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FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL AUGUST 4, 2025 2:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin (arrived at 2:34 p.m.)

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1) (arrived at 2:12 p.m.); Malik Davis (District 2); Mario Benavente (District 3) (departed at 3:40 p.m.); D. J. Haire (District 4); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Absent: Council Member Lynne Greene (District 5)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Roberto Bryan, Police Chief
Laura Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator
Brian McGill, Assistant Public Services Director
Gerald Newton, Development Services Director
David Steinmetz, Assistant Development Services Director
Alicia Lanier, Stormwater Project Manager
Byron Reeves, Assistant Public Services Director
Sonyé Randolph, Assistant City Attorney
Lisa Harper, Assistant City Attorney
Joshua Hall, Police Attorney
Michael Gibson, Parks, Recreation, & Maintenance Director
Brook Redding, Assistant to the City Manager
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
Tiffany Murray, Chief Financial Officer
Willie Henry, Chief Information Officer
John Jones, Office of Community Safety Director
Albert Baker, Economic & Community Development Director
Garry Crumpler, Cumberland County Emergency Management Coordinator
Amanda Scheck, Cumberland County Emergency Management Planner
Mathew Jones, Vice President at Hazen and Sawyer
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Haire called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION (2:02)

The invocation was offered by Council Member Davis.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4.0 CITY MANAGER REPORT

No report provided.

5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Benavente moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Council Member Banks-McLaughlin

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

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6.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6.01 Emergency Management Presentation

Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, introduced Ms. Laura Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator Mr. Garry Crumpler, Cumberland County Emergency Management Coordinator, and Ms. Amanda Scheck, Cumberland County Emergency Management Planner who presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Smith stated the presentation will focus on the processes of emergency management and the state and federal laws that offer guidance to support emergency management. City Council completed an interactive exercise in which they placed imaginary money in different funding pots for hazards and threats that are most prevalent and important to the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County. Ms. Smith reviewed the definition of a disaster which is considered any event that causes significant disruption, harm, or destruction to a community; it is not only for weather related events, but also public health emergencies, technological failures, hazardous material spills, infrastructure failures, and acts of terrorism. Ms. Smith stated emergency management focuses on four phases of emergency management, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The goals of emergency management are to minimize impact, ensure effective coordination and communication, provide timely and efficient disaster response, and support community resilience and long-term recovery.

Mr. Crumpler reviewed important Federal laws and N.C. General Statutes that apply to elected officials and their responsibilities such as North Carolina General Statute 166A – North Carolina Emergency Management Act, which outlines what authorities elected officials have during an emergency and covered under a State of Emergency. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief, which covers what types of purchased items and actions are permissible. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 is one of the most important which states every municipality must have a hazard mitigation plan. The plan outlines mitigation measures that the municipality will take to lessen the impact of a disaster. If the needs are not in the hazard mitigation plan, the municipality will not qualify for it. The hazard mitigation plan is a living document that can be amended as needed. The Price-Anderson Act covers nuclear disasters.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Crumpler provided the outcome of the interactive exercise. The ranking of the hazard to be invested in were dam failure, inland flooding, and hurricanes.

6.02 Cross Creek Channel Improvements – Advance to 15% Design

Ms. Alicia Lanier, Stormwater Project Manager, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and introduced Dr. Matthew Jones, Vice President with Hazen and Sawyer. Ms. Lanier stated when this project is fully completed it will be the watershed programs highest impact project and be phased over an estimated 10 years. The project will require City and County collaboration to strategically mitigate flooding while improving the Cross Creek corridor. There have been over \$1.1 billion in estimated costs to address the currently identified mitigating flooding project needs. The solutions that have already been approved are in the Capital Improvement Projects.

Dr. Jones presented a brief history of the Cross Creek Watershed Study beginning in 2022 and the Cross Creek Channel improvement recommendations and expected mitigated impact. The Cross Creek Channel improvements option involves re-grading the stream channel from the Martin Luther King Freeway to Green Street to provide a defined channel and flood corridor that will increase the capacity of Cross Creek. Replacement of bridges and culverts through this corridor would be part of this project. Based on preliminary concept development, this option has a planning level construction cost of \$50 million plus necessary project acquisition. The channel improvement provides the largest reduction in flood depths and extents within the downtown area. The cost to advance the Cross Creek Channel improvement to 15 percent design is \$534,050.00 using Enterprise Funds.

The scope of services for the project includes supplemental survey data collection, literature review and environmental constraints analysis, alternatives analysis, preliminary design with stakeholder outreach, preliminary design report for future project planning, grant applications, and detailed design. Dr. Jones stated the timeline to get to the 15 percent is estimated to take 11-months, however, to complete the project construction timeline would take about a decade with a phased approach. Council Member Hondros requested a timeline for watersheds left over and costs. Discussion ensued regarding the Eccles Park Project funding opportunities. Council Member Benavente asked how funding for upcoming projects will be

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identified as well as alternative funding opportunities if needed. Dr. Hewett stated Council is going to be asked increasingly to help prioritize the projects to identify the fundable projects and possibly issue bonds and any Federal funding.

