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**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
LAFAYETTE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL  
JUNE 4, 2026  
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Malik Davis (District 2) (arrived at 10:09 a.m.); Antonio Jones (District 3); D. J. Haire (District 4) (departed at 12:46 p.m.); Lynne Greene (District 5); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7); Shaun McMillan (District 8) (via TEAMS) (departed at 1:09 p.m.); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Absent: Council Member Stephon Ferguson (District 1)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager  
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney  
Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager  
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager  
Michael Gibson, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Roberto Bryan, Jr., Police Chief  
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief  
Willie Henry, Chief Information Officer  
Tiffany Murray, Chief Financial Officer  
Tyffany Neal, Transit Director  
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director  
Jerry Clipp, Human Resources Director  
Byron Reeves, Deputy Public Services Director  
Brian McGill, Public Services Assistant Director  
Michele Brooks, Interim Budget Director  
Andrew Mansell, Senior Assistant to the City Manager  
Kimberly Toon, Assistant Finance Officer  
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk  
Robert Van Geons, Fayetteville-Cumberland Economic Development Corporation President and CEO  
Members of the Press

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**2.0 INVOCATION**

The invocation was offered by Council Member Thompson.

**3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**4.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Council Member Thompson moved to approve the agenda, moving Item 5.3 – Youth Protective Ordinance to Item 5.1 and the original Item 5.1 – Opportunity Zones to Item 5.1A.

**SECOND:** Council Member Haire

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS (8-0)

**5.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**5.1 Youth Protective Ordinance**

Mayor Colvin stated the Youth Protective Ordinance expired on May 27, 2026, and asked Council if there is a desire to renew the ordinance. Ms. Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney, stated it will require two readings because of the criminal component. Discussion ensued.

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**MOTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Thompson moved to approve the continuance of the Youth Protective Ordinance and receive quarterly updates from the Police Department.  
**SECOND:** Council Member Haire  
**VOTE:** PASSED by a vote of 7 in favor to 2 in opposition (Council Members McMillan and Hondros)

### 5.1A Opportunity Zones

Mr. Christopher Cauley, Economic and Community Development Director, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated staff is back to confirm Council's preferred approach for the City's Opportunity Zones before submitting the recommendations to The North Carolina Department of Commerce. The federal government has identified eligible tracts for opportunity zones and the state is accepting local input. There is a form to fill out for recommendations and then the Governor's Office will make the ultimate decision on what to send to the federal government. There are 31 eligible tracts in Cumberland County, with 25 that are partially or fully within Fayetteville city limits. The City has nine existing opportunity zones and there are some existing tracts that are no longer eligible. The City's allotment for opportunity zones has decreased from nine to four. Mr. Cauley stated the opportunity zones are federal tax incentives for private investment in eligible census tracts and not direct funding to the City.

Mr. Cauley stated staff organized recommendations around three policy approaches, development/housing focus; growth, jobs, and tax base; and measured staff recommendation.

Redevelopment and housing focused tracts included tracts 2 – Downtown 301/River, 10 – Murchison Choice West Side, 11 – Murchison Choice East Side/Fayetteville State University, and 38 – Downtown Core.

Growth, jobs, and tax-base focused tracts included tracts 14.02 – Dunn Road/Highway 24/Cedar Creek, 33.07 – Interstate 295/Cliffdale Road/Raeford Road, 24.02 – Shaw Heights Commercial, 25.01 – Northgate/McArthur Road or 2 – Downtown 301/River.

The measured staff recommended tracts included tracts 14.02 – Dunn Road/Highway 24/Cedar Creek, 38 – Downtown Core, 10 – Murchison Choice West Side, and 24.02 – Shaw Heights Commercial. These locations create a balanced recommendation across state priorities, job creation, revitalization, housing, and investment readiness.

Discussion ensued. Staff reviewed where the City is already working, where the City wants to move into, and where the City could support potential initiatives. Mr. Robert Van Geons, Fayetteville-Cumberland Economic Development Corporation President and CEO, stated the only other tract that the County may have an interest in is 34.08 - Spring Lake.

**MOTION:** Council Member Thompson moved to approve the measured staff recommended opportunity zones.  
**SECOND:** Council Member Haire  
**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS (9-0)

### 5.2 Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Budget Discussion

Mayor Colvin stated the last few budget work sessions provided an opportunity for staff to present recommendations and answer questions. The meeting was moved to the Lafayette Conference Room in order for Council to utilize the whiteboards, while identifying savings opportunities, parking lot items, and fund balance capacity.

Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated there were fifty-three questions for the budget chronicles. Mr. Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager, stated all revenue, expenditures, and actuals creates the change in fund balance. Discussion ensued between the Mayor, Council Members, and City Manager pertaining to Police Department vacancies, frozen police officer positions, closed out projects, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects and their life cycle to create a balanced plan, General Fund fund balance, Public Services projects, and bike lanes.

Mayor Colvin stated he had a conversation with Mr. Peter Flotz, LMG Owner, who stated he was agreeable to a loan and would not require funding for 12-18 months due to having other capital. Mayor Colvin stated a new agreement could free up the encumbered amount and then program it out over a couple of budget years. Ms. Tiffany Murray, Chief Financial Officer, stated Council has taken action to appropriate the \$5.7 million per the agreement. In order for the agreement to be peer audited, the funds must be appropriated and shown as a liability. The

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funds are not available for Council to utilize even though they are not utilized in the current year, unless the contract is amended to have a non-appropriation clause. Discussion ensued.

**Consensus of Council was to direct staff, after speaking with LMG, to complete a Capital Project Ordinance Amendment to reduce the original appropriation and fund the appropriation over two years, \$2.7 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 and \$3 million in FY28. Council Members Greene and McMillan were opposed to the consensus motion. Council Member Haire’s vote counted in the affirmative due to unexcused absence.**

Discussion ensued what the unencumbered funds could be used for and compensation.

**MOTION: Council Member Thompson moved to recess the meeting until June 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**  
**SECOND: Council Member Hondros**  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0) (Council Members Haire and McMillan’s vote counted in the affirmative due to unexcused absence.)**

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting recessed at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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JENNIFER L. AYRE  
City Clerk  
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MITCH COLVIN  
Mayor

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