



## **Minutes of the Regular Town of Fremont Meeting October 21, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on October 21, 2025. Present were:

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

Absent: Leroy Ruffin, Mayor Pro Tem

Also in attendance were: Finance Officer Shannon Moats, Police Chief Paul Moats, Assistant Police Chief Greg Bottoms, and Interim Public Works Director, Kenneth Stanley

### **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 Tim Howell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda:** *Mayor Yelverton asked for a motion to approve or amend the agenda.*

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

*Mayor Yelverton asked to add to presentation #2 "The Proclamation for the National Colonial Heritage Month." Mayor Yelverton also asked delete speaker Jonathan Lee due to his inability to attend the meeting.*

*Alderwoman Artis asked to add to "Letter of Resignation from the Town of Fremont Lineman.", and to Action "Suggested Vacant Building Ordinance from Town Attorney Brian Pridgen." Alderman Jackson asked to add to Action: Norwayne School Lift Station. Alderman Jackson also asked to add Discussion #7: Sewer Pipe Under Railroad at North Street.*

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to accept the amended 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.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to approve the following items in the consent agenda.*

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Closed Session Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2025
2. Special Called Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2025
3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2025
4. Closed Session Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2025
5. Finance Report
6. Billing & Collections Report

*Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to approve the Consent agenda.*

*Alderwoman Artis made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. 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.*

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

Beatrice Jones, who resides at 108 W. Wayne Street, Fremont NC, asked how the Town could help property owners whose properties were not at the same standards as the newer properties in Fremont (i.e. Grants). She went on to say that the recent property reevaluation that was performed by the Wayne County Tax Office had made a significant difference in the value of the properties in the Town.

Ms. Jones also asked how the Town planned to use the money that it received from the increase in property taxes. Mayor Yelverton informed Ms. Jones that a copy of the FY 25-26 Budget could be obtained on the Town's website or a hard copy of the budget could be provided for her. He went on to say that he was not aware any grants that addressed her request.

Alderman Jackson stated that, due to Hurricane Helene, most of grant funding had been geared toward the Western part of the State.

Dawn Fratantuono, who resides at 207 Bryant Street, Fremont, NC, expressed her dissatisfaction about the new due date for the utility bills, which will start in January, 2026. She stated that she was paid once a month, and because of the uncertainty of the amount of her utility each month,

she feared that her monthly utility payment would be late. She asked for the Board's thoughts on changing the due date of the utility bills.

Alderwoman Artis stated that of one the reasons for changing the date was to help the citizens that were constantly on the cutoff list. She also stated that the new due date would not affect the people that who were not late, because they normally paid their bills between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Finance Officer Shannon Moats stated that if the 25<sup>th</sup>, which is the current cutoff date, would fall on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the Town would cutoff on Monday because it doesn't cut off on those days; and cutoffs would have to take place at the end of the month. She went on to say that "In those months that we are in the next month of doing readings, the office is inundated with calls from people who are inquiring about the amount of their bills." She went on to say that that reading during the fourth week of the month would ensure that the readings and bills are completed, and by doing so, citizens would receive their billing statements in enough time to pay it.

Ms. Fratantuono stated that she wished the Board would reconsider their decision to change the due date.

Mayor Yelverton suggested that Ms. Fratantuono would register her email account on the Town's online bill pay account. He went on to say that if her bill does not reach her in time, she could view her account, but she did not have to pay her account online.

Gene Fields, who resides at 663 Airport Road, Pikeville, NC, stated that he, too, was dissatisfied with the Board's decision to change the due date for the utility bills. He went on to say that, although he understood the reason for doing so, he felt other options should be considered because most of the citizens were on a fixed income.

Alderman Howell stated that he wanted the record to reflect that had he been present at the Board meeting, in which the calendar for the new utility bill due date was approved, he would had voted against it.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any other comments from the public. There were none. Mayor Yelverton closed the public comments section.

### **Presentation:**

#### **1. Recognition of Alderman Leon Mooring Years of Service – Mayor Yelverton**

Mayor Yelverton read and presented a certificate of recognition to Alderman Oscar Mooring and his family in recognition of Alderman Leon V. Mooring for his 17 years of dedicated service as Alderman of the Town of Fremont.

On behalf of the Mooring family, Alderman Oscar Mooring accepted the certificate by saying, "Thank you for this recognition. My mother and father grew up here, and they loved this little town and they loved the people in it."

Both Alderman Howell and Alderman Jackson made comments about their memories of Alderman Leon Mooring as well.

**2. Proclamation of National Colonial Heritage Month – Mayor Yelverton**

Mayor Yelverton read a Proclamation for the National Colonial Heritage Month, which was celebrated in October. He also presented the proclamation to Mrs. Phyllis Edmundson, who is a member of the Thomas Witten Surgeon General XVII Dames Society.

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

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to accept the proclamation of the National Colonial Heritage Month, which is observed each year in October. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.*

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

**Action:**

**1. Subdivision Ordinance (Transformers) – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

Alderman Jackson stated that Finance Officer Shannon Moats had expressed her concern about the Electric Department's budget, which had drastically decreased within a short span of time. He stated that the electric department had purchased transformers, in which the Town's ordinance stated that contractors of a subdivision were responsible for paying.

