

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL  
OCTOBER 7, 2024  
2:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1); 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  
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager  
Jeff Yates, Assistant City Manager  
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager  
Kimberle Braden, Police Chief  
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief  
Lauren Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator  
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director  
Jerry Clipp, Human Resource Development Director  
Tyffany Neal, Transit Director  
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director  
Byron Reeves, Assistant Public Services Director  
Brian McGill, Interim Assistant Public Services Director  
Gerald Newton, Development Services Director  
Willie Johnson, Chief Information Officer  
Joshua Hall, Police Attorney  
Erin Swinney, Police Attorney  
Kim Toon, Purchasing Manager  
Pamela Megill, 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 Thompson.

**3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Council.

**4.0 CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Ms. Lauren Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator, provided an overview of the Hurricane Helene events and stated I'm proud to let you know that our Fayetteville first responders responded to the call for help. We currently have a team of 20 personnel on the ground in the affected areas of western North Carolina. Eighteen of our members are part of North Carolina Task Force 9, which includes dedicated staff from both the Fayetteville Fire and Police Departments as well as personnel from Cape Fear Valley Emergency Medical Services. Additionally, we have two members from the Fayetteville Fire Department directly supporting the Asheville Fire Department in their efforts. They are getting rotated out this weekend to ensure we keep them safe and provide rested individuals to support the actions taking place on the ground.

Mr. Kevin Dove, Fire Chief stated we do encourage everyone to assist in the recovery but want to ensure everyone understands that

many organizations are getting overwhelmed by donations. It may be best and more effective to contribute monetarily through vetted organizations, such as the United Way or the American Red Cross. The North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, managed by United Way of North Carolina, is accepting contributions at [www.nc.gov/donate](http://www.nc.gov/donate). These funds will provide vital grants to nonprofits aiding impacted communities. The American Red Cross is actively mobilizing resources to provide shelter, meals, and supplies. However, for safety and to aid coordinated relief efforts, we ask that you refrain from going to western North Carolina yourself. Our focus should remain on organized, professional support to those communities.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

**SECOND:** Council Member Benavente

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS (10-0)

The regular session recessed at 2:19 p.m. The regular session reconvened at 3:18 p.m.

**MOTION:** Council Member Thompson moved to go into open session.

**SECOND:** Mayor Pro Tem Jensen

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS (10-0)

#### **5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Council Member Benavente moved to approve the agenda, with the exception of Item 6.06 - Discussion of a potential Emergency Watershed Protection Grant; tabled to October 14, 2024.

**SECOND:** Council Member Thompson

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS (10-0)

#### **6.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **6.01 Fort Liberty and City of Fayetteville Partnerships**

Ms. Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager, introduced this item and stated the City of Fayetteville has a long and deep connection to our military as home to Fort Liberty. Part of our ongoing commitment to supporting service members and force readiness is exploring partner options for efficiency in service delivery between Fort Liberty and Fayetteville. This item serves to inform and educate Council about possible Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs) with the installation. The City has been exploring IGSA partnerships with Fort Liberty over the last decade and has an existing agreement with FLNC to provide janitorial support to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum. The Department of Defense Installation Management Command, Fort Liberty Garrison Commander and Fort Liberty DPW have been in communication with the City regarding additional services the City and installation can partner on to create efficiencies in service for Fort Liberty while maximizing their impact to their host community.

Mr. Lauren Pico, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works, Fort Liberty stated we are currently working together; exploring options for solid waste/refuse collection contract management and annual elevator maintenance, among other possibilities. The IGSA concept confirms that City Council and military-community partnerships are a strategic path forward for our City.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to continue the collaboration with Fort Liberty.

##### **6.02 Discussion of a Budget Ordinance Amendment to appropriate \$15,000 funding for the Fayetteville - Saint Avold Friendship Alliance Cultural and Educational Exchange**

Ms. Pamela Megill, City Clerk introduced this item, and stated Council had tabled this item at the September 23, 2024, meeting to allow for additional time to review the request for funding. Ms. Sylvia James, FSAFA member, stated the Fayetteville - Saint Avold Friendship Alliance (FSAFA) will be hosting nine teachers and three high school students from Saint Avold, France as part of a cultural and educational exchange on October 18-30, 2024. We are asking Council appropriate \$15,000.00 for lodging, meals, and transportation.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to revive the Sister City program and to expand the program for economic development and strategic interest.

