

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
LAFAYETTE ROOM, CITY HALL
MAY 31, 2007
4:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne
Council Members Keith A. Bates, Sr. (District 1)(arrived 4:40 p.m.); Charles E. Evans (District 2); Robert A. Massey, Jr. (District 3); Darrell J. Haire (District 4)(left at 5:00 p.m.); Lois A. Kirby (District 5)(left at 5.55 p.m.); Juanita Gonzalez (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Absent: Council Members Paul Williams (District 6); Curtis Worthy (District 7)

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager
Stanley Victrum, Assistant City Manager
Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager
Doug Hewett, Assistant City Manager
Karyn Brunson, Assistant City Attorney
Lisa Smith, Chief Financial Officer
Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Manager
Candice H. White, City Clerk
Press

Mayor Chavonne called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and opened the floor for questions from Council Members related to the proposed 2007-2008 budget.

Council Member Haire asked what the budgetary impact would be to have police positioned at school crossings, whether funds not budgeted for the Cumberland County Business Council could be applied to a new or existing transit route, what cost issues would arise from hiring a consultant for the Murchison Road corridor and whether benches not currently being used could be transferred to routes on the Murchison Road corridor. Mayor Chavonne indicated the questions would be covered as the meeting progressed.

Council Member Gonzalez asked how citizens were informed about yard waste pickup. Mr. Doug Hewett, Assistant City Manager, reviewed the use of hang tags, citizen education measures and initiatives in process.

Council Member Gonzalez asked what was being done to reduce speeding on Reilly Road and speeding problems citywide. Mr. Dale E. Iman, City Manager, reviewed a memo from Rusty W. Thompson, City Traffic Engineer, which contained a recommendation from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as a result of speed data collected on Reilly Road and information regarding High Hazard Elimination\W-project funding. Mr. Iman also reviewed a report from Tom Bergamine, Chief of Police, which contained Reilly Road and citywide statistics and an outline of initiatives implemented to curtail traffic problems.

Council Members offered comments and suggestions as discussion ensued regarding ways to reduce speeding in the community. Mr. Iman stated meetings had occurred with the District Attorney's office in order to provide them with a better understanding of challenges faced by the Fayetteville Police Department and community expectations. Council Member Haire asked about extra-territorial jurisdiction as it relates to Ft. Bragg and whether it would be possible to record speeders by camera.

Mr. Iman reviewed a memo from Chief Bergamine regarding manpower in the Fayetteville Police Department and a Police Officer Safety Report which explained the hiring process, Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) and Field Program training police officers undergo prior to being eligible to go solo.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of technology, the hiring of more police officers and the issuance of citations rather than warning tickets. Mr. Iman explained the budgetary impact therein. Mr. Iman also spoke to the recruitment and retention of police officers. Council Member Bates suggested taking sworn police officers from behind desks and placing them on patrol. Mr. Iman stated one of the goals is for a better mix of civilians and sworn police officers.

Council Member Meredith asked about police vests and police vehicle take-home policies. Mr. Iman stated police vehicles taken out of county are likely the only changes that will be implemented. Mr. Iman further stated other take-home vehicles are being researched. Mayor Chavonne asked that Council Members be kept informed. Council Member Evans asked about police officer overtime due to shortages.

Mayor Chavonne called attention to a question that had been posed regarding the Murchison Road Study. Mr. Iman stated a study of the entire Murchison Road corridor from Ft. Bragg to Rowan Street was envisioned and would include areas impacting the corridor up to a specified distance. Mr. Iman further stated land use, economic development opportunities and other major activities along the corridor would be included in the study. Mr. Iman stated a consultant would lead the process and collect the information needed to develop a plan that would be acceptable to the majority of those who have a stake in the area. Mr. Iman responded to additional questions posed by Council Members.

Mr. Iman stated the budget contained \$60,000 for both the Ramsey Street and Murchison Road corridor studies and his experience has shown each corridor study would cost approximately \$50,000. Consensus of Council was to budget adequate funding for both studies.

Mayor Chavonne called attention to a question provided by Council Member Haire regarding a transfer of funds from the Cumberland County Business Council to another transit route. Consensus was to wait for feedback on the new route and other transit related issues. Council Member Gonzalez asked about appointments to Electr-Cities. Consensus was for further discussion when appointments are pending.

Mayor Chavonne asked for an update on recycling and discussion ensued about enacting a fee for services not to be provided for another year. Mr. Iman and Council Members discussed various alternatives. Mrs. Karyn Brunson, Assistant City Attorney, stated she would research enacting a fee for the 2008 tax bills.

Council Member Gonzalez asked about panhandling. Mr. Iman stated staff and committees have worked on various plans and arrests have been made. Mr. Iman stated Chief Bergamine informed him the typical scenario was for panhandlers to go to court and return to the street without bond.

Council Meredith asked about an additional \$50,000 for the BRAC budget to compete with neighboring counties so Fayetteville could attract people moving into the area. Mayor Chavonne spoke to private sector and public funding for BRAC and explained budgeted funds would be spread out and not expended during the first year.

Council Member Evans asked about funding for a summer youth program and discussion ensued.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.