



Minutes of the Regular Town of Fremont Meeting July 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on July 15, 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: Finance Officer Shannon Moats, Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley, Police Chief Paul Moats, and Assistant Police Chief Greg Bottoms.

Town Administrator Jonathan Allen was on vacation.

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 Jackson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Finance Officer Shannon Moats asked to add Discussion #2 "Grants", Alderman Jackson asked to add Discussion #3 "Evaluations", Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley asked to add Discussion #4 "Removal of Tree Root on Washington Street" Kenneth Stanley asked to add Discussion #5 "Repair of Jet Rodder", and Alderwoman Joyce Artis asked to add Discussion #6 "Vacant Building Registration Permits"

Alderman Jackson 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. *Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2025*
2. *Closed Session Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2025*
3. *Finance Report*
4. *Billing & Collection Report*
5. *Police Report*
6. *Public Works Report*
7. *Town Administrator's Report*

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

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Alderwoman Artis 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.

- Shiletha Smith, who resides at 708 W. Wayne St., Fremont, North Carolina, expressed her concern about the home next to her residence that had caught on fire. She stated that the house was burnt in January, 2023, and the owners of the property had not made any improvements. She went on to say that she had seen rodents going in and out of the property, and another person had seen a snake on the property as well. She also informed the Board that she had contacted the mother of one of the owners, who asked why should have they have to clean their property and others are not demanded to do the same. Ms. Smith asked the Board if the property owner could be demanded to improve the property.

Alderwoman Artis stated that the mother of one of the co-owners was not the person who the Town should contact, and that the owners of the property are not able to be reached, and until they were, there was not much that the Town could do. She also informed Ms. Smith that the Board would discuss implementing a Vacant Building Registration Permit that would hopefully encourage the owners of the vacant properties to bring their structures up to code.

- Alvester Lewis, who resides at 304 W. South Street, Fremont North Carolina, asked if the Board could insist that the owner of the property, located at 300 South Street, would improve their property. He stated that the property is run-down, unsafe, and unsightly. He went on to say that a tree located on the property fell and damaged his fence. Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that he knew who owned the property at 300 South Street and agreed that the Town should apply pressure on the property owners. He went on to

say that it would take some time for the property owner to make the necessary improvements.

Alderman Jackson stated that the Board was in the process of hiring a code enforcement officer, who would make sure that the Town's ordinances are enforced. He went on to say that there a high was cost of condemning properties.

- Faith Reid, who resides at 609 S. Goldsboro Street, Fremont, North Carolina, stated that she, too, was concerned about the house that burned on Goldsboro, Street. She stated that the house could cause harm to humans and animals. She suggested that, in lieu of hiring a code enforcement officer, each Board member should obtain the needs of his/her district. She stated that each Board member should be proactive in doing their job.
- Bobby Holden, who resides at 732 Norwayne School Road, Fremont, North Carolina, asked why the Town ordinances aren't being enforced. He went on to say that each concerned that was addressed during the meeting, should be addressed in the ordinances, which gives the Town the proper procedures for those that are in violation of the Town's ordinances. He asked if the members if they knew the ordinances. He went on to say that if the Board enforced the ordinance, the Town would be in a better condition.

Swearing in Ceremony of Ms. Shelia Reid

Mayor Yelverton gave the oath of office to Ms. Shelia Reid. Alderwoman Reid took her seat as the representative of district 6. She thanked the Board for appointing her to the Board, and stated that she wanted to work with each member to help resolve the issues that the Town is currently facing. She informed her constituents that she would be there to listen to their concerns and to be their voice as well.

Speaker:

1. Andreta Wooten, Unit Director of the Fremont Boys and Girls Club – Funding Request

Ms. Wooten stated that the mission of the Fremont Boys and Girls Club was "To enable all young people, especially those that need us most, to reach their full potential as positive, productive, caring, responsible citizens." She stated that certain programs are needed to ensure that their mission is carried out, but those programs needed funding, in which they did not have; and asked if the Town could assist financially.