Consensus of Council was to ask the FSAFA to submit a letter, requesting "in-kind" transportation assistance for the St. Avold guests. This item is to be placed on the October 14, 2024, agenda.

### **6.03 PWC - Discussion of a Resolution Authorizing the PWC CEO/General Manager to Seek Rezoning of Real Properties**

Mr. Richard Galt, Deputy Counsel to the Public Works Commission, presented this item and stated the Commission requests the City Council to approve a resolution, specifically granting of authority to the Fayetteville Public Works Commission's CEO/General Manager to execute and deliver, at his or her discretion, applications for rezoning requests with respect to real property that is titled in the name of the City of Fayetteville and managed and controlled by PWC. PWC's Commissioners have recommended granting such authority to PWC's CEO/General Manager and referred this matter to the City Council in accordance with Section 6A.9 of the Charter to request that the City of Fayetteville adopt a resolution providing such authorization.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct PWC staff to submit a new Resolution that is specifically for this request regarding the Solar Plant. This item is to be placed on the October 14, 2024, agenda.

### **6.04 Discussion on Proposed 2025 City Council Meeting Dates Calendar**

Ms. Pamela Megill, City Clerk, introduced this item and stated the draft has been provided and invited input from the City Council. Council Member Hondros asked why the dates for the 2025 Strategic Planning Retreat were not listed on the draft calendar. Ms. Megill responded those dates had not yet been established.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to move ahead with the calendar and to include the Strategic Planning Retreat dates.

### **6.05 Review the Residential Traffic Management Program**

Mr. Brian McGill, Interim Assistant Public Services Director, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated this presentation is to go over the administrative report provided to Council on June 24, 2024, as well as to outline the RTMP process and recent history. The June 24 administrative report was to provide summary responses to Council's comments from the November 6, 2023 work session, where a presentation on Traffic Calming Measures was made. In addition to responding to Council's comments, staff wanted to inform Council of the Safe Streets and Roadways for all (SS4A) project. SS4A includes the consultant recommending improvements to the City's Residential Traffic Management Program (RTMP) based on a peer review against similar-sized cities programs. Staff recommend revisions to the RTMP be deferred until after SS4A concludes.

There are multiple contributing factors to speeding, with a large component being driver comfort and confidence in their ability to

navigate the road. Successful attempts to effectively reduce speeds have been collectively called traffic calming measures. Traffic calming measures reduce speeds by making drivers uncomfortable when they speed across the installed treatment. Our current Residential Traffic Management Program (RTMP) has a process that allows for citizens to request speed humps, a vertical deflection traffic calming measure. The RTMP also has a process for citizens to request the installation of stop signs, however, it should be noted that signage is not considered a traffic calming measure.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to bring back alternate options for traffic calming for the community. This item is to be brought back to the November 2024, work session. Mr. Hewett stated staff will bring back additional data and review the current policy.

#### **6.06 Discussion of a Potential Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Grant**

This item was tabled to the October 14, 2024, City Council meeting.

#### **6.07 Review of Special Use Permit Peer and Text Amendment Recommendations**

**MOTION:** Council Member Haire moved to table this item to the November 2024 Work Session agenda.

**SECOND:** Council Member Thompson

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

#### **6.08 City Council Agenda Item Request - Driving Equality Laws - Council Member Benavente**

Council Member Benavente stated Cumberland County is listed as a Tier 1 County, and said he would like to improve on that. I would like to have Council consensus to invite speakers from other cities that have seen successes with Driving Equality Laws. I would like to present this item at the November 2024, work session.

Consensus of Council was to move this item forward. Mayor Colvin, Mayor Pro Tem Jensen, Council Member Haire and Council Member Thompson were opposed to the consensus vote.

#### **6.09 City Council Agenda Item Request - Transit - Council Member Benavente**

Council Member Benavente presented this item and stated he is seeking Council consideration to approve directing staff to show us benchmarks in public transit for over the next five years; how we can become a transit community, with aggressive deadlines.

Ms. Tyffany Neal, Transit Director, stated the Transit 10-year plan to increase frequency is already on the City's web site.

Consensus of Council was to deny Council Member Benavente's request. Council Members Benavente, Hondros, and McNair were in favor of granting the request.

#### **7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.