Consensus of Council was to approve Cross Creek Channel Geometry Improvements Preliminary Design Project to Advance to 15 Percent Design.

6.03 Proposed Loitering Ordinance

Ms. Sonyé Randolph, Assistant City Attorney, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated the existing ordinance 17-22 is limited in scope focusing on drug-related loitering, that combined with recent downtown parking deck incidents have led to increased crime risks, property damage, liability concerns, and inadequate law enforcement tools. The proposed ordinance looks to fill the gaps of the current ordinance specifically in parking facilities and school grounds. The penalties of the current and the proposed are the same, being a Class 3 Misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed \$500.00. The proposed ordinance will have a warning requirement and also includes a provision at the court's discretion imposing community service in place of the misdemeanor or fine. Ms. Randolph compared the proposed ordinance to the current disorderly conduct ordinance and nuisance party ordinance, focusing on required behavior, intent focus, location, penalty levels, warning requirements, and enforcement approach.

Public safety benefits of the proposed ordinance include clear guidelines for legitimate facility use, enhanced law enforcement tools, reduced crime and liability risks. Justice protection benefits include constitutional protections for lawful assembly, clear definitions and prohibited activities, and uniformed standards across City facilities. The expectation is that the ordinance will create significant cost savings through reduced property damage and maintenance. The Constitutional safeguards of the proposed ordinance include a required warning before any citation is issued, First Amendment protections for protests and demonstrations, and probable cause standards.

Discussion ensued.

Implementation of the ordinance will require training and procedures with the Police Department to distinguish between problematic behavior versus status, emphasize that a warning is required before enforcement and documenting specific conduct and circumstances is necessary. Working with community partners will also be required for implementation through coordination with downtown organizations, partnering with the Office of Community Safety and the Homeless Task Force, establish referral protocols to homeless service, and regular review of enforcement patterns.

This ordinance requires two readings, the presentation today is considered the introduction date and first reading.

Consensus of Council was to adopt the Proposed Loitering Ordinance.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to excuse Council Member Benavente
SECOND: Council Member McNair
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (8-0)

6.04 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Mr. Michael Gibson, Parks, Recreation, & Maintenance Director presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and provided a handout of the priority list that is in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Dr. Hewett stated there will be an update on Glenville Lake, Tennis Center, and other projects at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Gibson stated the Master Plan is done every 10 years as a County wide plan that shows what is important to the residents from a recreation and leisure standpoint. Dr. Hewett stated Parks and Recreation projects needs to be identified within the master plan so that if in years where there is not federal funding or other opportunities to complete the project, staff can review each year in preparation for the budget. The direction needed is to confirm Tokay tennis courts be resurfaced and update the Master Plan to include Pickleball courts.

Discussion ensued. Mayor Colvin asked if the tennis courts at Mazarick 1 will be resurfaced before the changes are made at Tokay if approved. Mr. Gibson stated it could be sequenced. Council Member Davis requested an update on the water feature for North Street. Council Member McNair requested information on the Lake Rim Park walking trail. Mr. Gibson stated it is funded and a contractor has been identified and there is a preliminary site design.

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Mayor Pro Tem Jensen stated she believes Tokay Park should all be pickleball to create a pickleball complex as the tennis courts are not being used. Discussion ensued regarding the Tokay Park tennis courts. Dr. Hewett stated because federal funds are being used, staff will bring back the schedule of the resurfacing at Mazarick 1 & 3, Tokay, and the finishing of the Tennis Center to ensure the City is not at risk of losing federal funds.

Council was not in consensus to change the Tokay Park tennis courts to all pickleball courts after Mazarick 1 & 3 have been resurfaced.

Consensus of Council was to approve resurfacing the Tokay Park tennis courts making half pickleball courts and the other half tennis courts.

6.05 City Council Agenda Item Request – Reduce Speed Limit on Seabrook Road – Council Member Haire

Council Member Haire requested consensus to change all of Seabrook Road to 25 miles per hour (mph). Presently from Langdon Street to Spalding Street is 35 mph and Spalding Street to Jasper Street is 25 mph.

Consensus of Council was to reduce the speed limit on Seabrook Road to 25 miles per hour.

6.06 City Council Agenda Item Request – Speed Reduction on W. Rowan Street – Council Member Davis

Council Member Davis stated many people are using West Rowan Street to get from Haymount to Bragg Boulevard and there has been speeding taking place. Because of this he requested consensus to reduce the speed on West Rowan Street to 25 miles per hour.

Consensus of Council was to reduce the speed limit on West Rowan Street to 25 miles per hour.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
City Clerk
080425

MITCH COLVIN
Mayor