

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL/STATE DELEGATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
433 HAY STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, NC  
MARCH 12, 2026  
8:30 A.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Stephon Ferguson (District 1); Malik Davis (District 2); Antonio Jones (District 3); D. J. Haire (District 4); Lynne Greene (District 5); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7); Shaun McMillan (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9)

North Carolina General Assembly Delegation:

Senator Tom McInnis (District 21); Representative Mike Colvin (District 42); Representative Diane Wheatley (District 43); Representative Charles Smith (District 44)

Absent: Senator Val Applewhite (District 19); Representative Frances Jackson (District 45)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager  
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney  
Jeff Yates, Assistant City Manager  
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager  
John Jones, OCS Director  
Chris Williams, Management Analyst  
Andrew Mansell, City Manager's Office Intern  
John Easterling, Checkmate Government Relations  
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order and welcomed the State Delegation members.

**2.0 INVOCATION**

The invocation was offered by Council Member Ferguson.

**3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by the City Council.

**4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

This item was not addressed.

**5.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**5.1 Welcome and Introductions**

Mayor Colvin stated the goal is to discuss various City priorities to share with the delegation and anything the delegation believes will be helpful to the City to ensure alignment and bringing resource to the community. Representative Wheatley thanked the City for allowing the delegation to come and hear all of the needs of the community. The Cumberland County Delegation and Fayetteville City Council introduced themselves.

**5.2 Discussion of City of Fayetteville's State Legislative Agenda with North Carolina Delegation**

Mayor Colvin stated there are the nine funding requests that included \$4 million for a mental health co-response, homeless support, community-based violence interruption; \$2 million in affordable and workforce housing initiatives; \$500,000.00 for a transportation connectivity study; \$5 million for sewer and water extension; \$10 million for pedestrian and safety projects; \$1 million for workforce development initiatives; \$3 million for regional public safety training center; \$2 million for Cape Fear River Park Trail Extension; and \$2 million for Solid Waste & Transit facility.

### Sewer and Water Extension

Many City requests are based on the need to get infrastructure in place throughout the City, especially western Fayetteville, in order to increase businesses and residents in the area. There are concerns regarding the speed and cost of installation for the Fayetteville Public Works Commission (PWC) water and sewer hook ups for residents that were annexed. Staff are reviewing how to expand the water and sewer grant program to increase the ability for residents to connect and one of the asks is for matching funds for infrastructure.

Representative Wheatley stated the first funding priority should be sewer and water extension at a County-wide level. This will help with housing, workforce and other needs. All of the State Delegation stated having matching funds will also assist in helping them work towards funding.

Discussion ensued.

### Affordable and Workforce Housing

The City increased the homeowners downpayment assistance program and expanded it from only low-to-moderate incomes to anyone. This has allowed the City to give more than \$1 million to over 50 homeowners in the last two years. Additionally, the City is focused on building workforce housing on Catalyst Site 1 and securing the Murchison Choice Neighborhood implementation grant.

City staff has hired a consultant to review permitting and inspections processes to ensure that it is efficient for developers.

Discussion ensued regarding how to create opportunities for housing, costs of housing and property taxes.

### Workforce Development Initiatives

In order to continue to build a strong economic future, there is a need to continue to work together to build a pipeline between schools, community colleges, and employers. Fayetteville Technical Community College has been working with the partners to build the programs in the defense and technology sectors. Over the last few years, the City has invested almost \$1 million to the Fayetteville-Cumberland Economic Development Corporation who brought in an economist to build out a plan to build up the workforce. The City, County, universities, and schools are committed to building out the plan to institute the plan.

Discussion ensued regarding vocational high schools and workforce development opportunities and how to allow professional licensing credentials to be recognized in North Carolina that are from another state.

### Mental Health Co-Response, Homeless Support, and Community-Based Violence Interruption

Homelessness and mental health are an ongoing concern that the City works to address. To continue addressing the issues, the City of Fayetteville has entered into an agreement with Cumberland County to get the Salvation Army back up and running. The Day Resource Center is also working to connect people with services, with discussion regarding resources available to local communities and additional support services. There is an estimated 300 - 400 documented people experiencing homelessness in Fayetteville. Additionally, the Office of Community Safety (OCS) programs include a focus on homelessness and mental health, youth programming mentorship and violence. Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated the OCS model is centered around mental health and is similar to programs in Greensboro and Durham. The plan is to have trained clinicians that respond and follow up. At full build out there would be four teams, in addition to violence intervention, and space safe activation and would cost \$3-4 million annually. The Blue Street Senior Center will be renovated to make it the OCS site.

Discussion ensued.

### Pedestrian and Safety Projects & Transportation Connectivity Study

The City continues to work on making Fayetteville walkable and safe. In the last two years, the City has completed almost 40 miles of sidewalks. The City has also focused on the possibility of reinstating the red-light camera program, as well as speed curbs in school zones. Discussion ensued regarding grants that the City could apply for or Powell Bill funds for pedestrian safety.

Discussion ensued regarding safety concerns on Rosehill Road after the recent fatal accidents. Dr. Hewett stated the City has completed a staff assessment of the road and identified needs for additional signage. However, due to the legal issues connected with this, the

City is contracting out for the formal report to supplement the staff report. The staff report does not say there is anything wrong with the road and it was tragically a speed event.

Mayor Colvin stated the City has formed a committee to address transportation connectivity between airport, county-wide transit, rails, and roads. The committee will also work with the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) to create a master strategy to build out connectivity. This will allow the City to identify gaps.

Each Council Member and State Delegation Member provided brief remarks.

## **6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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JENNIFER L. AYRE  
City Clerk  
031226

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MITCH COLVIN  
Mayor