



Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of the Fremont Town Board August 4, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 10:00 a.m. on August 4, 2025. Present were:

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

Also in attendance were: Town Administrator Jonathan Allen, Finance Officer Shannon Moats, and Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley.

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order: Mayor Yelverton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation: Mayor Yelverton gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Alderman Howell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Alderman Mooring made a motion to accept the agenda as printed. 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.

Action

1. Cut-off Fees for Business – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Mrs. Moats asked the Board if the wording for the disconnection/reconnection of utilities could be changed to “cut-off fees.” She stated that it would not change the amount of money that is owed for the disconnection and reconnection of utilities, but it would hopefully eliminate the confusion that it causes for those who may be on the cut-off list.

Mrs. Moats also informed the Board that the reason that the Town does not terminate the utilities of a business is for the convenience of the business owner's customers, not for the business owner to not have to pay their utility bill. She went on to say that there are people that have a business name, but do not have an operating business or is operating for the public.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to give businesses that are opened to the public for regular hours, and provide a service to the community a 2-day extension before cut-offs occur. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Artis.

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

2. Handheld Equipment – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Mrs. Moats informed the Board that the Town's current handhelds were donated to the Town in 2018, and at that time, they were outdated. She went on to say that due to the age of the handhelds, they do not qualify for a maintenance program, and parts could not be purchased to repair them. She stated that her concern was if the handhelds were to stop working, the reading of the meters would have to be done by hand, which could take a while to do, and lot of errors would could be made. She also stated that she had reached out to Itron to obtain some information about new handhelds, but had not received a returned call. She asked the Board from direction concerning the matter.

Alderman Howell thought that reaching out to Itron was a good idea, and suggested that Mrs. Moats would contact Electricites as well. The full Board agreed with Alderman Howell's suggestion.

3. Deputy Town Clerk – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Mrs. Moats stated that it was important for the Town to appoint a Deputy Town Clerk in case the Town Clerk is not available. She stated that the Town Clerk is the only one that could attest to the Mayor's signature.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to appoint Finance Officer Shannon Moats as the Deputy Town Clerk, The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked if the new appointment would come with a pay increase. The Board agreed that the appointment would not require a pay increase, and that Mrs. Moats would only perform the duties of a clerk only if Mrs. Artis was not present.

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

4. Fee Schedule – Mr. Allen - Tabled

5. Quote for MLK Park – Town Administrator Jonathan Allen

Mr. Allen stated that all of the swings and hardware for the MLK Park that needed to be replaced had been identified. He also stated that the mulch that needed to be installed in the park had to meet certain criteria (i.e. size, treatment, and certification). Mr. Allen stated requested that Board would approve the quote from Barrs Recreation of Pittsboro, NC in the amount of \$5,462.68.

Alderwoman Reid stated that she was concerned about the use of mulch because it attracts insects and bugs. Mr. Allen stated that the mulch would be treated before it was installed, and he would make sure that the mulch is spayed going forward.

Alderman Jackson stated to save money, he recommended using the boarders that were located in Peele Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that he was concerned that most of the \$10,000 that was earmarked for the repair of the parks, would be used to repair the MLK Park, and that there would be not be enough funds left to repair the other parks in the Town. He also expressed his concerned about not having the playground equipment installed before the Labor Day Weekend.

Mayor Yelverton stated that there has been money that was donated by 2 families that could decrease the cost to repair the other parks.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to accept the Barrs Recreation quote for the MLK Park Playground equipment and mulch.

Alderman Jackson made a motion to accept the Barrs Recreation quote minus the \$760.00 for the boarders. 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.

Park Time Seasonal Employee

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that due to the fact that the Public Works Department was falling behind in their duties, a part-time seasonal employee should be hired.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to hire a part-time seasonal employee that would be responsible for taking care of the abated properties, who would be paid at the current rate. 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.

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 1:15 pm