

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
FEBRUARY 9, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin;

Council Members Stephon Ferguson (District 1); Malik Davis (District 2); Antonio Jones (District 3); D. J. Haire (District 4); Lynne Greene (District 5); Council Member Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7); Shaun McMillan (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager
Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Roberto Bryan, Police Chief
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Tiffany Murray, Chief Finance Officer
Willie Henry, Chief Information Officer
John Jones, Office of Community Safety Director
David Scott, Communications Manager
Brian McGill, Assistant Public Services Director
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director
Dereke Planter, Code Enforcement
Tyffany Neal, Transit Director
Christopher Cauley, Economic and Community Development Director
Kimberly Toon, Purchasing Manager
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk
Leslie Mazingo, CEO and Owner, Strategics Consulting
Kyle Leopard, Managing Director, Strategics Consulting
John Easterling, Government Relations Director, Checkmate Government Relations
Derrick Applewhite, Government Relations Director, Checkmate Government Solutions
Eric Moore, Senior Research Associate, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute (via TEAMS)
Jenny Hutchinson, Senior Research Associate, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute (via TEAMS)
Rachel Jackson-Gordon, Family Resiliency Center, Research Associate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (via TEAMS)
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Reverend Gayle Tabor of Crossroads Church.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

Council Member Jones presented a Certificate of Excellence to the E.E. Smith Swim Team for winning the Eastern Sandhills Conference Championship. Council Member Jones also recognized the E.E. Smith Swim Team Coach for being named the men's and women's conference swim team Coach of the Year.

Council Member Haire presented a plaque to the Fayetteville Guard 6U Titans Football Team for their National Championship win in Plant City, Florida and ranked 5th in the nation.

Council Member Haire read a proclamation in honor of Dr. Aaron Johnson for his leadership and services.

Mayor Colvin extended warm wishes to everyone in celebration of Black History Month.

5.0 CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, invited residents and community partners to the upcoming Murchison Choice Neighborhood Initiative. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Senior Center East, 917 Washington Drive.

Dr. Hewett announced City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. to gather public input on a proposed policy allowing residents to request “No Parking” zones in multi-use lanes.

Dr. Hewett expressed gratitude to the Fayetteville Fire Department for their swift response in extinguishing the fire at a commercial property on Ramsey Street.

6.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to approve the agenda.
SECOND: Council Member Haire
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

7.0 PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Jake Provence, 611 Ravencroft Ct, Fayetteville, NC, expressed concerns regarding utility trailer code.

Ms. Melissa Williams, 1210 Morgan Street, Fayetteville, NC, expressed concerns regarding the City’s strategic plan goals.

Dr. Brook Fletcher, 928 Montclair Road, Fayetteville, NC, requested support for family childcare home housing to workforce pilot.

Mr. Benjamin Hultquist, 801 Rim Road, Fayetteville, NC, expressed concerns regarding changes to the public forum.

Ms. Lorena Murray, Lockwood Drive, Fayetteville, NC, expressed concerns regarding changes to the public forum.

Ms. Kristen Starks, 100 Twin Acres Drive, Fayetteville, NC, expressed concerns regarding changes to the public forum.

Mr. Isaac Lacap, 309 Sylvan Road, Fayetteville, NC, expressed concerns regarding changes to the public forum.

Ms. Angela Freckleton, 5300 Brower Trail, Hope Mills, NC, expressed concerns regarding changes to the public forum.

Ms. Angela Tatum, 404 Pilot Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, expressed concerns regarding data centers.

8.0A CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member McMillan moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Items 8.0A2 120.9 proposed, 8.0A3 addresses 484 Tacoma, and 905 Anarine Road, and 8.0A6
SECOND: Council Member Hondros
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

8.0A1 Approval of Meeting Minutes:
January 5, 2026 – Work Session
January 12, 2026 – Discussion of Agenda Items
January 12, 2026 – Regular
January 14, 2026 – Special
January 21, 2026 – Agenda Briefing

City Council approved the five draft meeting minutes.

