

DRAFT

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
MAY 29, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin;

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1); Malik Davis (District 2); D. J. Haire (District 4) (departed at 1:30 p.m.); Lynne Greene (District 5); Brenda McNair (District 7) (arrived at 10:30 a.m.); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Absent: Council Members Mario Benavente (District 3); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Jeffery Yates, Assistant City Manager
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager
Todd Joyce, Interim Police Chief
David Richtmeyer, Assistant Fire Chief
Tiffany Murray, Chief Financial Officer
Andrew LaGala, Airport Director
Tyffany Neal, Transit Director
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
Jerry Clipp, Human Resource Development Director
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director
Willie Johnson, Chief Information Officer
Willie Henry, Chief Information Officer
Michael Gibson, Parks and Recreation Director
Kimberly Leonard, Budget & Evaluation Director
Yamile Nazar, Human Relations Manager
Deonte Watson, Airport Deputy Director
Brian McGill, Assistant Public Services Director
Brook Redding, Senior Assistant to the City Manager
Sarah Loewen, Budget Analyst
Pricilla Xayaphet, Budget Analyst
Amena Mitchell, Budget Analyst
Tiffany Wolfhope, Budget Analyst
Jerome Coaxum, Budget Analyst
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Council Member Haire.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and City Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to approve the agenda
SECOND: Council Member Davis
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

5.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

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5.1 Budget Chronicles Questions and Answers

Mr. Jeffery Yates, Assistant City Manager, stated the plan is to go over the budget chronicles and respond to questions and all the directors are in attendance to help answer questions. The fund balance through March 31, 2025, above the ten percent policy level is \$3.3 million and \$800,000.00 less than the twelve percent goal. Mr. Yates reviewed the annual costs and the one-time projects. Discussion ensued regarding boards and commissions recruitment and funding provided to the Fayetteville-Cumberland Youth Council and Fayetteville NEXT Commission appropriations, bonds, receivables, cash on hand, fund balance, accounting practices, and microgrants.

Council Member Haire asked if there is budget for transparency engagement. Mr. Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communication Director, stated within the department's budget, additional funds were requested to help manage community events and the branded promotional items.

Discussion ensued regarding not limiting the Police Department's budget with the new Chief of Police to ensure that he is able to provide recommendations for and fund increased technology options. Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated the new Chief will have time to assess technology needs and provide recommendations to City Council.

Mayor Colvin asked if the \$9.18 million in project closeout represents all closed projects. Mr. Yates stated the list is recommended projects to close this fiscal year. Discussion ensued regarding project closeouts and the City Council fund balance goal of twelve percent and the policy of ten percent.

Discussion ensued regarding splashpads, indoor pools, and outdoor pools. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen provided the number of each type of water features Cumberland County, Guilford County, Durham County, Wake County, and Mecklenburg County has. Dr. Hewett stated the City has a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The master plan can be brought to Council for review and updates at the October Work Session.

Discussion ensued regarding maintaining the right-of-way through mowing and litter abatement. Dr. Hewett stated funding received from North Carolina Department Of Transportation (NCDOT) to maintain their right-of-way has consistently not been enough to maintain the City's expected level of service. Mr. Michael Gibson, Parks, Recreation, & Maintenance Director, stated NCDOT right-of-way cannot be subcontracted out because of insurance compliance requirements. Ms. Kimberly Toon, Purchasing Manager, stated she has spoken with NCDOT about reducing the limitations for subcontractors and NCDOT would not allow it.

Council Member Greene requested in conjunction with the parks and recreation master plan, would Council consider offering reduced or free transit fare from a neighborhood to a splashpad or pool. Dr. Hewett stated staff can include the request in the June 9th Youth Safety Protection Ordinance implementation strategy discussion. Discussion ensued regarding the North Street request for a splashpad.

5.2 Discussion of FY26 Budget

Consensus of Council was to approve the additional \$1,517,366.00 in funding to address Police and Fire compression issues.

Consensus of Council was to review the community engagement leader/public records staff and boards and commission engagement.

Consensus of Council was to approve \$6,000.00 with \$600.00 per Council Member. Mayor Colvin and Mayor Pro Tem Jensen were in opposition to the consensus motion.

Consensus of Council was to approve a \$100,000.00 increase for microgrant funding.

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Consensus of Council was to approve funding for public safety cameras.

Consensus of Council was to approve funding for right-of-way maintenance.

Consensus of Council was to have staff provide refined Code Enforcement strategies at the September Work Session on.

Consensus of Council was to wait to increase Police Activity League funding and wait on the new Police Chief's youth strategies.

Consensus of Council was to not provide funding for United Way.

Consensus of Council was to include \$450,000.00 funding for the capital cost to build one splashpad or water feature at either Tokay or North Street and remove the operating costs.

Consensus of Council was to approve \$500,000.00 each for the development services site plan review study and Unified Development Ordinance Consultant for a total of \$1,000,000.00.

Consensus of Council was to approve the funding for an additional \$100,000.00 for street markings in the CIP annually.

Consensus of Council was to remove the parking study.

Consensus of Council was to approve \$75,000.00 for the purchase of speed limit radar signs for each district so each district has two. Council Member Hondros was opposed to the consensus vote.

Consensus of Council was to approve additional funds for the resurfacing of Mazarick Tennis Courts. Community Development Block Grant funds will be used to resurface Tokay Tennis Courts.

Consensus of Council was to earmark \$100,000.00 of stormwater funds for water quality.

Consensus of Council was to approve \$250,000.00 for Economic Development Corporation seed funding to create a defense innovation center and hire a defense director and market in different areas.

Consensus of Council was to find funding for sunshades at Lake Rim Pool.

5.3 Parking Lot

Mr. Jeffery Yates, Assistant City Manager, provided a handout for the parking lot that breaks down ongoing funding items and one time funding items.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
City Clerk
052925

MITCH COLVIN
Mayor