



Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

February 17, 2026

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Aldermen/Alderswomen for the Town of Fremont, NC was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6pm. Present were:

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

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

Call to Order:

Mayor Yelverton called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Invocation:

Mayor Yelveton gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Alderman Howell led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Alderswoman Artis asked to add to discussion, "The Use of the Old Payroll Office." Alderman Jackson asked that Town Engineer, Mr. McAllister would discuss, "Sewer Tile Under the Railroad Track during his presentation."

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The Motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026
2. Closed Session Minutes – January 20, 2026
3. Special Called Meeting – January 27, 2026
4. Closed Session Minutes – January 27, 2026
5. Finance Report

At the request of Alderman Jackson, the January 20, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes were removed from the consent agenda.

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda.

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the remaining items listed on the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin.

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

Mayor Yelverton asked for the correction of the January 20, 2026 minutes. Alderwoman Artis stated that on page three of the January 20, 2026, where it addressed Julie Lynch and her son; it should be corrected to say “Julie Lynch and the child that she baby sits”.

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

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve the change to the January 20, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded Alderwoman Reid.

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

Public Comments:

Charlotte Coggins, who resides at 207 Charles Drive, informed the Board that, since 2023, she has had constant plumbing issues. She stated that she had replaced her main sewer line several times, hoping to correct the issue, and yet, the issues still remains. She went on to say that the Town had flushed her line on many occasions, which temporally fixes the issue.

Mrs. Coggins asked the Board for their recommendations on how to resolve the issue.

Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley stated that there was not enough water usage from the other residents on her sewer line to keep enough water to flow. He went on to say that the line is flushed at least once a month, which sometimes is not enough and was difficult to schedule a time to flush the line.

Alderwoman Artis asked if the line could be buried deeper. Mr. Stanley stated that it could be buried deeper, but would cost a lot of money to do so. Town Engineer McAllister stated that depending on where the line was connected, it may not be able to be buried any deeper. Town Engineer Mike McAllister also stated that there was not enough flow or users on the line to create the velocity or speed that was needed to allow the sewage to enter into the sewer line.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin asked if the grade could be determined to obtain whether or not the line could be lowered. Mr. Stanley stated that he would do so.

No one else came forth to speak during the public comment session, therefore, Mayor Yelverton closed the public comment section of the meeting.

Speaker(s):

1. Johnny L. Pippin, Jr. – Overlay Historic District/Historical Commission Setup

Mr. Pippin informed the Board that the Planning Board would meet on Monday, February 23, 2026 to discuss the process of implementing a Historic District in the Town of Fremont. He went on to say that several of the Town’s residents have approached the Historical Preservation Society about historic landmarks located in the Town (i.e. Churches, Schools, houses).

2. Town Engineer Mike McAllister – Subdivision Utilities Ordinance and Standard Policies and Specializations for Utilities and Roadways, CDBG-CV Grant

Mr. McAllister presented an amended Town of Fremont Subdivision Ordinance for the Board to review. He also submitted a Standard Policies and Specializations for Utilities and Roadways document for the Board to consider as well. He stated that if the Board approved the changes that he made, and adopts the new policies, a public hearing would have to be held.

At the request of Alderman Jackson, Mr. McAllister explained that the person that installs water and sewer taps in a subdivision must be a licensed utility contractor, not a plumber. He went on to say that the contractor should present his license and proof of insurance to the Town.

CDBG-CV Grant

Mr. McAllister informed the Board that he had not heard anything from the NC Department of Commerce concerning the special projects that were submitted, in lieu of the additional building not being built for the Norway Alumni Association.

Alderwoman Artis asked if the two electronic signs, one for Norway Alumni and one for the Town of Fremont, could be purchased immediately. She went on to express her concern of losing the opportunity to do so, because the deadline for the grant was April 30th.

After much discussion, Mr. McAllister stated that he would contact contractor Tracey King to obtain the information on the process/purchasing of the signs on Wednesday February 18, 2026, but he was not sure how long it would take for Mr. King to respond to him because he was having issues with getting him to respond to his emails.