**8.0A2 Approve City Council Policies Review Committee Recommendations to City Council Policies ~~120.09~~, 160.10, and 165.3.
Policy 120.09 PULLED FOR A SEPARATE VOTE**

City Council approved rescinding City Council Policy 165.3 and replacing it with the newly created City Council Policy 160.10. Policy 160.10 establishes the City of Fayetteville's authority and procedures for reducing speed limits in school zones, as granted by North Carolina General Statute § 20-141.1. The policy ensures consistency and uniformity in how school speed zones are created, evaluated, and maintained, in accordance with the North Carolina Department of Transportation's "Standard Practice for Establishing a School Speed" (S-14, revised January 15, 2026).

The policy outlines responsibilities among NCDOT, Cumberland County Schools, and the City of Fayetteville for establishing, approving, funding, and maintaining school zones and related equipment. While NCDOT approves school zones for public schools and Cumberland County Schools maintains associated flashers, the City is responsible for school zones not maintained by those entities. The policy also defines cost responsibilities, maintenance obligations, reuse or ownership of equipment, and affirms the City's right to revise or remove school speed zones and related infrastructure based on changing conditions or roadway improvements.

**8.0A3 Approve Ordinances for Uninhabitable Structures: Demolition Recommendations
~~484 Tacoma Court – District 4~~ PULLED FOR A SEPARATE VOTE
511 S Eastern Boulevard – District 2
~~905 Anarine Road – District 2~~ PULLED FOR A SEPARATE VOTE
3634 Thorndike Drive – District 3**

City Council approved demolitions of one commercial structure and one residential structure deemed dangerous.

511 S Eastern Boulevard – District 2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA REQUIRING THE CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR TO CORRECT CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO, OR TO DEMOLISH AND REMOVE A STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO THE DWELLINGS AND BUILDINGS MINIMUM STANDARDS CODE OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NC, 511 S. EASTERN BOULEVARD, PIN 0446-09-2995. ORDINANCE NO. NS2026-001

3634 Thorndike Drive – District 3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA REQUIRING THE CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR TO CORRECT CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO, OR TO DEMOLISH AND REMOVE A STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO THE DWELLINGS AND BUILDINGS MINIMUM STANDARDS CODE OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NC, 3634 THORNDIKE DRIVE, PIN 0429-95-5812. ORDINANCE NO. NS2026-002

8.0A4 Approval of Professional Service Contract Execution Recommendation for \$1,827,735 for the design of the Arran Lake West Dam Overtopping Protection Project

City Council authorized the execution of an engineering services contract in the amount of \$1,827,735 for the design of Arran Lakes West Dam Overtopping Protection Project to the consulting firm Hazen and Sawyer.

8.0A5 Approve FAST's 2026 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Update

City Council approved the Fayetteville Area System of Transit's 2026 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) update. This safety plan guides transit to more effectively and proactively manage safety risks in their system. The PTASP is also required to continue to receive FTA funding.

8.0A6 PULLED FOR A SEPARATE VOTE

8.0A7 Approve Bid Recommendation for Tokay Park Pickleball Conversion Project

City Council approved the award and authorized the City Manager to execute a contract for the Tokay Park Pickleball Conversion Project with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, K & C Contractors, Inc., in the total amount of \$674,000.00.

8.0A8 Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract for pre-construction activities for Fire Station No. 9 Construction Manager at Risk Selection

City Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract for pre-construction activities for Fire Station No. 9 with Swinerton as the Construction Manager at Risk.

8.0A9 PWC – Approve Sole Source Recommendation – Spare Parts for Existing on-Load Tap Changers (OLTC)

City Council approved the sole source recommendation to purchase spare parts for existing on-load tap changers (OLTC) from Reinhausen Manufacturing, Inc, the sole provider in North Carolina, in the amount of \$178,691.04, and authorize the CEO and General Manager of the Fayetteville Public Works Commission to execute for that purpose the contract for its purchase.