It was the consensus of the Board to enforce the Town's ordinance which states that the contractors of a subdivision is responsible for the cost of water cuts, sewer cuts, transformers, etc.

Alderwoman Artis was asked to contact Town Attorney Brian Pridgen concerning recouping the cost of the transformers for the subdivision that was built by Contractor Jonathan Lee.

**2. Employees 1.5% Merit Raises – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

Alderman Jackson stated that the finance committee recommended that the staff should receive their 1.5% merit raise, effective immediately.

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

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to give the Town of Fremont's staff their 1.5% merit raise, retroactive October 14, 2025. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Joyce Artis.*

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

**3. The Cleaning of the MLK Park – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

Alderman Jackson stated that restrooms of the MLK Park needed to be cleaned, and Keith Spivey stated that he would clean them prior to and after an event for a total amount of \$50. He stated that there should be a contract between Mr. Spivey and the Town as well.

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

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to enter into a contract with Mr. Keith Spivey, which would state that he is hired to clean the male and female bathrooms at the MLK Park before and after an event for a total of \$50 per event. The motion was seconded by Alderman Oscar Mooring.*

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

**4. Hours of Operation for Parks – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

Alderman Jackson stated that the Facilities Committee discussed erecting a sign that would inform the public of the hours of operation of the Town's parks, and that the suggestion was brought to the Board for its consideration.

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

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to post the hours of operation in each of the Town's Parks that states that the parks were opened from "Sunrise to Dust". The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.*

*Mayor Yelverton asked for any further discussion. There were none. The motion passed by a majority vote. Alderwoman Reid abstained.*

**5. Cameras for Parks – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

*Alderman Jackson stated that there was a need of placing cameras in each of Town's Parks.*

*Chief Moats stated that he would contact IT concerning connectivity issues because of WIFI.*

*Alderwoman Artis asked if the use of Deer Cameras was an option. Chief Moats stated the Deer Cameras could be somewhat expensive once a certain of number of downloads is reached.*

*Mayor Yelverton asked for this agenda item to be discussed as old business during the November Board meeting.*

## **6. Street Cuts – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

Alderman Jackson stated that there were 14 water or sewer cuts in the Town that were filled with gravel and were never repaved. He stated that Town Engineer measured each cut and presented an estimate to pave all 14 cuts. He went on to say that there were two additional cuts that were found as well.

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

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to have Peters and White Construction Company to pave the water and sewer cuts, and the amount should not exceed \$8500.00, and that the money should come from the water and sewer's budget. The motion seconded by Alderman Howell.*

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

## **7. Norwayne Lift Station – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to extend the repairs of the Norwayne Lift Station to include new lines. The motion was seconded by Alderman Howell.*

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

## **8. Health Insurance – Finance Officer Shannon Moats**

Mrs. Moats informed the Board that the State Health Insurance would increase starting January 2026. She asked the Board if they wanted to continue to provide the staff with the 80/20 plan or change to the 70/30 plan. She went on to say that there would be a staff meeting to go over the new personnel policy, and this information needed to be shared with the staff at that time.

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

*Alderman Mooring made a motion to continue to offer the 80/20 health plan to the Town's staff. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Reid.*

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

## **9. Fine & Fee Schedule – Finance Officer Shannon Moats**

Mrs. Moats provided a Fine and Fee schedule to each Board member. She stated that the finance committee revised some of the fines and fees and was presenting the schedule for the Board's review and approval.

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

*Alderwoman Artis made a motion to approve the fine and fine scheduled as presented. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.*

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

#### **10. Personnel Policy Vacation Leave – Finance Officer Shannon Moats**

Mrs. Moats stated that the personnel policy that the Board previously approved mentioned days for vacation leave. She went on to say that in order put the vacation leave in the payroll system, she would have to input hours instead of days, and she would like the personnel policy to coincide with what she puts into the payroll system.

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

*Alderman Jackson made a motion to change the vacation leave in the personnel policy from days to hours. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring,*

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

#### **11. Christmas Tree Lighting Budget – Shannon Moats**

Mrs. Moats stated that the office staff wanted to decorate the Town a little more this year and in order to do so, more money was needed, due to the fact that there was not a budget line item for the Christmas Tree Lighting Event. She stated that the bows and some lights on the Christmas Wreaths may need to be replaced as well. She also informed the Board that 6 large inflatables had already been purchased at a 30% discount.

Mrs. Moats stated that in order to provide an exciting event for the citizens, the Christmas Tree Lighting committee would like to have a budget.

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

*Alderman Mooring made a motion to give the Christmas Tree Lighting Committee a \$3000 budget. The motion was seconded by Alderman Howell.*

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

#### **12. Vacant Building Ordinance – Alderwoman Artis**

Alderwoman Artis stated that the facilities committee had reviewed the Building Maintenance Code Ordinance that was proposed by Town Attorney Brian Pridgen.

