, Vance & North Streets

Mr. Allen informed the Board that he had met with the contractor on site to look at the areas that needed to be repaired. He went on to say that he was scheduled to meet with the contractor and subcontractor again on June 18, 2025, which is the date that the cuts are to be paved and/or repaved.

Alderman Jackson stated that the concrete of the Kiosk, which is located at Vance St. & Balance Road, is slanted. He went on to say that when it rains, water pools in the middle of the road. He went on to say that he feels that it would be a continuous issue if

something is not done to correct it. Mr. Allen stated that he would follow up on the issue and would report back to the back his findings.

8. Sewer Regulations – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

9. Hiring a Contractor to Install and Cover Water & Sewer Taps – Mr. Allen

Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley stated that he was having a difficult time with obtaining a price from contractors to install and cover the water and sewer taps.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked the contractors could be given specific sizes that the Town may need. Mr. Kenneth Stanley stated that he had contacted 3 contractors who all not able to give quotes for any size or depth for the installation of water and sewer taps.

Alderman Jackson stated that the Board had recently passed a motion that included the cost plus the markup, which would basically be all that we need at this time.

10. Adding the Parking RV's to Town Ordinances – Alderman Mooring

Alderman Mooring stated that the ordinance was ready to be implemented, and that he wanted to meet with Chief Moats, and Town Administrator Jonathan Allen to determine a fine for those who would violate the ordinance.

Mayor Yelverton stated that a public hearing would need to be scheduled before the ordinance is implemented.

11. Name Tags for Board Members & Town Hall Staff – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman informed the Board to purchase 8 name tags, 6 for the Board, 1 for Town Administrator, and 1 for the Finance Officer would cost \$144.00. She went on to say that Alderman Howell's sample of the name tag would be used, but with a white background, instead of the gold background.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion on this item.

Alderman Howell made a motion to accept the quote of \$144.00 to purchase 8 name tags. The motion was seconded by Alderman Howell.

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

12. Bank Card Fees Increase – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that Todd Fortune of Bank Card Associates informed her that there would not be an increase in the Town's Credit/Bank Card fees. She went on to say that it would remain at 3.5%

Infrared Scanning Reports, the Fremont IGA Parking Lot, and the Load Management for the Fremont IGA

Alderman Howell Mr. Allen asked for a status of the following:

- Completion of the Hotspots found in the Infrared Scanning Reports – Mr. Allen stated that, at this time, it the hotspots had not been completed.
- Grading of the Fremont IGA Parking Area – Mr. Allen stated that the installation and the grading of the parking area had not been completed, but some stone had been installed.
- Load Management for the Fremont IGA – Mr. Allen stated that he would look into Alderman Howell's question and would give him an answer as soon as possible.

CDBG Grant & the Town of Eureka's Sewer Agreement

Alderman Jackson asked for an update on the following:

- CDBG Grant – Mr. Allen stated that the office staff was still awaiting for a decision from the NC Department of Commerce.
- Town of Eureka Sewer Agreement – Mr. Allen stated the he, as the Board requested, contacted Town Attorney Brian Pridgen to obtain legal action cost. He stated that he was still waiting for Mr. Pridgen to call back with that information.

Mayor Yelverton stated that he, the City of Goldsboro's Mayor, Charles Gaylor, the City of Goldsboro's Town Manager, Matt Livingston, and Town Administrator Jonathan Allen met to discuss the Town of Eureka's sewer issue. He went on to say that a meeting with the City of Goldsboro, the Town of Eureka, the Wayne County Commissioner Gurley, CDM Smith Engineering, and the Town of Fremont was hopefully going to convene amongst June 29th – July 3rd to discuss how to alleviate the burden of the Town of Eureka's sewer issue from the Town of Fremont.

Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley urged the Board not to implementation the recommendation that was given by the engineer.

Discussion:

1. Placing Deer Camera's in Cemeteries – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that she had received a call from a citizen who said that an item had been stolen from their loved one's cemetery plot. She went on to say that sometime ago, the Board had discussed installing cameras in the cemetery. Chief Moats stated that he would look into the issue and would inform the Board as soon as possible.

2. Vacant Building Registration – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that during the economic workshop, the Board was told about a Vacant Building Registration Permit. She stated that since the Town has an issue with vacant buildings, she felt that it would be a good idea for the Board to consider implementing a Vacant Building Registration, Policy, and Ordinance for the Town of Fremont.

She read to all in attendance the purpose of a vacant building registration, which states: *“The purpose of the vacant building ordinance is to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents by establishing a program for the identification and regulation of vacant buildings within the City. Neglected vacant buildings are a major source of blight in residential and non-residential neighborhoods, especially when the owner or responsible party fails to actively maintain and manage the building to ensure it does not become a liability to the neighborhood. Neglect of vacant buildings creates health and safety risks not only to the vacant property but the adjacent properties as well. Vacant buildings discourage economic development and depress the appreciation of property values.”*

It was the consensus of the Board to allow Alderwoman Artis to comprise a Vacant Building Registration Permit for the Board’s consideration/approval.

3. **Houses that Need to Be Removed in District 5 – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that there were houses in in districts 3, 5, & 6 that were dilapidated, and needed immediate attention. He went on to say that in district 5, there were two houses that had been burned, and one vacant building that had a roof to cave in, which could be a safety hazard to traffic. Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin also urged the Board to consider a solution for this issue.

4. **Old Corn Mill on Main Street – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that the Old Corn Meal harbors rodents and snakes. He stated that the Board needed to take action to mitigate the eyesore and danger that it presents.

Chief Moats stated that there had been reports of juveniles who had been entering and exiting the old corn mill. He went on to say that he had instructed his officers to keep a watch out for the juveniles and the building. He also stated that, while behind the building, he recently came across a 6 foot black snake.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated the Board should move on the issue as quickly as possible.

5. **Finance Report – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin**

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked Mrs. Moats to inform the Board about how she had saved the Town money. Alderman Jackson stated that Finance Officer Shannon Moats found ways for the Town to earn money from its investments. He went on to say that she is continuing to try to find more ways for the Town to save money (i.e. decreased cell phone plans, spectrum cable bill, uniforms contract, etc.)

Finance Officer Moats stated, “I may not live in Fremont, but I do feel like this is my home. I do treat this money like it was my own money.”

Mayor Yelverton read a thank you card from Mrs. Linda Stewart, who thanked the public works department for their quick response in removing a tree limb that caused her to lose electricity to her home.

Motion to Go in to Closed Session

Mayor Yelverton asked for a motion to into closed session

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to go into closed session. Alderman Jackson 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

Closing Prayer

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin 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 Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

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 9:35 pm