

DRAFT

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS MEETING MINUTES
ST. AVOLD CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL
OCTOBER 13, 2025
5:30 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); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Absent: Council Member Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Jeffery Yates, Assistant City Manager
Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager
Roberto Bryan, Police Chief
Todd Joyce, Assistant Police Chief
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Gerald Newton, Development Services Director
Jerry Clipp, Human Resources Director
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
Andrew LaGala, Airport Director
John Jones, Office of Community Safety Director
Brian McGill, Public Services Assistant Director
Albert Baker, Economic & Community Development Assistant Director
Erin Swinney, Police Attorney
Kecia Parker, Real Estate Manager
Angelica McDonald, Assistant City Attorney
Jacqueline Abbott, Community Resources Manager
Chris Lowery, Strategic Planning and Analytics Manager
Brook Redding, Senior Assistant to the City Manager
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk

Council Member Haire called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Colvin asked the Council to review the regular agenda for the October 13, 2025, meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen stated she will recognize Breast Cancer Awareness month during the announcements and recognitions.

Council Member Haire asked how responding to public records requests can be sped up. Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated there have been a few significant issues, but it is being addressed. A portion is being moved from Marketing & Communications to the City Clerk's Office, along with resources, and staff are currently reviewing the process through a Strategic Planning & Analytics project. Ms. Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager, stated about 95 percent (%) of requests are filled within a few days, but there are some unique ones that take a large amount of time due to their complexity, cross-department collaboration, and legal review. A team has been convened to review associated staffing, processes, and technology; map the current and future process to identify gaps and ways to improve efficiency, oversight, and responsiveness; and complete a peer city review of best practices. Staff are working on communicating with requesters of large, complex requests to explain the length and request clarifications to narrow the criteria. Mayor Colvin stated the issue with the length of time to fulfill requests is heard a lot, and requested a matrix that shows 98% are filled within a few days, so that way Council can be an advocate. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney, introduced Ms. Angelica McDonald and Ms. Victoria Curtis, the new Assistant City Attorneys. Ms. Pulliam stated the City Attorney's Office is still recruiting for a police attorney and another assistant attorney.

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CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to enter into closed session for 143.18.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privilege and discuss *Gerald Lee Little v. City of Fayetteville*
SECOND: Council Member Thompson
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

The regular meeting recessed at 5:45 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to come out of closed session.
SECOND: Council Member Benavente
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

The meeting reconvened at 6:12 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
City Clerk
101325

MITCH COLVIN
Mayor