## 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

Jacquline 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.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Council Member Davis moved to enter into closed session for **MOTION:** 

143.18.11(a)(3) for attorney-client privilege and discuss Joerail Lee Little v.

City of Fayetteville

Council Member Thompson UNANIMOUS (9-0) SECOND:

VOTE:

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

**MOTION:** Council Member Davis moved to come out of closed session.

SECOND: **Council Member Benavente** 

**UNANIMOUS (9-0)** VOTE:

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 MITCH COLVIN

Mayor

City Clerk 101325