8.0A10 PWC – Approve Sole Source Request – Purchase Distribution Transformers (Overhead, Single-Phase Padmount, and three-Phase Padmount)

City Council approved the sole source request to purchase Distribution Transformers (Overhead, Single-Phase Padmount, and Three-Phase Padmount) from ERMCO (Electric Research Manufacturing Company) of Dyersburg, Tennessee, in the amount of \$690,155.00 and authorize the CEO/General Manager of the Fayetteville Public Works Commission to execute for that purpose the contract for its purchase.

8.0A11 PWC – Approve Bid Recommendation – Gas Turbine 6 IR Load Gearbox Parts and Repair

City Council approved the award for the purchase of Gas Turbine 6 IR Load Gearbox Parts and Repair to Philadelphia Gear Corporation, Huetown, AL, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, and in the best interest of PWC, in the total amount of \$529,997.00, and authorize the CEO and General Manager of the Fayetteville Public Works Commission to execute for that purpose the contract for its purchase.

8.0A12 PWC – Approve Bid Recommendation – BABA Galvanized Steel Transmission Poles

City Council approved the award recommendation for purchase of BABA Galvanized Steel Transmission Poles to M. D. Henry Co., Inc., Pelham, AL, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder and in the best interests of PWC in the total amount of \$3,265,995.00 and authorize the CEO/General Manager of the Fayetteville Public Works Commission to execute for that purpose the contract for its purchase.

8.0A13 PWC – Approve Recommendation to Reject Non-Conforming Bids – Switch, Recloser Bypass, Cross Arm Assembly, 3 Phase

City Council approved the recommendation to reject non-conforming bids for the Switch, Recloser Bypass, Cross Arm Assembly, 3 Phase.

8.0A14 PWC – Approve Recommendation to Reject Non-Conforming Bids – Three Phase Padmount Transformers

City Council approve the recommendation to reject non-conforming bids for the Three Phase Padmount Transformers.

8.0A15 PWC – Approve Recommendation to Reject Non-Conforming Bids – Cable, 1/0 ALCN EPR 25KV, 1/C

City Council approve the recommendation to reject non-conforming bids for the Cable, 1/0 ALCN EPR 25KV, 1/C. Non-conforming bids were received from Border States Electric,

Greenville, SC, Wesco Distribution, Inc, Clayton, NC, and Utility Service Agency Inc, Wake Forest, NC.

8.0A16 PWC – Approve Recommendation to Reject Non-Conforming Bids – Cable, 1/0 ALCN EPR 25KV, 1/C

City Council approve the recommendation to reject non-conforming bids for the Cable, 1/0 ALCN EPR 25KV, 1/C. Non-conforming bids were received from Border States Electric, Greenville, SC, Wesco Distribution, Inc, Clayton, NC, Nextgen Metals, Inc., South Korea, Bell Electrical Supply Co. Inc., Peachtree Corners, GA, and American Wire Group, LLC, Columbia

8.0A17 PWC – Approve Resolution for Permanent Pipeline Easement, Temporary Construction Easements and a License Rights to Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

City Council adopted the resolution for a Permanent Pipeline Easement, Temporary Construction Easements and a License Rights to Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PERMANENT PIPELINE EASEMENT, TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS AND LICENSE RIGHTS TO PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. RESOLUTION NO. R2026-003

8.0A18 PWC – Phase 5 Annexation Area 29 Preliminary Assessment Resolution to be Adopted and Public Hearing

City Council adopted the Preliminary Assessment Resolution for Phase 5 Annexation Area 29 and hold the public hearing on March 23, 2026.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM IN ALL OR A PORTION OF THE STREETS WITHIN AREA 29 OF THE PHASE 5 ANNEXATION LISTED ON EXHIBIT “A”. RESOLUTION NO. R2026-004

8.0A19 PWC – Phase 5 Annexation Area 30 Preliminary Assessment Resolution to be Adopted and Public Hearing

City Council adopted the Preliminary Assessment Resolution for Phase 5 Annexation Area 30 and hold the public hearing on March 23, 2026.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM IN ALL OR A PORTION OF THE STREETS WITHIN AREA 30 OF THE PHASE 5 ANNEXATION LISTED ON EXHIBIT “A”. RESOLUTION NO. R2026-005

8.0A20 PWC – Phase 5 Annexation Area 31 Preliminary Assessment Resolution to be Adopted and Public Hearing

City Council adopted the Preliminary Assessment Resolution for Phase 5 Annexation Area 31 and hold the public hearing on March 23, 2026.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM IN ALL OR A PORTION OF THE STREETS WITHIN AREA 31 OF THE PHASE 5 ANNEXATION LISTED ON EXHIBIT “A”. RESOLUTION NO. R2026-005

8.0B ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT

8.0A2 Approve City Council Policies Review Committee Recommendations to City Council Policies 120.09.