*Alderwoman Artis made a motion to accept the Building Maintenance Code that was proposed by Attorney Brian Pridgen. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.*

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

**13. Reduction in Vacant Building Registration Fees – Alderwoman Artis**

Alderwoman Artis stated that Attorney Pridgen was pleased with the Vacant Building Registration Form, but he suggested that the Board would consider reducing the fees by half.

*Alderman Mooring made a motion to reduce the Vacant Building Registration Fees by half as suggested by Town Attorney Pridgen. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Reid.*

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

**14. Letter of Resignation from Lineman – Alderwoman Artis**

Alderwoman Artis provided a copy of the letter of resignation from the Town's lineman. She went on to say that the letter states that his last day of employment with the Town was Sunday, November 2, 2025.

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

*Alderman Howell made a motion to accept the resignation of the Town's current lineman. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Artis.*

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

Alderwoman Artis asked for the Board's thoughts on allowing a lineman from another town to come in to work with the Town's current lineman on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> & Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

It was the concensus of the Board to allow the lineman from another town to come in to work with the Town of Fremont's current lineman on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> & Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Discussion:**

**1. Police Department Report – Chief Paul Moats**

Chief Moats presented a hard copy report of the activity of the Fremont Police Department for the month of September. He also presented a batch of abatement letters that were to expire on October 29, 2025. He went on to say that after the expiration date, the addresses would be sent to the public works department to abate.

**2. Opened Sewer Taps & Public Works Report – Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley**

Mr. Stanley asked for the Board's direction on whether to proceed with repairing the broken sewer caps.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley to identify the broken caps, who would then notify the Town Hall staff.

Mr. Stanley stated that the caps would be checked during the time that the meters were read.

Mrs. Moats suggested that letters should be sent to the property owners with an explanation of the issue and the cost.

**3. Damaged Headstones in Elmwood Cemetery – Chief Moats**

Chief Moats informed the Board that there were three damaged headstones in the Elmwood Cemetery, and the incident was still under investigation.

**4. Fremont Missionary Baptist Women's Circle Project(s) – Alderwoman Artis**

Alderwoman Artis stated that she had received a call from a member of the Fremont Missionary Baptist Women's Circle. She went on to say that the caller asked if there were any projects that the Town needed to be completed. Alderwoman Artis stated that the women's circle was willing to offer their time and finances to complete the projects.

Alderman Jackson stated that, since he was a member of the Church, he would try to obtain more information from the group.

**5. School Trick-or-Treaters – Alderwoman Artis**

Alderwoman Artis stated that children from the Fremont Methodist Church would be trick-or-treating on Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup> & children from the Fremont Elementary School would be trick-or-treating on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. She asked each Board member to come to the Town Hall to pass out candy.

**6. Board Members Finance Training & Meeting – Finance Shannon Moats**

Finance Officer Shannon Moats stated that she and Mayor Yelverton met with the Town's coach from the LCG who recommended a finance training class for the Board. She stated that the training would take approximately 90 minutes. In order to schedule the training, Mrs. Moats asked for a few dates that would be convenient for the Board.

**7. Sewer Pipe Under the Railroad – Alderman Wayne Jackson**

Alderman Jackson informed the Board that the liner in main sewer line on the West side of Town has detached itself from the tile. He went on to say that if the line were to collapse or become clogged, the West side of Town would not have sewer. Alderman Jackson informed the Board that Town Engineer and Peter's and White Construction gave recommendations on how to repair the issues, and it would cost approx. \$300,000 to do so. He also stated that permission for CSX would need to be obtained as well.

**Old Business:**

1. Grading of Street Shoulders – Tabled
2. Benefit Package for New Employees – Removed
3. Public Works Director Position – combined with #4
4. Town of Eureka's Sewer Agreement –
5. Grant Writer – Will continued to be discussed
6. Change wording of cemetery ordinance section 93.08 – removed
7. **Burnt/dilapidated houses – Alderwoman Artis**  
Alderwoman Artis stated that Wayne County Inspections informed the Town that they were short-staffed and would contact the Town concerning the Burnt houses after more people are hired.

**Board Members Comments**

Alderman Jackson stated that public works had worked very diligently on the parks and would continue to do so.

Alderman Mooring stated that the Fremont Forward Committee met with the Wayne County Board of Education Facilities Committee. He informed the Board that nothing was decided about the old Fremont Elementary School, but he was pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

Alderwoman Artis stated that Alderwoman Reid needed to take the Newly Elected Officials Training, and wanted to know if any other member of the Board wanted to attend the training as a refresher of the ethics training. Some of the Board members stated that they would contact Alderwoman Artis about their availability.

Mayor Yelverton thanked those who attended the appreciation dinner that was held at the Methodist Church.

**Closed Session:**

Personnel - General Statute § 143-318.11(6)

**Closing Prayer:**

Alderwoman Reid gave the closing prayer.

**Motion to Close:**

*Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to close the meeting.*

*Alderman Howell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Alderwoman Reid.*

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

Meeting ended at 8:10pm

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Eddie Yelverton, Mayor

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Joyce M. Artis, Town Clerk