

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
OCTOBER 6, 2025
2:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin (departed at 4:15 p.m.)

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1) (arrived at 2:06 p.m.); 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); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8) (via TEAMS); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lisa Harper, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Jeffery Yates, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Roberto Bryan, Police Chief
Gerald Newton, Development Services Director
Jerry Clipp, Human Resources Director
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
John Jones, Office of Community Safety Director
Kimberly Toon, Purchasing Manager
Brook Redding, Senior Assistant to the City Manager
Albert Baker, Economic & Community Development Assistant Director
Jacqueline Abbott, Community Relations Manager
Derrick McArthur, Economic Development Administrator
Ashanti Bennett, Cool Springs Downtown District President and CEO
Freddie Johnson, Cumberland County Fire Chiefs' Association
President
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

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

Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, introduced Mr. Scott Embry, United Way Executive Director, who provided an update on United Way.

Dr. Hewett announced the upcoming open house for the updated preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The event will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Department of Social Services, Rooms A & B, 1225 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville. This event will give Fayetteville property owners and business owners the opportunity to review the newly updated flood maps for our community, locate their property and see if their flood risk designation has changed, speak directly with NC Emergency Management staff about the National Flood Insurance Program, and learn how these maps updates could affect flood insurance and floodplain management requirements within the City of Fayetteville. For additional information or assistance, residents may contact Byron Reeves, Public Services Assistant Director, 910-433-1301.

5.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

6.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6.01 911 PSAP Consolidation with Cumberland County

Mr. Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager, introduced Chief Freddie Johnson, Cumberland County Fire Chiefs' Association President, who presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated his attendance was at the direction given during the September 15, 2025, Fayetteville-Cumberland Liaison Committee, where he presented information on the 911 Consolidation Working Group. The next step after the presentation, if Council chooses, is to call for a joint City-County meeting to continue the discussion of a 911 consolidation.

Chief Johnson stated this is the same briefing that was presented at the Liaison Committee Meeting. Chief Johnson presented the background and history of the attempts to consolidate between 2007-2017. The previous attempts ended due to disagreements over governance and control between the City and County. There was a request to create a public safety working group that included Municipal Fire and Police Chiefs, and representatives from the Sheriff's Office, Volunteer Fire Departments, the current managers from the City and County, and Cape Fear Valley EMS. The working group recommended full consolidation, using the existing Cumberland County Center at 500 Executive Place as a starting point, creating an enhanced governance structure for long-term success, and adding mental health crisis response capabilities.

The leadership would have a Consolidated Center Director, and the working group recommended the current City 911 Director, Ms. Lisa Reid. The policies and procedures of the center would be administered by a Communications Advisory Board, which includes public safety agency heads, volunteer fire representatives, the Sheriff, EMS Chief, and elected official liaisons. A backup center will also be required. The Working Group also recommended ensuring there are no job losses, and a salary parity is established between agencies. The technology and operations will need to be prioritized for digital dispatch and focus on reducing transfer times.

Ms. Heather Skeins, Cumberland County Assistant Manager, presented information on integrating mental health crisis professionals within the consolidated center. The crisis response framework would create support for 911 operators with behavioral calls, improve outcomes via immediate de-escalation, and reduce unnecessary emergency dispatches. The integration would be implemented through two (2) phases: a crisis call diversion and, later, a mobile response team. The crisis call diversion phase embeds licensed mental health clinicians directly into the call center to provide immediate intervention for suicide threats and mental health crises. The mobile response team/school-based crisis response team phase would be an unarmed three-person team consisting of a clinician, peer support specialist, and EMT that would provide support to nonviolent behavioral health calls.

Chief Johnson stated the cost model would reflect a shared 50-50 cost model, creating equal partnerships. It would allow for a more simplified budgeting, predictable expenses, political equity, and opportunities for capital expansion. The governance model still needs to be identified.

Chief Johnson stated the next steps are for the Mayor and County Chairman to call a joint meeting of the boards, and if the concept is approved, hire integrators to guide the process, develop a timeline, and establish a joint committee for oversight during integration planning and execution.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost model.

Consensus of Council was to receive the report and to call for a joint meeting with Cumberland County.

6.02 Downtown Municipal Service District FY25 Fourth Quarter Update from Cool Spring Downtown District, Inc.

Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, introduced Ms. Ashanti Bennett, President and CEO of the Cool Springs Downtown District (CSDD), who presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Bennett stated the 2028 vision matches the organization's goals with the City's goals. This quarter, twelve (12) businesses opened and six (6) closed. The Juneteenth Jubilee's fourth annual event had just under 20,000 attendees. Some of the marketing funds were used to market downtown outside of downtown. CSDD also partnered with some of the smaller organizations to bring their events to wider audiences. The Field of Honor was also reinstated at the Army Special Operations Museum (ASOM), and multiple volunteers assisted in installing 500 U.S. flags. CSDD is maintaining the field while the ASOM is closed due to the federal shutdown. The search for the president and CEO role took place, and the new development and engagement director will be starting next week.

The expansion of the safety and engagement ambassador program is forthcoming; however, the part-time role for the ambassador program is difficult to fill. CSDD received additional funding to make the part-time to a full-time position and is working with the Veterans Administration and Wounded Warriors to fill the other positions and plans to have interviews in the next two weeks.

CSDD is working on a project for the branding of the downtown district with downtown banners. Final designs have been signed off on and are waiting for final approval. Coming up is the Zombie Walk, which is the largest and final Fourth Friday of the season that sees about 20,000 attendees and will take place on October 24, 2025. New Year's Eve is also coming up, and staff are working on securing headliners.