Mayor Yelverton asked Ms. Wooten if the Boys and Girls Club received Federal Funding. Ms. Wooten stated that the Club does not receive any funds from the Federal Government, but does receive local funding and funds from the United Way.

Alderman Howell asked how many children did the club serve. Ms. Wooten stated the Fremont Boys and Girls Club serves 32 children and asked the Board and Staff to come and see what the club provides.

Alderman Jackson made a motion that the Town would donate \$5,000 to the Fremont Boys and Girls Club. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. The motion passed unanimously.

Action

1. Change wording of cemetery ordinance section 93.06

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

2. Utility Deposits for Businesses

This agenda item was tabled.

3. New Business Utility Deposits

This agenda item was tabled.

4. Reappointment of Steve Hooks and Wayne Jackson to the Board of Planning and Adjustment – Mayor Yelverton

Mayor Yelverton stated that it was the responsibility of the Town Board to nominate or reappointment someone to the Board of Planning and Adjustment. He went on to say that Mr. Steve Hooks and Mr. Wayne Jackson's term had expired. He stated that he would entertain a motion to reappoint them to the Board of Planning and Adjustment.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to reappoint Steve Hooks and Wayne Jackson to the Board of Planning and Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. The motion passed 5-0. Due to a conflict of interest, Alderman Jackson recused himself, and did not take part in the vote.

Old Business:

1. Trimming of Limbs from Power Lines – Mayor Yelverton

Mayor Yelverton stated that Mr. Allen had written in his report to the Board that the Town of Lucama had temporarily stopped assisting the Town with the trimming of limbs from the power because of the extreme hot temperatures.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that he was concerned that highest paid public works staff members are assisting the Town of Lucama with pulling limbs. He went on to say that he felt that a lower paid public works staff should be assisting the Town of Lucama, and that the highest paid staff public works staff member should be performing more pressing job duties.

2. Grading of Street Shoulders – Mayor Yelverton

Mayor Yelverton stated that Mr. Allen had made contact with Charles Artis, owner of Eastern Earthscapes concerning the grading of the street shoulders. He went on to say that when Mr. Allen returns from vacation, he and Mr. Artis would survey the Town to determine what needs to be done and how much the charge would be for the project.

3. Benefit Package for New Employees

This agenda item was tabled.

4. Flushing of the Town's Water System – Mayor Yelverton

Mayor Yelverton asked if the schedule of the flushing of water lines could be posted on the Town's website and on other forms of social websites as a way to inform the citizens.

Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley stated that Mr. Pulley had the Town divided into quarters and is flushing a quarter of the fire hydrants each week.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked how many fire hydrants needed to be replaced, and what was the approximate cost of a hydrant. Mr. Stanley stated that he didn't know the exact number of the hydrants that needed to be replaced, but most of the hydrants were in poor condition. He went on to say that the approximate cost of a fire hydrant is \$2,000.

5. Public Works Director Position – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

This agenda item was tabled

6. DOT Regulations – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

This agenda item was tabled.

7. Kiosk on Vance Street

Mayor Yelverton stated that Mr. Allen spoke with the Town of Fremont's Post Master about the flooding around the Kiosk on Vance Street, and was informed that there was a certain slope had to be followed when installing the Kiosk on Vance Street, which is what the contractor did.

8. Completion of Infrared Hotspots

Alderman Jackson asked for an update on the completion of the infrared hotspots. Mr. Stanley stated that he was not sure if the Town's lineman had begun the project.

9. Fremont IGA Parking Lot

This agenda item was tabled.

10. Load Management for the Fremont IGA

This agenda item was tabled.

11. Sewer Cut Outs on Norwayne Way, Vance, & North Streets

This agenda item was tabled.

12. Town of Eureka's Sewer Agreement

This agenda item was tabled.

13. Hiring of Contractor to Install and Cover Water & Sewer Taps

This agenda item was tabled.

14. Grant Writer

This agenda item was tabled.

15. Adding the Parking of RV'S and Large Vehicles to Town's Ordinance

This agenda item was tabled.

16. Burnt/dilapidated Houses

This agenda item was tabled.