Council Member McMillan expressed concerns of restricting resident’s rights and lack of formal public input due to the proposed amendments to City Council Policy 120.09 for the Public Forum and recommended accommodations.

Ms. Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney stated a regular meeting of the Council is regularly occurring, which includes the Work Session. The City Council Calendar lists the Work Session as a meeting it is just titled Work Session as opposed to a Regular Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Thompson and Council Member Hondros provided background on the multiple times the policy had been discussed during the Council Policies Review Committee meetings over the last couple of years.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member McMillan moved to table City Council Policy 120.09 proposed amendments to a future work session to allow for comprehensive public input and legal review.
SECOND: Council Member Ferguson
VOTE: **FAILED (2-8) Opposed: Colvin, Davis, Jones, Haire, Greene, Thompson, McNair, and Hondros**

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to change the work session start time from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and begin Announcements and Recognitions at 6:15 p.m. with public forum immediately after, leave the sign up to end at 5:00 p.m. the day of the meeting, and approve remaining changes to City Council Policy 120.09
SECOND: Council Member Ferguson
VOTE: **PASSED (8-2) Opposed: Davis and McMillan**

8.0A3 Approve Ordinances for Uninhabitable Structures: Demolition Recommendations
484 Tacoma Court – District 4
905 Anarine Road – District 2

City Council approved demolition ordinances with a 60-day stay for two residential properties deemed dangerous. This will allow the property owners a longer time to work on addressing the code violations.

484 Tacoma Court – District 4

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA REQUIRING THE CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR TO CORRECT CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO, OR TO DEMOLISH AND REMOVE A STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO THE DWELLINGS AND BUILDINGS MINIMUM STANDARDS CODE OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NC, 484 TACOMA COURT, PIN 0408-68-9291. ORDINANCE NO. NS2026-003

905 Anarine Road – District 2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA REQUIRING THE CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR TO CORRECT CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO, OR TO DEMOLISH AND REMOVE A STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO THE DWELLINGS AND BUILDINGS MINIMUM STANDARDS CODE OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NC, 905 ANARINE ROAD, PIN 0428-61-2382. ORDINANCE NO. NS2026-004

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to keep 484 Tacoma Court and 905 Anarine Road to provide an additional 60 days for staff to work with the property owners
SECOND: Council Member Davis
VOTE: **UNANIMOUS (10-0) (Council Member McMillan's vote counts in the affirmative due to unexcused absence.)**

8.0A6 Authorization to Apply for Fiscal Year 2025 Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant and Appropriate Additional Funding for the Application

Mr. Christopher Cauley, Economic and Community Development Director, stated staff have been working on the Choice Neighborhood Grant since 2020, when Fayetteville was one of eleven cities that won a national planning grant to incorporate mixed-income, affordable housing, and market-rate housing into the redevelopment of Murchison Road. The City then worked on applying for \$41 million of a \$50 million implementation grant. The City was

shortlisted but ultimately did not receive the award. Most municipalities are not awarded the grant on their first application.

The new grant opportunity is now out, and applications are due March 6, 2026. This involves redevelopment of Murchison Townhomes at Rosemary and the Elliot Circle property, as well as neighborhood-wide projects and infrastructure, to include advancing plans around trails and parks. The Housing Authority has recruited a nationally recognized mixed-income housing developer to partner in the community. Staff is reviewing the feedback provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from the last application to be addressed in order to be a winner this year. The maximum grant is \$26 million. Staff will be requesting from Council funding and a commitment to work with partners on the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant effort.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cauley stated the City is guided by federal regulation called the Uniform Relocation Act, that says we cannot displace people using federal money. Every person in an area targeted for redevelopment has first right to return, as well as come up with a plan for them while the redevelopment takes place which includes meeting with them to determine the best place for them to live while the redevelopment takes place.

