

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
MAY 5, 2025
5:00 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) (via TEAMS); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Jeff Yates, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Todd Joyce, Interim Police Chief
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
Erin Swinney, Police Attorney
Joshua Hall, Police Attorney
Brook Redding, Special Projects Manager
Willie Johnson, Chief Information Officer
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed elected officials in the audience.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Council Member Haire.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to approve the agenda with exchange of Items 5.04 and 5.05.

SECOND: Council Member Haire

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

5.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5.01 Surveillance and Technology Discussion

- a. Expanded Camera Network**
- b. License Plate Readers**
- c. Facial Recognition**
- d. AI-Driven Tools**

Mayor Colvin requested Interim Police Chief Todd Joyce provide information on current technology and how that technology helps officers.

Chief Joyce stated there are 200 public safety cameras and 60 license plate readers (LPR) throughout the City of Fayetteville. Technology such as FUSUS and BriefCam are a force multiplier to help detectives and officers with their investigators. Based upon the current servers there is room for expansion of the system, but if there is interest in expanding, the infrastructure will also have to

increase and how partners such as utilities will need to provide support in order to get them in place. It will take time and budget to expand the technology footprint.

Discussion ensued regarding Council's desires for increased technology and opportunities for new technology and different programs available to residents for doorbell cameras.

Council Member Benavente requested Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, to provide information regarding the Police Department budget. Mr. Hewett stated the City of Fayetteville has been a leader in supporting the Police Department the Police Department budget has increased over several years by 18 percent. There are funds that can be shifted at Council's direction to help address some of the areas of interest.

Discussion ensued regarding what LPR data cannot be used for. Chief Joyce stated the LPR's are always gathering data, but the only reason the Police Department is allowed to go and input a license plate number is if there is an incident being investigated; however, the system will alert the department for known stolen vehicles or vehicles in connection to a missing person.

Mayor Colvin asked if some of the red-light camera infrastructure can be used for LPR's. Chief Joyce stated staff can look at it to verify if it is possible.

Council Member Thompson asked if the City has enough drones. Chief Joyce stated the City has a number of drones, but staff are looking at how to increase the capacity and "drones as a first responder". Drones as a first responder allow for situations to be analyzed first in order to make it safer for personnel and citizens around the area.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Benavente moved for the Chief of Police to work with Information Technology staff to present pros and cons of technology and best practices prior to the budget.
SECOND: Council Member Thompson
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

5.02 Augmented Security Presence Opportunities

- a. Contracted partnerships with Private Security Agencies**
- b. Additional Perimeter and Access Control at Festival Park and Similar Venues**

Mayor Colvin stated for large scale events such as festivals or carnivals around the state, a contractor is scanning bags and managing security checkpoints. In the past, Council was provided options to secure the Festival Park area to create a more controlled environment.

Chief Joyce the Dogwood Festival does have contracted staff for security at some of the egress locations, but also within the parameters of what the Dogwood Festival would or would not allow into the area.

Discussion ensued regarding Festival Park, additional security requirements, and the possibility of fencing in the area. Mr. Hewett stated, for any event held downtown or on City property it must go through the Special Events Committee and there are natural points of entry for Festival Park where increased security can be done; however, unless it is a city contracted or sponsored event, the event organizer must to contract with the Police Department or private security.

5.03 Large Gathering Restrictions Discussion

Discussion ensued regarding clear bag and mask restrictions to make Festival Park a safer and more secure environment and cost to organizations due to additional security requirements. Chief Joyce

stated staff can look at industry best practices for bag policies and other entry restrictions.

Mr. Joshua Hall, Police Attorney, stated North Carolina General Statute 14-12 addresses people wearing masks in public and exemptions.

MOTION: Council Member Jensen moved to have staff create a policy that only clear bags are allowed at special events on City-owned property and no masks unless medically exempt.
SECOND: Council Member Banks-McLaughlin
VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 9 in favor to 1 in opposition.
(Opposed Council Member Benavente)

5.04 Incentives for Public Cooperation

Mayor Colvin stated everyone knows the power of community participation and CrimeStoppers is discrete and anonymous. Mayor Colvin asked where do the funds come from that CrimeStoppers uses for rewards. Chief Joyce stated it comes from fundraising events and introduced Mr. Duncan Hubbard, CrimeStoppers Chairman.

Mr. Hubbard stated CrimeStoppers is a non-profit that was started in the 1980's; they assist not only Fayetteville, but all of the Cumberland County municipal Police Departments, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. CrimeStoppers pays up to \$2,000.00 cash solely off an arrest. \$2,000.00 is the current maximum reward based on the bylaws and are similar to peer CrimeStopper organizations throughout the country. There are cases where private individuals provide funds for higher reward amounts for specific investigations.

Discussion ensued regarding increasing the reward amount to \$5,000.00 or matching CrimeStoppers earns.

MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to approve the City giving the \$3,000.00 difference to make the \$2,000.00 rewards at total of \$5,000.00.
SECOND: Council Member Haire
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

5.05 Unattended Minors Curfew Discussion

A video of a CBS17 news report from 2023 was presented. Mayor Colvin stated this discussion originally took place in 2023. At that time Council was unable to reach consensus and since then the number of incidents has increased, so how as a Community can it be addressed. Mayor Colvin stated there are a number of non-profits, community organizations, and churches that are doing great work; the conversation is not to impede what they do, but to enhance. Without any structural rules, many of the programs are underutilized. Mayor Colvin provided a list of funding amounts for community safety activities.

Discussion ensued regarding what is shared during Council meetings; how the funding is spent for PALS program, juvenile restitution program, and the Economic and Community Development micro-grants; and what time of day incidents with juveniles are occurring.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Members discussions with constituents such as recommendations on the curfew, scholarships for parents to pay for youth workshops, ID requirements for the use of the recreation centers, creating a task force of organizations to continue the conversation, Cumberland County's youth protection ordinance, and the City of Charlotte's curfew ordinance.

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to direct the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Office to develop a strategy with or without a curfew including wrap-around services and

a plan to engage youthful residents by Monday, May 12, 2025.

SECOND: Council Member Benavente
VOTE: FAILED by a vote of 3 in favor to 7 in opposition (Opposed Mayor Colvin, Council Members Jensen, Davis, Haire, Greene, Thompson, Banks-McLaughlin)
MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to move forward with the City Youth Protection Ordinance mirroring the City of Charlotte ordinance beginning at 11 p.m. as a one-year pilot program and come up with a program for a Junior Mayor, ID Cards at the Recreation Center, late night basketball events, and childcare provisions, and transportation as the budget allows.
SECOND: Council Member Davis
VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 8 in favor to 2 in opposition (Opposed Council Members Benavente and Hondros)

6.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no other items presented.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
City Clerk
050525

MITCH COLVIN
Mayor