

DRAFT

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
JUNE 27, 2024
2:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1) (arrived at 2:05 p.m.); Malik Davis (District 2); Mario Benavente (District 3); D. J. Haire (District 4); Lynne Greene (District 5); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Kelly Olivera, Assistant City Manager
Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Kemberle Braden, Police Chief
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
Kimberly Leonard, Budget and Evaluation Director
Christopher Cauley, Economic & Community Development Director
Robert Stone, Construction Management and Capital Projects Director
Kim Toon, Purchasing Manager
Deonte Watson, Interim Airport Director
Erin Swinney, Police Attorney
Joshua Hall, Police Attorney
Deanna Jones, Cumberland County School Board Chair
Greg West, Cumberland County School Board Member At-Large
Donna Vann, Cumberland County School Board Member District 4
Jacquelyn Brown, Cumberland County School Board Member At-Large
Jay Toland, Cumberland County Schools Associate Superintendent of Business Operations
Kevin Coleman, Cumberland County Schools Associate Superintendent of Auxiliary Services
Jennifer Ayre, Deputy City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Council Member Haire.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Colvin and City Council.

4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Council Member Greene

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

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5.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5.1 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DISCUSSION

Mayor Colvin stated Cumberland County Schools (CCS) staff and board members were invited to discuss the school resource officer needs and thanked those in attendance.

Mr. Kevin Coleman, Cumberland County Schools Associate Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, thanked Council for allowing them to come and speak and understands that it is a tough time and that staffing issues are an issue for all organizations. He thanked the Fayetteville City Council for coming together to discuss how to help keep the students and the staff safe at school.

Mayor Colvin stated recently Cumberland County Sheriff Ennis Wright notified the school board and affected municipalities that they would no longer be providing School Resource Officer (SRO) services for the upcoming school year effective July 1, 2024.

Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated on May 21, 2024, Police Chief Kemberle Braden received a letter from Sheriff Wright stating effective July 1, 2024, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office will only be providing SROs within the unincorporated areas of Cumberland County and it will be the responsibility of the Fayetteville Police Department to provide SROs for schools located within the City limits of Fayetteville. This will impact a total of 49 schools or 58 percent of all physical schools in Cumberland County.

A formal request from CCS was received on June 19, 2024, requesting the City hire and manage SROs and Traffic Control Officers (TCOs) within the City limits effective after July 1, 2024. CCS will pay salary and benefits of 25 to 28 SROs and 3 support positions for a total of 28 to 31 positions. CCS will pay an upfront initial \$3,000.00 for equipment costs for each position. CCS requested the Fayetteville Police Department provide traffic control coverage at all schools within the City limits by August 26, 2024.

If Council chooses to support the CCS request to hire and manage SROs and TCOs, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be created to address the expectations, timeline, and transition period to add SROs for 9 high schools, 10 middle schools, and 30 elementary schools. There would not be an SRO at each elementary school, it would be a roving position between multiple elementary schools; the expectations, timeline for adding TCOs prior to the start of the school year, and CCS funding the full cost of the new positions for 31 SROs would be approximately \$120,000.00 each for a total of \$3,720,000.00 per year and TCOs at \$20.00 per hour for approximately \$500,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 per year.

Mr. Hewett stated the challenges are providing SROs by August 26, 2024, which is in 55 days and TCOs for 49 schools and managing three year-round schools that start on July 15, 2024. CCS did send out a request for proposals for private security to fill the gap during the transition period.

Chief Braden stated the Police Department is still facing staffing issues and are factored into consideration when reviewing what the SRO program would potentially look like through implementation by the Fayetteville Police Department. Chief Braden acknowledged the value and need of an SRO program and recognizes it is an extension of the community policing model. If Council chooses to pursue the SRO program, it will need to be a staged implementation and recommended planning site surveys and conversations with outgoing SROs. The number of students at each school would need to be considered to determine the best ways to serve each. Chief Braden expressed his biggest concern is currently the TCO positions.

Mr. Greg West, Cumberland County School Board Member, stated there is nothing more important than the safety of the students. The Sheriff's

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Office threw everyone a curveball and CCS is hoping the Council will move forward with an MOU. This type of MOU is common, Wake County has one with 12 different municipalities. Hope Mills has the same MOU on their agenda for an upcoming meeting and Sheriff Wright has approved the MOU for the unincorporated area, Spring Lake is currently discussing the MOU.

Mr. Jay Toland, Cumberland County Schools Associate Superintendent of Business Operations, stated Cumberland County provides CCS with a lump sum and the school board chooses how to use it. SROs are paid based on invoices provided.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Banks-McLaughlin moved to have staff work with Cumberland County Schools on a Memorandum of Understanding to bring back for approval.

SECOND: Council Member Haire

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 9 in favor to 1 in opposition (Council Member Benavente)

5.2 CLOSED SESSION FOR ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to go into a closed session for attorney-client privileged matters.

SECOND: Council Member Davis

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

The regular session recessed at 3:37 p.m. The regular session reconvened at 4:57 p.m.

Consensus of City Council was to go into open session.

MOTION: Council Member Jensen moved to authorize the City Manager to acquire property at 144 Airport Road and to have staff come back with a plan to dispose of surplus properties in 4 months.

SECOND: Council Member McNair

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 8 in favor to 2 in opposition (Council Members Colvin and Benavente)

MOTION: Council Member Greene moved to hold the City Manager and City Attorney evaluations annually on September 30, 2024.

SECOND: Council Member Banks-McLaughlin

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to adopt Capital Project Ordinance Amendments 2024-37 and 2024-38, and Budget Ordinance Amendments 2024-16 and 2024-17 appropriating additional funding for the Fire Station 4 relocation project.

SECOND: Council Member Davis

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
Deputy City Clerk
062724

MITCH COLVIN
Mayor