

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
MAY 12, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

Present: Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1); Malik Davis (District 2); Mario Benavente (District 3) (via TEAMS); D. J. Haire (District 4); Lynne Greene (District 5); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Absent: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney
Kelly Strickland, Assistant City Manager
Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Todd Joyce, Interim Police Chief
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Sonye' Randolph, Assistant City Attorney
Loren Bymer, Market and Communications Director
Kimberly Leonard, Budget & Evaluation Director
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director
Andrew LaGala, Airport Director
Brian McGill, Assistant Interim Public Services Director
Kecia Parker, Real Estate Manager
Jennifer Ayre, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Pastor Yvonne Hodges, Solid Rock Bible Church.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Jensen and City Council.

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

Council Member Courtney Banks-McLaughlin announced the month of May recognizes National Mental Health Awareness month, National Foster Care Month, National Physical Fitness Month, National Military Appreciation Month, Asian and Pacific Islander Month, National Teacher Appreciation Month, National Pet Month, and National BBQ month.

Council Member Banks-McLaughlin announced on May 15, 2025, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Economic and Community Development will hold the Annual Standdown.

Council Member D.J. Haire announced on May 17, 2025, beginning at 9 a.m. the AsOnePrayer Walk will be held at Festival Park.

Council Member Malik Davis announced on May 15, 2025, at 10 a.m. the Grand Reopening of the Old Wilmington Road Neighborhood Resource Center will take place.

Council Member Thompson congratulated Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, on receiving his Doctorate degree.

Miss Fayetteville, Katie Strain and Miss Fayetteville Teen, Mary Michael McLamb presented their platforms. Ms. Strain's platform is "I Love My Self" to promote the importance of self-worth through the classroom. Ms. McLamb's platform focuses on swimming and lifesaving skills. She will be offering a free swim lesson class June 3-4, 2025, and currently has four children enrolled.

Council Member Banks-McLaughlin presented Certificates of Excellence to Ms. Amber Jonson, Ms. Toria Council, and Ms. Zoey Lattimore for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

City Council recognized the Police Department Annual Award Recipients. Ms. Tabitha Sportsman, Civilian of the Year Award; Ms. Jamell Love, Tele-Communicator of the Year; and Lieutenant Michael Bohannon, Police Officer of the Year.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presented a proclamation to members of the Fayetteville Police Department and Fayetteville Police Foundation Board in honor of National Police Week.

Council Member Hondros and Fire Chief Kevin Dove presented a Certificate of Excellence, City Coin, and plaque to Mr. Jason Hysell for his act of heroism and named him an honorary Firefighter.

Mr. Scott Embry, United Way of Cumberland County Executive Director, presented the Spirit of North Carolina Award to Ms. Jacqueline Abbott for her exceptional leadership on the City's United Way campaign.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presented a proclamation to the Fayetteville-Cumberland Economic Development Corporation in honor of Economic Development Week.

5.0 CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager thanked City Council for their encouragement and support during his time in school and graduation.

Dr. Hewett announced the next Fayetteville Outfront event will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Dorothy D. Gilmore Adaptive Recreation Center, 1600 Perdue Street, Fayetteville, NC. The session will cover topics such as stormwater and bond project updates.

Dr. Hewett stated the City Manager newsletter is published weekly and residents can sign up to receive it via the city's website.

6.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Council Member Greene

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

7.0 PUBLIC FORUM

MOTION: Council Member Benavente moved to extend the public forum from 30 minutes to 75 minutes

SECOND: Council Member Hondros

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 5 in favor to 4 in opposition (Council Members Jensen, Greene, Thompson, and Banks-McLaughlin)

Mr. Whitaker Grannis, 203 Rush Rd., shared information regarding Cumberland County Beekeepers Association and honey.

Mr. Joseph Schwab, 3009 Marcus James Dr., expressed concerns regarding amplified noise ordinance.

Mr. Joseph Ellerbee, 310 Summerhill Rd., expressed concerns regarding water quality and his business Hydra8pure.

Ms. Mary Skelly, 5400 Chesapeake Rd., expressed concerns regarding child and human trafficking.

Mr. Zachary Traylor, 3917 Village Dr., expressed concerns regarding public safety.

Mr. Joel Cook, 6816 Torrance Ln., expressed concerns regarding the youth curfew.

Ms. Lisette Rodriguez, 1701 Cherokee Dr., expressed concerns regarding the youth curfew.