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to authorize staff to apply for the Fiscal Year 2025 Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant for the Murchison Road area and adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2026-5 and Special Revenue Project Ordinance Amendment 2024-11.
SECOND: Council Member Greene
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

9.0 REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

9.01 Annual Report – Fayetteville Advisory Committee on Transit (FACT)

Mr. Austin Campbell, Fayetteville Advisory Committee on Transit (FACT) Chair, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated the mission of FACT is to advise Council. Mr. Campbell reviewed the membership and the current metrics on fixed route and paratransit ridership, collisions, road calls, and valid complaints. Accomplishments include the ribbon cutting for the electric buses and charging infrastructure, the new express route to western Fayetteville, and the Title VI Fare and Service Equity Analysis. The Transit Feasibility Study is expected to be presented to Council at next month's Work Session. Revenue vehicle replacements show that fixed routes have 33 buses, of which 15 have exceeded their useful life. Paratransit has 21 buses, of which 18 have exceeded their useful life. Ongoing challenges include the need for transit operators, bus mechanics, and an aging fleet.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member McMillan moved to accept the Fayetteville Advisory Committee on Transit annual report
SECOND: Council Member Greene
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

10.0 STAFF REPORTS

10.01 Adoption of the 2026 State Action Agenda

Ms. Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager, introduced Mr. John Easterling and Derrick Applewhite, Government Relations Directors with Checkmate Government Solutions. Ms. Phelps stated this is the second year on the two-year legislative cycle, this is because this is the second year of biennium and start of the short session. The priorities align closely with Council's strategic priorities.

Mr. Easterling stated Checkmate has had the privilege of representing the City for the past six years in Raleigh at the state level. Mr. Easterling provided an overview of upcoming legislative focus areas to include the primary session, state budget, property tax discussions, housing and zoning, Hurricane Helene funding and Medicaid funding.

Funding needs for the City include \$4 million for mental health co-response, homeless support, and community-based violence interruption. \$2 million for affordable and workforce housing initiatives. \$500,000.00 for a transportation connectivity study specifically focused on I-

685, rails, and surface transportation. \$5 million for sewer and water extension support. \$10 million for pedestrian safety projects. \$1 million for workforce development initiatives. \$3 million for a public safety training center. \$2 million for the Cape Fear River Park Trail Extension Phase II. \$2 million for solid waste and transit facility modernization and improvements.

Policy requests include equitable tax distribution among local government entities; recruitment and retention initiatives, specific to extending the Law Enforcement Officers Separation Allowance to firefighters; ghost gun regulations, and dam infrastructures for Arran Lakes West and College Lakes.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to adopt the 2026 State Action Agenda
SECOND: Council Member Jones
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

10.02 Adoption of the 2026 Federal Action Agenda

Ms. Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager, introduced Ms. Leslie Mozingo, CEO and Owner, and Mr. Kyle Leopard, Managing Director with Strategics Consulting. Ms. Mozingo stated they have been the City's federal lobbyist for the past seven years. Ms. Mozingo reminded Council that anything that did not get finished this year will have to be reapplied for. The biggest emphasis is to take Council priorities and ensure the language lines up with the priorities of the current administration and leadership.

Ms. Phelps stated much like the State agenda, the federal priorities did not change much and continue to follow the strategic plan priorities. Transportation and Infrastructure includes the airport, public transportation, and infrastructure; Housing and Community Development includes Choice Neighborhoods, fair housing assistance, HOME, HOPWA, and CDBG funding, and blight removal and neighborhood revitalization; Public Safety includes School Resource Officer and school safety programs, Office of Community Safety programs, public safety recruitment, firefighter cancer benefits, and PFAS disposal; Economic and Community Development and Quality of Life includes active duty military and Veteran support, next generation workforce, airport corridor improvement and economic development, and I-685 connectivity.

