



Minutes of the Regular Town of Fremont Meeting December 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held at 6:00 p.m. on December 16, 2025. Present were:

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

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 Eddie Yelverton

Mayor Yelverton called the meeting to order at 6pm

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.

Alderwoman Artis asked add to under action, "Offer to purchase Town's property located at 219 E. Main Street." Alderwoman Artis asked to add Discussion #5 "Penny Shortage." Alderman Jackson asked to add Discussion #6 "Space Heater for the Public Works Department", Discussion #7: "Yard Debris Pickup" and Discussion #8: "The Moving of Van Parked at the

Daffodil Park”. Alderman Howell asked to add Discussion #9: “Trash Cans for Main Street”. Finance Officer Shannon Moats asked to add Discussion #10: “Town Audit.”

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the 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.

Consent Agenda:

1. Finance Report
2. Billing & Collections Report

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

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. 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.

Public Comments:

Mayor Yelverton opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Chasity Stewart West, who resides at 510 Sycamore Street, expressed her concern about her about the suspected drug activity at the residence next door to her residence. She informed the Board that the suspected drug activity had made the surrounding neighbors feel unsafe in their own homes, and that children were exposed to a dangerous environment. She thanked Chief Moats and the Fremont Police Department for the hard work that they had invested in the community.

She went on to say that the suspected drug activity has made selling the homes/properties impossible for homeowners, and also for people to move to the neighborhood. Mrs. West and her husband also expressed their desire to work along with Town Officials and the Police Department to hopefully obtain a resolution to the issue.

Chief Moats stated that the police department was working diligently to get the matter resolved.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Yelverton stated that the purpose of the hearing was to hear public comments regarding changes to ordinance, Chapter 90: Abandoned and Junked Cars.

Alderwoman Artis stated that the Board had added the responsibility of a wrecker service to the current ordinance. Alderman Jackson stated that, after the vehicle is abated, the wrecker service would haul and store the junked vehicle. He went on to say that after a period of time that the

vehicle is stored on the company's lot, which would be determined by the wrecker service, the vehicle would become the property of the wrecker service company.

Chief Moats added that the purposed ordinance also relieves the Town from any liability of the contents of the vehicle or of the vehicle itself after the wrecker service has it in their possession.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there were comments for the public concerning the proposed change to ordinance.

No one from the public came forth to make a comment, therefore, Mayor Yelverton closed the Public Hearing section of the meeting.

Speaker(s):

1. Keith Spivey – Social Services Update

Mr. Spivey, who serves on the Wayne County Combined Health and Human Services Board, informed the Town Board that due to the signing of House Resolutions 1, which was signed into law on July 4, 2025, a lot of people would be eliminated from the SNAP Program due to their ability to work (i.e. full or part time employed or volunteer). He went on to say that those persons would have to certify with the DSS every three months to continue receiving public assistance.

He also stated that the new law could possibly have a negative impact on the Town of Fremont and the State of North Carolina, and that crime level may increase because of not having the funds to pay for food, rent, etc.

2. Jonathan Lee – North Sycamore Street Lots

Mr. Lee expressed his concern about the need of the property that he purchased to build 11 homes having to be rezoned. He stated that he was under the impression that the land was zoned as residential, and that he had gone through the proper procedures to build the homes. He asked the Board for the steps to correct the issue in order for him to begin construction.

Alderman Jackson suggested that Mr. Lee would go through the rezoning application process. Alderwoman Artis stated that there was enough time to publicize a public hearing concerning Mr. Lee's request to rezone the property and for it to be heard by the Planning and Adjustment Board and the Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen in January 2026.

Mr. Lee also expressed his concern about the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen's decision to hire a contractor to install water and sewer taps. He went on to say that he had spoken to Town Engineer Mike McAllister who advised him that the Board could not force him to use its contractor and should allow him to use his own contractor to install the water and sewer taps. He asked if the Board had reconsidered its motion to allow him to hire his own contractor.

Alderwoman Artis stated that the reason that the Board had made the motion to hire a contractor to install the taps was because of the issue that was brought to their attention concerning one of Mr. Lee's taps on the corner of Vance St. and Norwayne Alumni Way. Mr. Lee stated that he promised that that situation would not happen again. He went on to say that when the issue was presented to him, he was asked to uncover the remaining taps so that the Town could inspect them. He went on to say that going forward, he would make sure that the taps would remain uncovered until they are inspected by the Town, which is normally required by other counties, cities, and towns in which he had worked.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that Board had not revisited its motion concerning the installation of the water and sewer taps, and would contact Mr. Lee when or if another decision is made.

Mr. Lee stated that he would hire an attorney if the Board would force him to use a contractor that was hired by the Town.

Mr. Lee also agreed to apply to have the Sycamore Street property rezoned.