AIA Rate Study

Alderwoman Artis asked Mr. McAllister for the status of the AIA Rate. Mr. McAllister stated that the study was almost completed, and that he would submit a copy within the next two weeks.

Action:

1. Herring Heating & Air Bi-annual Maintenance Agreement – Finance Officer Moats

Mrs. Moats informed the Board that the bi-annual maintenance agreement with Herring Heating and Air was up for renewal, and asked the Board if they wanted to renew the agreement.

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

Alderman Mooring made a motion to renew the Bi-annual Maintenance Agreement with Herring Heat and Air for two HVAC Units in the amount of \$400.31. The motion was seconded by Alderman Howell.

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

2. Insurance Quotes for Old Library – Finance Officer Moats

Mrs. Moats stated that an agent from Nationwide Insurance informed her that the old library, which was vacant, could be insured by purchasing a three-month policy on the library in the amount of \$514.00.

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

After much discussion, Alderman Mooring made a motion to have the vacant old library insured by the Nationwide Insurance Agency, with a three-month policy for \$514.00. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

Mayor Yelverton asked for any discussion.

Alderman Jackson asked if the Town would be reimbursed any money from the old policy. Mrs. Moats stated that the insurance agent was not sure, but she would let the Board know if the Town would receive any reimbursement from the old policy.

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

3. Finance Investment Transfer Form – Finance Officer Moats

Mrs. Moats submitted a Finance Investment Transfer Form for the Board to consider. She stated that when she needed to transfer funds to and from the Town's checking account at Southern Bank to the Town's Capital Management Investment Account, the form would need to be signed by a Board member. If approved, she asked if the Board would appoint

someone to sign the form. Mrs. Moats went on to say that she would give a report of what was transferred at each Board meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin suggested that two Board members would be appointed to sign the form. He went on to say that one person would need to sign the form, but there should be an alternate appointed if one is not available.

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

Alderman Howell made a motion to appoint Mayor Yelverton as the primary signer, and Alderman Mooring as the alternate signer of the Finance Investment Transfer Forms.

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

4. Late penalty for the Town of Eureka – Finance Officer Moats

Mrs. Moats stated that the late penalties that the Town was currently charging the Town of Eureka was skewing the budget to actuals reports. She went on to say that the Town does not actually collect the late fees, and asked if they could be removed. She went on to say that, by doing so, it would help the auditing process. Mrs. Moats stated that, in order to keep a record, there would be an adjustment made on their account and it would reflect that Fremont did not collect the late fees from the Town of Eureka.

It was the consensus of the Board not to remove the late penalty fees from the Town of Eureka's account.

Insurance Claim

Mrs. Moats also informed the Board that the Town received the money from the insurance claim that the Town made, which involved a person who damaged a utility pole on Hillandale Drive. She stated that the check was in the amount of \$8134.18.

Betterment Fund Grants

Mrs. Moats informed the Board that the Town could receive a \$5000.00 Betterment Grant from Electricities. She went on to say that Interim Public Works Director Kenneth Stanley had ordered needed equipment and supplies that would be eligible for reimbursement.

5. Use of Electricities Funds – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis informed the Board that the Town receives a \$1500.00 grant from Electricities each year to promote public power. She stated that the Town had received a list of things, in which the money could be used (i. e. Town Festivals, little league teams, public education, etc.) She stated that she would like to donate \$500.00 to the Daffodil Festival and use the rest to provide energy education classes for the public.

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

Alderman Artis made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Daffodil Committee and that the Town would keep the rest to fund energy education classes for the public. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that during the January Board meeting, the Board had approved to purchase a picnic table for the MLK Park for approx. \$900.00. He went on to say that he did not include the cost for tax and shipping when the table was approved, therefore, he did not have the table ordered. He informed the Board that the total cost for the table would be \$1,156.09.