Mr. Leopard stated across all opportunities, Strategics is continually trying to assess the City's goals and align potential federal opportunities to move the projects forward. This is done by identifying and pursuing federal grants and other funding opportunities, developing strong relationships with members of the congressional delegation and federal agencies, and monitoring of legislative and regulatory issues.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to accept the 2026 Federal Action Agenda
SECOND: Council Member McNair
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

11.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS

11.01 Public Hearing on Owner's Request for Removal from Downtown Municipal Service District

Mr. Christopher Cauley, Economic and Community Development Director, stated this public hearing is required by general statute based on a request from a property owner to be removed from the Downtown Municipal Service District. Ms. Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney stated this is required under North Carolina General Statute 160A-538.1 which states upon the request from a property owner for removal the City Council must schedule a public hearing for consideration of removal from the district.

This is the advertised public hearing set for this date and time; the public hearing was opened.

Mr. Ed Croot, 220 Hugh Shelton Loop, Fayetteville, NC, spoke in favor of this item.

Mr. Joe Jackson, 220 Hugh Shelton Loop, Fayetteville, NC, spoke in favor of this item.

Dr. Jimmie Riggins, 220 Hugh Shelton Loop, Fayetteville, NC, spoke in favor of this item.

There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Colvin asked what an immediate remedy for the property owners that is are still being charged a tax. Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated solid waste fees were removed, but as outlined in the agenda item the State Statute speaks to how properties enter and exit the district and that there must be a finding that they do not benefit to the extent of others.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to send this to the Council Policies Review Committee to formulate a policy for removal from the Municipal Service District

SECOND: Council Member Haire

VOTE: PASSED (9-1) Opposed: Mayor Colvin

12.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

12.01 Receive Fire Station #4 Construction Defect Assessment Report from ABS

Mr. Steve Moore, President Meritus of Applied Building Sciences (ABS) provided his professional background and stated ABS offers forensic architectural services with experience in architectural, structural, civil, and roofing disciplines. In August 2025, ABS was requested to review Fire Station 4 for construction defects and provide recommendations for future utilization of the building.

The governing codes require fire stations be designed and constructed with higher degree of design requirements than residential houses because, during a natural disaster, a fire station must be able to withstand the weather. Therefore, it is imperative that a fire station be strictly built in correspondence with the approved plans, specifications, North Carolina (NC) building code, and other construction documents. If questions develop during construction, there is a process for the contractor to follow, called a Request for Information, which is submitted to the architect and engineer for clarification or revision. They are not allowed to ignore the building plans, specifications, or building codes.

Mr. Moore stated no City staff, or City Council, was responsible in the management of the construction project. They were involved in monitoring the process and taking action as needed and warranted. The architect, Stewart Cooper Newell, was hired for design and limited construction administration. In addition, they were required to visit the site monthly to evaluate ongoing issues and address compliance, questions, or issues. Froehling and Robertson were hired as a third-party construction administration service to complete special inspections required by the NC building codes. Brawley Construction had full responsibility of managing the day-to-day operations and construction of the project.

ABS reviewed available documents to identify possible building components that were not specially incorporated in accordance with the NC building code requirements. Possible components that did not receive the special certifications include construction of the masonry pours, tie beam reinforcements, installation of diamond dowels, field welded beam splices, welder certifications and qualifications, structural steel connections, construction of the apparatus bay training columns, and construction of light gauge metal framing. ABS evaluated and provided their professional opinion on the roof assembly and structure, interior and exterior concrete masonry walls, exterior cast stone, interior concrete slabs, pre-engineered metal building, light gauge metal framing, domestic drainage pipe systems, MEP systems, and industrial hygiene. Mr. Moore stated it is the opinion of ABS that repairs are neither economically practical or technically feasible and recommends the existing building, substructure, superstructure, foundations, and remaining systems be demolished.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member McMillan recommended having further open conversation so that residents are aware of the project and how we can ensure this does not take place again. Council Member Greene stated there was third-party oversight on this project based on recommendations from construction management and direction from Council after addressing previous projects, which is the reason why the City has as much documentation as we have.