17. Code Enforcement Officer

Discussion:

1. MLK Park Improvements -

Alderman Artis stated that the Annual Norwayne Alumni & Friends Association Weekend would take place during the Labor Day Weekend. She informed the Board that after their parade, they would gather in the MLK Park for a picnic and fellowship.

She asked if the new swing sets seats and mulch would be installed before the event. Mayor Yelverton stated that Mr. Allen informed him that once he had obtained a quote, he could place an order for the swing set seats, mulch, and other playground equipment, and was told that the order would be in within a week after the order was placed.

Alderman Artis also asked if the bathrooms had been renovated or repaired. Mr. Stanley stated that the bathrooms would be ready for public to use by or before the event.

2. Grants- Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Mrs. Moats stated that she had received an email from DEQ concerning the semiannual report for the ARPA Grant that was due on July 15, 2025. She went on to say that after speaking with a representative from DEQ, she was able to obtain the last report, and discovered that it was completed by the Town's Engineer, Mike McAllister. Mrs. Moats informed the Board that she had sent the same email to Mike McAllister, and asked if he would be able to complete the report, and was told that he would have it completed by July 14, 2025. She stated that she had contacted to DEQ representative to ask what would be the consequence of not completing the report on time, and was told that the Town would be out of compliance with all three grants. She went on to say that the DEQ representative had extended the deadline for the report, and that she would make sure the report is completed on or before the extended deadline.

Mrs. Moats also informed the Board that she had received an email which stated that Mr. McAllister had not begun the digital mapping of the Town's streets. She went on to say the mapping of the streets needed to be done in order for the Town of Fremont to receive

its allocation of the Power bill from the State, and that the report was due on July 21, 2025.

3. Evaluations – Alderman Wayne Jackson

Mr. Jackson stated that one of the Town’s employees spoke with him concerning the proposed method of evaluation, which was to evaluate each employee on his/her date of hire. He went on to say that if the method is used, a person that was hired in May would not receive an evaluation and would not be in able to receive a merit raise. He also stated that although he agrees with the evaluation method, he feels that everyone should be evaluated at the same time, and then use the date of hire method going forward or for a new employee.

Alderwoman Artis and Alderman Howell stated that they both were under the impression that everyone would be evaluated at the same time, and were surprised to learn otherwise.

4. Removing of Tree Roots on Washington Street – Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley

Mr. Stanley stated that there were tree roots on Washington Street that were growing through the pavement. He went on to say that a citizen had asked him if the tree roots could be removed. He stated that the roots are approximately 1 foot tall, and could pose a danger to motorist. He asked if the Board would approve the public works department to remove the roots.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion for the public works department to remove the roots of the tree on Washington St. and Carolina St. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Repair of Jet Rodder – Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley

Mr. Stanley stated that he was informed by Mr. Jimmy Hare that he could possibly repair the Town’s Jet Rodder for a reasonable price.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to allow Jimmy Hare to diagnose and repair the Town’s jet rodder. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion. There were none. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Vacant Building Registration Permit – Alderwoman Joyce Artis

Alderwoman Artis distributed a vacant building registration permit to the Board members for their consideration. She stated that the purpose of the vacant building registration permit was to encourage the owners of a residential or commercial property to renovate and/or maintain their property, in lieu of paying to register their property on a yearly basis.

Abatements

Alderman Jackson asked for the status on the abatements. Assistant Chief Bottoms stated that due to the weather and the calls for service, the abatements had not been completed. He went on to say that in addition to the properties that were discussed during the meeting, there were other properties that have been identified and would be abated.

Information

- 1. State of the Town Address will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 @ 6pm New Daniels Chapel Church 789 New Daniels Church Road, Fremont, NC.**
- 2. Legislative Breakfast Update will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2025 @ 8:30am at the Walnut Country Club, Goldsboro, NC.**

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

Alderwoman Reid gave the closing prayer.

Motion to Close Open Session

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

Alderman Jackson made a motion to close regular session. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Reid.

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 8:03 pm