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin made a motion to purchase a picnic table for the MLK Park in the amount of \$1,156.09. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

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

Reports:

1. Police Department – Chief Moats

Chief Moats submitted a detailed report of activities of the Fremont Police Dept. for the month of January. He went on to say that there had been comments posted on Facebook about one of the Town of Fremont Police Department Officers stopping people for speeding. Chief Moats stated that his department was merely addressing the complaints from citizens about the excessive speeding in the Town.

Alderman Jackson stated that he appreciated the police department for the good job that they were doing to protect the Town of Fremont.

Chief Moats also stated that Assistant Chief Bottoms completed the department's annual ECC Grant application, which is a 100% funded grant, and pays for any equipment that the police department needs (i.e. in car camera systems, tasers).

2. Public Works Department – Interim Public Works Director Stanley

Mr. Stanley asked for the Board's direction on replacing the utility poles. He went on to say that the pole on the corner of Hwy. 117 & Hwy. 222 would need to be replaced on a Sunday because the bank is connected to it. He went on to say that the staff that would help setting the new poles was asked to be paid time and a half.

Mr. Stanley also stated the contractor that was building houses on Norwayne Alumni Way needed two spans (i.e. two sets of light poles, two transformers, and primary electric wire) installed.

It was the consensus of the Board to contact the Town of Lucama about assisting the Town of Fremont with replacing the poles and setting the two spans of electricity on Norwayne Alumni Way.

Town Cemeteries

Mr. Stanley stated that there were several holes in both cemeteries that needed to be immediately repaired. He went on to say that on rainy days, cars had been stuck in the holes.

Alderman Jackson made a motion to purchase six loads of gravel to patch the holes in both cemeteries (i.e. Elmwood Cemetery & Fremont Cemetery). The motion was seconded by Alderman Mooring.

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

Public Works Department's Roof

Mr. Stanley informed the Board that the Public Works Department's roof had been leaking, and that rust had begun to develop as well. He informed the Board that he had obtained a quote to have the roof sealed in the amount \$12,188.00

Alderman Jackson made a motion to seal the roof of the public works department in the amount of \$12,188.00. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro tem Ruffin.

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

Installation of Area Lights

Mr. Stanley informed the Board that his staff had replaced several area lights around town. He went on to say that he would have to order several more.

3. Billing and Collections Report – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis stated there was an error in the report. She went on to say that the error would be corrected and sent to each Board member.

4. The Use of Old Payroll Office – Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin

Mayor Pro Tem Ruffin stated that the most recent previous Board voted to use the old payroll office as the Board members office. He went on to say that since that time, it had now been used as the administrative assistant's office.

After much discussion, Mayor Pro tem Ruffin made a motion to assign the former payroll officer's office as a staff office. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson.

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

Discussion:

1. Identifying Projects for the CDBG Grant – Alderwoman Artis

Alderwoman Artis asked Mr. McAllister if he had obtained any information from the NC Dept. of Commerce concerning the list of projects that was submitted. Mr. McAllister informed the Board that he had not received any communication from Commerce concerning the matter, and that he planned to reach out to them soon.

Old Business:

1. Grading of Street Shoulders – Tabled
2. Town Administrator/Public Works Director Position – Tabled
3. Town of Eureka’s Sewer Agreement – Closed Session
4. Grant Writer – Tabled

Information:

1. Board Budget Retreat – Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at Lane Tree Golf Club and Conference Center @ 9am

Board Members’ Comments

Mayor Yelverton stated that, while at the Mayor’s Conference in Pine Hurst, NC he learned that there was a study being conducted about the removal of property taxes. He urged the Board to obtain as much information that they could because it could possibly affect the Town.

Closed Session:

Personnel - General Statute § 143-318.11(6)

Mayor Yelverton asked if there was a motion to go into closed session.

Alderman Howell made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded Alderwoman Reid.

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

Closing Prayer:

Alderwoman Reid gave the closing prayer.

Motion to Close:

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

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

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

Meeting ended at 10:22pm

Eddie Yelverton, Mayor

Joyce M. Artis, Town Clerk