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to accept the Fire Station #4 Construction Defect Assessment Report and recommendations from ABS and have staff come back with additional details of recommendation.

SECOND: Council Member Haire
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

12.02 Receive Presentation on the Cost of Gun Violence Study

Mr. John Jones, Office of Community Safety Director, introduced Dr. Eric Moore, Senior Research Associate, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute.

Dr. Moore presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation and introduced Dr. Jenny Hutchinson, Research Associate, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, and Dr. Rachel Jackson-Gordon, Family Resiliency Center, Research Associate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Moore recognized the City of Fayetteville, Fayetteville Police Department, and community partner, thegroupTheory, Inc.

The project purpose was to gain a more complete and robust understanding of gun violence in Fayetteville and recommend feasible and relevant prevention strategies. The research team employed a mixed method approach; focusing on the landscape of firearm violence, estimated cost affiliated with gun violence, and community perception. Non-violent and violent crime rates were reviewed and overall, there was a decline between 2022 and 2024, but there was monthly volatility. Non-violent crime had a 14 percent (%) decrease and violent crime had a 40% decrease. Gun violence was reviewed from a nuanced approach, comparing gun violence between areas that have ShotSpotter and those that do not. For areas that do not have ShotSpotter, researchers focused on census tracts that were statistically similar to the areas with ShotSpotter to ensure comparisons were fair and results reliable. While the ShotSpotter areas did see a higher level of gun violence compared to the average neighborhoods, when compared to the statistically similar areas, the difference in violent and non-violent crime rates were not statistically significant.

Dr. Hutchinson stated the real cost of gun violence is the loss of lives and the pain of their family members and community. When the economic consequences of gun violence are examined, gun violence can then be quantified on how expensive it is in the community. Researchers reviewed 1,033 incidents that occurred in 2024 with 185 resulting in some form of death or injury. The data is then applied to a series of nation-and-state-wide proxy variables to estimate the cost of gun violence. Four categories assessed included criminal justice system costs, medical expenses, employer productivity loss, and quality of life. The total economic cost of gun violence in the City of Fayetteville was estimated to be \$465,902,217.00 in 2024.

Dr. Hutchinson stated there were five main themes within the community perception research:

- Negative perception of neighborhoods contribute to disinvestment, which may create an environment that facilitates gun violence.
- Gun culture and exposure contribute to an environment that presents opportunities for unsafe gun-related activities, specifically around safe gun usage and normalization of violence.
- The community has concerns about the return on investment for ShotSpotter and wants more information.
- Youth development factors drive gun violence and are opportunities for prevention.
- Consistent community engagement is needed within communities and across sectors to support prevention of gun violence.

Dr. Jackson-Gordon stated the most dominate message was a hopeful message about prevention and that it takes people working together and being deeply invested with people from the community leading the way.

Dr. Moore stated the research team took the various research methods and combined them into a more cohesive understanding for integrated findings. While higher than citywide averages, residents' experiences and data show comparable levels of gun violence across peer neighborhoods; young adults (18-24 years old) and gun violence are often tied together; and perceived widespread firearm access is seen as a significant issue.

Dr. Moore provided the five recommendations from the study, but highlighted that the study has additional recommendations.

- Recording and categorizing data to account for the intentionality of the incident and more explicitly capture the relationship between victim and offender.

- Expand prevention strategies in and outside ShotSpotter areas by seeking the support of local organizations.
- Invest in local programs that focus on early prevention by building skills, employment pathways, mentorship, and safe spaces.
- Offer gun safety courses, hands-on demonstrations, and resources on best practices for gun ownership.
- Reframe the conversation around gun violence to provide more context to help people understand the systemic factors.

Mr. Jones recognized that the City already pays a hefty price for the cost of gun violence and that research demonstrates a well implemented community safety and violence prevention strategy consistently produce strong returns on investment by reducing justice system involvement, medical costs, and lost productivity. The data tells us we are spending far more reacting to gun violence than we are in preventing it.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to accept the report.
SECOND: Council Member Haire
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
City Clerk
020926

MITCH COLVIN
Mayor