

FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND LIAISON COMMITTEE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY
HILLTOP HOUSE RESTAURANT – 1240 FT. BRAGG ROAD
JANUARY 17, 2014 – 12:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe

FAYETTEVILLE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nat Robertson
Council Member Katy-Ann Davy, Mayor Pro Tem
Council Member Jim Arp

OTHERS:

James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Quentin McPhatter, Assistant County Manager
Jon Soles, Cumberland County Public Information Specialist
Ted Voorhees, Fayetteville City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Kristoff Bauer, Fayetteville Deputy City Manager
Rochelle Small-Toney, Fayetteville Deputy City Manager
Tracie Davis, Fayetteville Corporate Communications
Director
Cheryl Feinberg, Fayetteville Administrative Assistant
Greg West, Cumberland County Board of Education
Chairman
Michael Boose, Cumberland County Board of Education
Mike Lallier, Public Works Commissioner Chairman
David Trego, PWC Electrical Systems Chief Operating
Officer
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Press

Council Member Davy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Chairman Council provided a prayer of thanks.

Council Member Davy stated the meeting is intended to be organizational in nature and an opportunity to establish the committee's mission, vision and goals. Individual introductions followed.

Council Member Davy asked attendees to engage in dialogue about the city/county committee and areas in which the committee could move forward in a joint effort. Mike Lallier, Public Works Commissioner Chairman, suggested working together with

cooperation and respect. David Trego, PWC Electrical Systems Chief Operating Officer, stated from an economic development perspective, businesses looking at this area will see people united and working cooperatively in an effort to bring their business to the community. Council Member Arp stated there are three common issues that are tied together and cannot be solved independently: crime; economic development; and quality of life. Commissioner Keefe stated he felt the separate governing bodies lack an understanding of each other's roles. Commissioner Council stated the city and county need to be aware of each other's roles and be able to work collaboratively and with trust. Commissioner Edge suggested as a starting point, the city and county can compare their strategic plans and see where they have common ground.

Council Member Davy opened the floor for an informal discussion of specific items the committee could consider and take back to their respective boards to determine whether there was a consensus to move forward. Council Member Arp expressed concern for vehicular accidents and speeding in school zones and residential neighborhoods, and suggested reviving red-light cameras and speed cameras with revenues going to the school system. Michael Boose, Cumberland County Board of Education, suggested tacking libraries and recreation centers onto existing school/city/county facilities. Greg West, Cumberland County Board of Education Chairman, spoke in support of red light cameras and speed zones and crime reduction, and stated these are safety concerns for children and all citizens. Mr. West stated the needs of the school system are growing and any source of revenue is appreciated.

Council Member Davy asked the city and county manager for their input. James Martin, County Manager, stated this is good discussion of ideas that can come to fruition. Ted Voorhees, Fayetteville City Manager, stated New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington came up with an arrangement with the county, city and school system to cover the costs and suggested their arrangement could be used as a model.

Mayor Robertson asked how the committee envisioned taking ideas back to their respective boards and escalating the ideas for staff exploration. Mr. Voorhees stated the question is what authority the Fayetteville City Council and Cumberland County Board of Commissioners are going to give to the committee to advance projects. Mr. Voorhees stated he and Mr. Martin ask that their respective boards make that clear so they know what they should and should not be working on. Mr. Martin stated as a county manager, he wants to know that the full board is aware of the committee's discussions and has actually given at least a consensus to ideas they think are worthwhile and worthy of advancing.

Commissioners Keefe and Edge spoke in support of finding commonalities in the strategic plans of the city, the county and the school system and coming up with joint priorities. Commissioner Edge suggested utilizing public information officers to accomplish this. Commissioner Edge stated as a beginning point, each body needs to understand what the county's responsibilities are as designated by the General Assembly and realize that even if Fayetteville were to annex everything in Cumberland County, the county would still have to provide the same services. Commissioner Edge also stated for the city, it is important that they come to the county with factual data and the actual costs to the county.

Mr. West suggested items such as school nurses, school resource officers and sidewalks in school areas could be collectively considered.

Commissioner Keefe stated there is no voice more powerful to the ear of a state representative than an agreement on one subject by the city, the county, the school system and PWC. Mr. Lallier suggested that a member or two of the local legislative delegation be part of the committee's discussions to hear matters as they are addressed. Mr. Lallier stated the local legislative delegation has a chair and a vice chair so there is an organizational aspect to the delegation and he felt they would welcome being a part of the committee.

Council Member Arp suggested that the committee come up with items that are common and mutually agreeable so there can be a quick consensus by all bodies because success breeds success.

Council Member Davy asked that committee members return to their boards as they begin to develop their strategic plans and have available at the next committee meeting a synopsis of the commonalities of the city's, the county's, the school board's and PWC's strategic plans so action items can be prepared for the city and county managers.

Following a brief discussion, the committee collectively determined the third Thursday of each month to be the best date for the committee to meet. The next meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board