Discussion ensued regarding the ambassador program and their duties.

Consensus of Council was to receive the report.

6.03 Presentation of the Substantial Amendments to the Housing and Urban Development 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan and 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan

Mr. Albert Baker, Economic and Community Development Assistant Director, introduced Ms. Jaqueline Abbott, Community Relations Manager, who presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Abbott stated the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan was adopted by Council on May 14, 2021, with a HOME-ARP allocation of \$3,397,564.00. The 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan was adopted by Council on April 28, 2024, with a CDBG – Neighborhood Resources allocation of \$460,582.00; however, no CDBG- Affordable Housing was adopted, because the majority of housing activity is done through HOME funds. Staff received a revised award notice on April 30, 2025, with instructions to amend the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan in order to accept an additional allocation of \$5,000.00. The newly revised HOME-ARP award will be \$3,402,662.00. There was program income identified in the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan when reconciling previous funding cycles of \$280,000.00. The new funding will now provide CDBG - Neighborhood Resources \$640,582.00 and create CDBG – Affordable Housing funding of \$100,000.00.

Consensus of Council was to receive the presentation.

6.04 Special Event Security at Festival Park

Mr. Brook Redding, Senior Assistant to the City Manager, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation and stated the purpose of the presentation is to provide a clear update on the Special Event Security at Festival Park protocol, explain how it works, and walk Council through the implementation. In May 2025 Council directed staff to strengthen Festival Park Security. Parks and Recreation implemented a pilot protocol with enhanced security at the July 4th Celebration and the International Folk Festival.

Staff created a four-tiered security matrix with venue overlays such as park only, and park and promenade, instituted a unified command structure with Police, Fire, EMS, event security, and City staff, standardized the mask and bag policy, and created signage. The tiered system scales requirements to size and risk level of the event. Most events will fall in Tier one (1) or two (2), with Tier four (4) representing the largest, high-energy events.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
Small, low risk events (<1,000)	1,000-2,000 attendees	2,000-5,000 attendees	5,000+ attendees
Runs, Markets, Educational, Religious	Mixed-use, limited alcohol sales	Festivals, Concerts, Alcohol sales	Large Concerts / Festivals with alcohol sales
Optional Controlled Access	Controlled access	1-2 Magnetometers at gates	3-4 Magnetometers at gates
Wands/light bag checks optional	Wands and bag checks	Bag checks	Bag Checks
	Option for Ray Ave Closure	Ray Ave closure required w/ promenade	Full perimeter control Ray Ave Closure required

The organizers will still submit event applications as they have in the past. The staff applies the security matrix to determine the required tier, and the attendance is validated against past data and comparable events. Finally, after action reviews are conducted. The process fits within the current application system but creates consistency for assigning security requirements and opportunities for adjustments if conditions change.

Staff met with Cool Springs Downtown District, Dogwood Festival, the Arts Council, and Parks and Recreation to identify feedback. Based on feedback there were concerns regarding the cost for smaller events, perimeter fencing appearance, open carry enforcement consistency, and equity across different event types. Adjustments were made to clarify fair application of the matrix and incorporated pre-event security walkthroughs.

The costs for events within Tiers 1 or 2 will be nominal and for Fiscal Year (FY)2026, the City will cover City-sponsored and partnered events at an estimated cost of \$90,000.00. FY27 and beyond only City-sponsored events will be funded at an estimated \$60,000.00 from the Parks and Recreation budget.

The outcome is to create a consistent, professional, and safe security posture that gives the public confidence while still being fair to organizers.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen requested an update on the clear bag policy implementation. Mr. Redding stated staff have been doing a phased implementation process and expect by December everything will be fully implemented. Dr. Hewett stated one of the things that has been implemented was the magnetometers which was not part of the motion. As it relates to the clear bag policy, staff will ensure it is implemented at the Fall Dogwood Festival. The portion regarding masks is already State law.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to initiate full implementation of the clear bags policy at the Dogwood Festival and provide an administrative report after the event.

MOTION: Council Member Benavente move to excuse Mayor Colvin
SECOND: Council Member Hondros
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

6.05 Discussion on Proposed 2026 City Council Meeting Dates Calendar

Ms. Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated the dates and times for the Regular Meetings on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m., the Work Sessions on the first Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m., and the Agenda Briefings on the third Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. remain the same. Highlighted dates included the Council Strategic Planning Retreat recommended for January 20-21, 2026, and different from previous years, the National League of Cities Congressional Conference will not coincide with a Council Meeting.

Consensus of Council was to accept the proposed 2026 City Council Meeting Calendar and direct staff to add the resolution to the October 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Consent Agenda for approval.

6.06 Report from the Homelessness and Mental Health Committee

Ms. Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager, stated the Homelessness and Mental Health Committee met on September 4, 2025, and received presentations from Redeploying Americas Veterans (RAV) on a proposal for a tiny home community for Veterans; an update on the Day Resource Center from Day Resource Center Director Mr. Carlos Sanchez; and the homelessness overview and PIT Count provided by Ms. Debbie Brown with the Fayetteville-Cumberland Continuum of Care.

Council Member McNair stated she is seeking consensus to receive RAV and the CoC PIT Count at a future work session.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to receive presentations from Redeploying American Veterans and the Continuum of Care at the January Work Session.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
City Clerk
100625

MITCH COLVIN
Mayor