Action:

1. Budget Amendment BA-01-2026 – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Finance Officer Shannon Moats asked to increase the maintenance and repair line item of the fire department by \$16,566.01, to decrease the loan payment line item by \$14,920.32 and to decrease the interest on loan line item by \$1,645.69. She informed the Board that the money was left over after the fire truck was paid in full, and that she was informed by the USDA that they would be sending the title to the truck within a few days.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion concerning the agenda item.

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment BA-01 2026. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was any discussion

Alderwoman Artis stated that the Board should adhere the advice of the Town's former CPA and accountants, which was to monitor the fire department's budget more closely. She stated that she was somewhat concerned that the issues of the fire department's vehicles were seemingly brought to the Board's attention when one of the trucks were paid off, and that the trucks were in a great need of repair.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was any other discussion. There was none. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Ordinance for Above Ground Electricity – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that the Town's current ordinance concerning the contractor's responsibility for electricity only specifies below utilities, not above ground utility. She went on to say that she had spoken with Town Attorney Brian Pridgen, who

recommended that the Board should consider revising its ordinance to include language which addressed above ground utilities/electricity as well. She went on to say that a public hearing needed to be advertised to change the ordinance.

Alderman Artis made a motion to include the word “Above” to the Town’s Current ordinance that addresses the contractor’s responsibility to for utilities in subdivisions and that a public hearing needed to be advertised as well. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

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

3. Approval of changes to ordinance, Chapter 90: Abandoned and Junked Cars.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the ordinance concerning the junked cars. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

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

**4. Approval of upset bid for 305 N. Vance Street Fremont, NC (County Foreclosure)
- Alderman Artis**

Alderman Artis stated she had received notice from County Attorney Andrew J. Neal that the county had foreclosed on 305 N. Vance Street due to unpaid taxes. She stated that the County had approved the offer of \$6,000. She went on to say that the Board was asked to consider approving the offer as well. She stated that they Town would receive \$3000 of the offer and the County would also receive \$3000.

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

Alderman Howell made a motion to accept the offer to purchase 305 N. Vance Street in the amount \$6000.00, and that the County and the Town of Fremont would split the offer equally. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

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

5. Approval of offer to purchase 219 E. Main Street – Alderman Artis

Alderman Artis stated that the Town did not receive an upset bid to the offer that was made Reginald Hall to purchase 219 E. Main Street in the amount of \$25,000. She went on to say that the offer had been properly advised.

Alderman Jackson made a motion to accept the offer made by Reginald Hall in the amount of \$25,000 to purchase the building the is owned by the Town. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

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

6. Random Drug Testing of Town Staff – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that each staff member should be subject to random drug testing.

After much discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to randomly drug test each staff member. The motion was seconded Alderman Howell.

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

7. Picnic Table for MLK Park – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that a picnic table should be purchased and placed in the MLK Park. He stated that he had researched the table and it was priced at approx. \$699.00. He went on to say that the table would be green in color, and would be 42w x 40L with seats on all each sides.

After much discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to purchase a picnic table for the MLK Park in the amount of \$699.00. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

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

8. Irrigation Meters – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked for the Board's suggestion about charging the basic rate for the irrigation meter even it has been disconnected for the winter, and the person still has the meter on their property.

It was the consensus of the Board not to charge the customer the basic rate charge during winter months.

9. Eastern Carolina Council General Membership Board – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that she had received a Yearly Municipal Appointment request form from the East Carolina Council, asking for the Board to appoint or reappoint a Board member to their council. She went on to say that the appointment should be made and submitted by the Town Board to the ECC no later than January 30, 2026.

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

Alderman Mooring made a motion to reappoint Alderman Jackson to the ECC Board. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion passed by a majority vote. Alderman Jackson abstained.

10. Recommendation concerning the hiring of a town administrator – Personnel Committee

Alderwoman Artis distributed a letter that was written by the Personnel Committee. She stated that the committee agreed to hire a Public Works Director instead of hiring a Town Administrator. She stated that the Town had not had great success with the last few administrators that they had hired. She went on to say that the committee agreed that the department that needed the most attention was the public works department.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that in order to save money, and in hopes of straightening up the Public Works Department, he and the personnel committee agreed that hiring a Town Administrator would not be in the best interest of the Town at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin suggested that each Board member would consider overseeing a department, which was listed in the letter. He went on to say that the Board member would not run the department, but would serve as a spokesperson for the department.

Alderwoman Artis stated that Mr. Stanley had informed the Board that he had planned to retire in approx. 2 years, and to give the new public works director to be properly trained one should be hired within 2 months

The Board agreed to re-advertise the position of a public works director.

