

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL/CUMBERLAND
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
FAYETTEVILLE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HORTICULTURE CENTER – 670 N. EASTERN BLVD.
JUNE 12, 2007
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne; Council Member Keith A. Bates, Sr. (District 1); Cumberland County Board of Commissioner Chairman Kenneth S. Edge; Vice Chairman J. Breeden Blackwell; Commissioners Jeannette M. Council; Edward Melvin; Diane Wheatley; Billy R. King; John T. Henley, Jr.

Absent: Council Members Charles E. Evans (District 2); Robert A. Massey, Jr. (District 3); Darrell J. Haire (District 4); Lois A. Kirby (District 5); Paul Williams (District 6); Curtis Worthy (District 7); Juanita Gonzalez (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager

Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney

Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager

Doug Hewett, Assistant City Manager

Candice H. White, City Clerk

James Martin, County Manager

Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager

Amy Cannon, Assistant County Manager

Grainger Barrett, County Attorney

Marsha Fogle, County Clerk

Harry Hayes, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

John O'Looney, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Karen Baynes, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Members of the Press

Interested Citizens

Cumberland County Board of Commissioner Chairman Kenneth S. Edge called the meeting to order and noted all County Commissioners were in attendance.

Cumberland County Board of Commissioner Vice Chairman J. Breeden Blackwell welcomed those in attendance and stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive a draft report from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government of the University of Georgia regarding the consolidation of Cumberland County and City of Fayetteville governments. Commissioner Blackwell explained how the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government was selected to research the possibility of and options for consolidation. Commissioner Blackwell introduced Harry Hayes, John O'Looney and Karen Baynes from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and City of Fayetteville Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne.

Mayor Chavonne extended a welcome to those in attendance and noted the Fayetteville City Council lacked a quorum. Mayor Chavonne stated local government is obligated to provide for the effective and efficient delivery of services and a consolidated government would remove barriers and obstacles created by multiple government layers.

Karen Baynes, Director of the Governmental Services Division of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, provided a brief overview of the functions performed by the faculty team members during the assessment process and clarified that the role of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government did not include making a recommendation for the consolidation of Cumberland County and the City of Fayetteville governments.

Commissioner Blackwell stated a hard copy of the full draft report would be provided to elected officials and would be available on their respective websites later in the week.

Commissioner Blackwell turned the meeting over to Mr. Hayes and Mr. O'Looney who provided a PowerPoint presentation titled "An Assessment of Consolidation Feasibility for the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County".

Mr. Hayes provided a brief overview of the roles of general purpose local governments and provided a comparison of functional and full government consolidations. Mr. Hayes noted reasons some consolidation attempts fail and pros and cons typically voiced about consolidation.

Mr. O'Looney covered the methodology used in the assessment and reviewed current joint city/county operations and dual service areas, which offer consolidation opportunities. Legal issues, human resource benefits and financial considerations were also covered. In closing, Mr. O'Looney identified benefits and challenges, perceived disadvantages and public perceptions about consolidation. Assessment conclusions were briefly reviewed and it was noted that educating the public is a critical first step.

Commissioner Blackwell thanked Mr. Hayes, Mr. O'Looney and Ms. Baynes and a question and answer period followed.

Commissioner Blackwell stated elected officials would have three weeks to review and provide responses to the draft report, which would then be followed by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's submission of the final report. Commissioner Blackwell stated neither the City of Fayetteville nor Cumberland County had budgeted funds for Phase II of the study, which was estimated to cost \$30,000. Commissioner Blackwell further stated the next step is for citizens to decide whether or not they want to proceed with consolidation.

Mayor Chavonne provided closing comments and stated consolidation could be viewed as an opportunity to redesign government in the community.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.