Ms. Angela Tatum, 4045 Pilot Ave., expressed concerns regarding the youth curfew.

Ms. Samantha Keys, 4001 Windy Fields Dr., expressed concerns regarding services at Dorothy Gilmore Recreation Center.

Ms. Krystal Maddox, 1304 Romie St., expressed concerns regarding security at festivals.

Mr. Shaun McMillan, 6024 Goldenrain Dr., expressed concerns regarding Sentinel Event Review and the youth curfew.

Mr. Leonard Williams, 948 Guiles Rd., expressed concerns regarding public, health, mental health, public safety, and new interventions.

Ms. Demetria Murphy, 632 Old Wilmington Rd., expressed concerns regarding public safety community awareness.

Mr. Chris Hoffman, 1811 Lakeshore Dr., expressed concerns regarding the proposed Cape Fear River Trail extension.

Mr. Benjamin Hultquist, 801 Rim Rd., expressed concerns regarding homelessness.

Mr. Konchan Khamone, 206 Campbell Ave., expressed concerns regarding progress he has made at his address.

Mr. Jimmy Plater, 225 Green St., expressed solutions to solve homelessness with tiny homes.

Mr. Stewart Callick, expressed concerns regarding homelessness

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to recess the meeting for five minutes.

SECOND: Council Member Greene

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen recessed the meeting at 8:30 p.m., the meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

8.0A CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Item 8.0A7 - Ordinance Requiring Towing Operators to Clean Accident Site

SECOND: Council Member Hondros

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

8.0A1 Approval of Meeting Minutes:

April 23, 2025 - Agenda Brief

April 28, 2025 - Discussion of Agenda Items

April 28, 2025 - Regular

8.0A2 Adoption of Capital Project Ordinance Amendment to Appropriate Payment-In-Lieu-of Resurfacing Revenue to Street Resurfacing Projects

Payment in-lieu of resurfacing has been collected from utility companies. In accordance with the provisions set forth in Chapter 24, Article II, Section 24-72 of the City Code Ordinances, Public Services desires to utilize the funds for the FY23 pavement preservation project to be used for street resurfacing. Capital Project Ordinance Amendment (CPOA) 2025-47 appropriates \$224,844.00 of revenue received from payments-in-lieu of resurfacing for the FY2023 Pavement Preservation project.

8.0A3 Revisions to the Homebuyer HERO Programs

The City Council approved the following changes to the Homebuyer HERO Program: revise the Public Service HERO to include all federal, state, and local government employees and retirees, all public and private healthcare professionals and retirees, and employees and retirees of public and private educational schools and institutions; revise the City Employee HERO to provide funding up to \$30,000, include City of Fayetteville retirees, and allow for immediate eligibility upon hiring. The requirement of 1 year of employment will remain in effect and be secured with a Deed of Trust and Promissory Note for the full amount of assistance; and remove the first-time home buyer requirement from all three programs to allow for move-up buyers, with the condition that the applicant cannot own a home, solely or jointly, at the time of closing.

8.0A4 Adoption of Special Revenue Fund Project Ordinance Amendment and Authorization to Accept Additional Grant Funding for the Conservation Restoration Plan for Cross Creek Cemetery #1

The City Council adopted Special Revenue Fund Project Ordinance Amendment (SROA) 2025-3 to appropriate a \$5,000.00 grant award from the Cumberland County Foundation. The grant will be funds will be used to complete the Cross Creek Cemetery Conservation Plan Phase 1.

8.0A5 Resolution Calling for Public Hearing Regarding the Permanent Closing of a Portion of Bullock Street

The City Council adopted a resolution to call for a public hearing on June 23, 2025, on the closing of a portion of Bullock Street between Sapona Road and Haywood Street to allow for the connection and future development of the Sapona Road Church of God property. The street portion to be closed will not deny access to any property owners and has never been constructed on or opened.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED PERMANENT CLOSING OF A PORTION OF BULLOCK STREET. RESOLUTION NO. R2025-019

8.0A6 Resolution Calling for Public Hearing Regarding the Permanent Closing of a Portion of Arsenal Avenue

The City Council adopted a resolution to call for a public hearing on June 23, 2025, on the closing of a portion of Arsenal Avenue to allow for the development of the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center. The street portion to be closed is between Myrover Street right of way and Martin Luther King Jr. Freeway/NC Highway 87-401 Business and will not deny access to any property owners.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED PERMANENT CLOSING OF A PORTION OF ARSENAL AVENUE. RESOLUTION NO. R2025-020

8.0A7 Pulled for a separate vote.