11. Board Members' Position/Assignments – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin – Tabled

12. Rent Amount for Old Library – Finance Committee

Alderwoman Artis stated that the finance committee met and determined that \$1400 per month would be an appropriate amount to rent the old library.

Due to some concerns about the zone that the old library was currently listed as, the Board agreed to contact Attorney Brian Pridgen about reverting the authority of the Board of Planning and Adjustment back the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen.

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

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the finance committee's recommendation to charge rental fee of \$1400.00 per month for the old library.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion passed by a majority vote. Alderwoman Artis was not in favor of the motion.

Discussion:

1. End of Year Round Table Discussion Meeting for Monday, December 22, 2025 @ 3pm – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis asked if the Board was available to meet to discuss any concerns or accomplishments for the outgoing year. She also stated that during that meeting she hoped that the Board could discuss the future of the Town as well.

All agreed.

2. Utility Cut Offs for December – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated that in the past, the Board deferred the utility payments for December. She asked the Board if they wanted to defer the utility bills for December 2025.

It was the consensus of the Board to defer the December utility Bills until January 5, 2026 at 1pm.

3. Police Dept. Report – Chief Moats

Chief Moats distributed and read the police report for the month of November. He also stated that the department had five letters pending for abatement. Chief Moats also informed the Board that Officer Kadir Moran had obtained his radar certification, and was now enforcing speeding in the Town of Fremont. Chief Moats also informed the Board that Assistant Chief Bottoms and Officer Moran had spent time with students at the Fremont Boys and Girls Club to make Christmas Tree Ornaments for the Fremont Police Department's Christmas tree. He also informed the Board that the police department would be participating in the annual Candy Cane event. He stated that with the help of the local food bank, the police department would distribute food to the families during the event as well.

4. Public Works Dept. Report – Interim Public Works Director Stanley

Mr. Stanley informed the Board that the Town had been banned from burning limbs by the State. He stated that the limbs could be taken to the City of Goldsboro to be grinded at no cost, but their grinder is broken and the City was 2 months behind in grinding limbs. He went on to say that the limbs could be taken to a company on Arrington Bridge Road, and the Town would be charged so much a ton to have the limbs grinded.

Mr. Stanley informed the Board that the ban would cause the Town to have to pay more in fuel and it would cause more wear and tear on the Grapple Truck. He also informed Board that due to the top of the leaf truck being mis-measured and the need for a new radiator, the leaves would not be able to be picked up.

Mr. Stanley also informed the Board that four members of the public works staff would be take a 3-hour CPR Class on Thursday, December 18, 2025.

5. Penny Shortage – Mayor Yelverton

Mr. Yelverton stated that the bank and a few of the businesses in Fremont had advertised the need for exact change due to the penny shortage. He went on to say that Finance Officer Moats suggested that if the Town Hall should give each customer a credit on their bill if we should have an issue with the penny shortage. Mayor Yelverton also stated that the new rates should be set to 0.00 to 0.05 to avoid having to credit accounts.

6. Space Heater for Public Works Shop – Interim Public Works Director

Mr. Stanley stated that during the winter months, it was very cold in the public works shop. He asked the Board if he could purchase a heater. He stated that a 17,000 BTU jet heater would cost approx. \$650.

Alderman Jackson stated that there was a lot of things that could be accomplished during adverse weather if the shop had a heater.

Alderman Artis made a motion to purchase a 17,000 BTU jet heater for the public works department, and for it not to exceed \$700. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion passed by a majority vote. Alderman Artis was not in favor of the motion.

7. Truck Parked at Daffodil Park – Alderman Jackson

Chief Moats stated that he would, at this request of Board, ask the owner of the truck to move it from the Daffodil Park to the Town's parking lot on Sycamore Street.

*During the meeting, Chief Moats contacted Officer Moran, who stated that a CSX Police Officer would accompany the Fremont Police Department during their conversation with the owner of the truck.

8. Trash Cans for Main Street – Alderman Howell

Alderman Howell stated that there was a need for new trash cans on each side of Main St. Alderman Jackson stated that the cost of a new trash can was approx. \$700-\$800 per can.

9. Audit – Finance Officer Shannon Moats

Finance Officer Moats stated the Town's annual audit had been completed. She went on to say that the Town's auditor sent her a draft of the audit, and for the first time in several years, the Town does not have any write-ups, and no corrective actions to take.

Mrs. Moats also informed the Board that there were two recommendations that the auditor had made, which would be discussed during her presentation during the January Board meeting.

Information:

1. Town Christmas Party – Tuesday, December 23, 2025 @ 4pm
2. Town Hall Closed New Year's Day - Jan. 1, 2026

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.

Alderman Mooring made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Howell.

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

Eddie Yelverton, Mayor

Joyce M. Artis, Town Clerk

The meeting ended at 9:37pm.