8.0A8 PWC - Bid Recommendation - Two (2) Prefabricated Concrete Relay Control Houses for the Cliffdale and Yadkin Substations

City Council approved the bid recommendation to award the purchase of two prefabricated concrete relay control houses for the Cliffdale and Yadkin Substations to VFP Inc., of Roanoke, VA, the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder and in the best interests of PWC, in the total amount of \$509,967.50, and authorize the General Manager of the Fayetteville Public Works Commission to execute for that purpose the contract for its purchase.

8.0B ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT

8.0B7 Ordinance Requiring Towing Operators to Clean Accident Site

Mr. Joshua Hall, Police Attorney stated, at the request of City Council, the City Attorney's Office researched whether the City could enact an ordinance requiring all tow/wrecker operators to clear debris from accident sites within the City of Fayetteville. Currently, there is no ordinance requiring such. However, wrecker operators on the City's approved wrecker rotation list are required to clean debris from crash sites.

The proposed ordinance will require all tow/wrecker operators in the City of Fayetteville to clean up accident sites.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE AMENDING ARTICLE VII, WRECKER AND TOW SERVICE, OF CHAPTER 24, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA. ORDINANCE NO. S2025-010

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to approve the ordinance requiring towing operators to clean accident sites.

SECOND: Council Member Hondros

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

9.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

9.01 Presentation of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget and Setting of the Budget Public Hearing

Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, thanked Mr. Jeffery Yates, Assistant City Manager and the entire Budget and Evaluation staff for their efforts. Dr. Hewett stated the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 City Manager's Recommended Budget will be presented and has been challenging to create partially due to the revaluation, but also because it is the end of the sales tax agreement with Cumberland County. The budget is one of the key documents that guide the City's development and its operations. It begins with the City Council's strategic plan, the capital improvement projects, the operating budget, and finally the financial audit.

Mr. Yates presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, and stated this is the Managers recommended budget. This fulfills the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (LGBFCA) requirement to submit a balanced, recommended budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the governing board not later than June 1st each year. Council can now deliberate the budget through several work sessions throughout the month of May.

The three core budget principles are to focus on employees, maintain services and commitments, and focus on high-value, high-impact additions. The total recommended budget is \$8.5 million less than 2025. Staff are recommending \$4.6 million in the General Fund for employee compensation and assumes a vacancy rate of 7.4 percent. The recommended ad valorem tax rate is \$.4495 which was recommended due to the lost sales tax revenues, reduced motor vehicle ad valorem revenue, compensation increases for employees, annual funding for Police Department axon technology and video storage, and new investments.

There is no recommended rate increase for stormwater or solid waste; and recommend maintaining the current fares for FAST.

Recommended new investments per strategic plan include \$1.9 million in Goal 5 with the largest amount being dedicated to the Construction management division. \$130,000.00 in new investment for Goal 6, \$422,000.00 in new investment for Priority 1, and \$692,000.00 in new investment for Priority 2.

Mr. Yates reviewed General Fund sources and uses and the current parking lot items which include a parking study for \$150,000.00, additional public safety cameras, BriefCam AI software, Festival Park security upgrades, and right-of-way maintenance temp staffing at \$440,000.00.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to receive the presentation and set the public hearing to receive comments on the recommended budget for May 27, 2025.
SECOND: Council Member McNair
VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 8 in favor to 1 in opposition (Council Member Haire)

9.02 Proposed Youth Protection Ordinance

Ms. Lachelle Pulliam, City Attorney, presented this item and stated the item is on the agenda as an introduction and per North Carolina General Statute 160A-175 it is not permitted to be passed on its first reading or introduction. It will be on the May 27, 2025, Council Meeting agenda for action.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Benavente moved to allow City staff to work with relevant partners and agencies throughout the community to create recommendations on how to address juvenile safety issues before instituting the proposed youth protection ordinance.
SECOND: Council Member Hondros
VOTE: FAILED by a vote of 4 in favor to 5 in opposition (Council Members Jensen, Davis, Thompson, Haire, and Greene)

10.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

10.01 Public Infrastructure GO Bond Project Update

This item was for information only and was not presented.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.