

FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND LIAISON COMMITTEE
HILLTOP HOUSE RESTAURANT – 1240 FT. BRAGG ROAD
NOVEMBER 12, 2015 – 11:30 A.M.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Board of Commissioners’ Chairman
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Board of Commissioners’ Vice
Chairman
Commissioner Jeannette Council

MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nat Robertson
Mayor Pro Tem Kady-Ann Davy
Jim Arp, Fayetteville City Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Cannon, County Manager
Melissa Cardinali, Assistant County Manager
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Ted Voorhees, City Manager
Kristoff Bauer, Deputy City Manager
Rochelle Small-Toney, Deputy City Manager
Michael Gibson, Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Director
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Colonel Brett Funck, Ft. Bragg Garrison Commander
Dr. Frank Till, Superintendent Cumberland County School System
Tim Kinlaw, Associate Superintendent of Auxiliary Services
Cumberland County School System
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Jennifer Ayre, City Administrative Assistant
Press

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Faircloth called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. INVOCATION

Commissioner Faircloth provided the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Councilmember Arp

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 12, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to approve the March 12, 2015 minutes.
SECOND: Commissioner Faircloth
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PARKS AND RECREATION BOND COORDINATION

Mayor Robertson stated the City is moving quickly on its Parks and Recreation bond effort, the City Council has had two unanimous votes on the effort and a couple of items still await approval by the Local Government Commission (LGC). Mayor Robertson asked the County to assist with feedback, cooperation and participation with the package.

Mr. Gibson stated the scenario selected was for improvements to existing parks which calls for three splash pads, a river park, an aquarium, three skateboard parks, a sports field complex and an aquatic center with a total construction cost of approximately \$64.2 million not to exceed \$35 million in general obligation bonds. Mr. Gibson stated the anticipated cost of the aquatic center is approximately \$28 million to be funded through a public/private partnership. Mr. Gibson stated as part of the public/private partnership, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent to architects and developers. Mr. Gibson explained a lease to own agreement under the public/private partnership and stated at the end of the lease agreement, the facility will belong to government.

Chairman Edge asked for a further explanation of what was meant by “partnership”. Mayor Robertson stated he wants government partners to take ownership and because the usage of facilities will also encompass County residents, he would like for the County to help sell the bond package to residents. Chairman Edge asked about operational costs once the projects are complete. Mr. Gibson explained how existing staff and budgets would be utilized and stated there is not yet a number for heating and air.

Councilmember Arp stated he would like to see staffing costs and firm numbers for maintenance costs.

Mayor Robertson stated the City Council has not identified locations for some of the projects and another possible partnership may be to locate some of them on County property. Chairman Edge stated parks and recreation projects are needed in the community but before there is a request for any kind of participation, the Board of Commissioners needs specific details such as what projects might be located in the unincorporated parts of the County and operating costs once the projects are complete.

B. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Councilmember Arp stated there needs to be a joint effort in which Fayetteville’s Public Works Commission (PWC) provides water for economic development projects in rural parts of the County. Councilmember Arp stated there is consensus of the City Council to

bring an interlocal agreement to the County in which the annexation requirement will be waived.

Commissioner Council stated the service should be provided in a timely manner and the red tape cut because some of the projects in the County, most of which were emergencies, have taken too long. Councilmember Arp stated he felt the City Council could move fairly quickly and PWC is willing to provide water if there are no issues from the Board of Commissioners' perspective. Commissioner Council asked whether the fees would be similar to existing fees. Mayor Robertson stated the fees would likely fall outside the city limit fees so they may be higher for water; however, annexation would not be required.

Commissioner Faircloth stated PWC has had the authority in the Charter to serve the County but has not exercised that authority and he applauds the fact that PWC is ready to provide water countywide. Commissioner Faircloth stated the County has contracted with other water authorities because they had lines near areas that needed water.

Councilmember Arp stated with the discussions the City Council has had with PWC regarding Charter issues, it is clear there is consensus regarding the ability to push water out to the rural areas without annexation and it certainly makes sense from an economic development standpoint. Councilmember Arp stated he would rather have PWC provide water to the County and be a part of economic development. Councilmember Arp stated the main thing is there would be no annexation tied to the push for rural water.

Mayor Robertson stated PWC would still have to be competitive. Chairman Edge stated that is the key issue moving forward and he doesn't want to push water extension to the County too far until there are more specifics about things such as rates and tap-on fees. Chairman Edge stated there is no doubt that it is better for PWC to offer water. Mayor Robertson stated there is still a lot the City Council can't commit to because it involves PWC as the regulating authority. Councilmember Arp stated he is not asking the three representatives on the committee to speak for the Board of Commissioners just as he is not committing the City Council. Councilmember Arp stated all he is asking is that there is an agreement in principle to look at this from an economic standpoint to see how to make it work. Commissioner Faircloth stated there is consensus as far as interest but more information needs to be provided. Mayor Robertson suggested the PWC join the committee at its January 2016 meeting.

Councilmember Arp stated another issue that needs to be discussed is people in the County that want sewer in addition to water. Councilmember Arp stated the City's policy has been that if sewer is pushed out, it requires annexation. Councilmember Arp stated he would gather information and share it with staff so it can be reviewed at a future time.

Rick Moorefield, County Attorney, provided an update on the joint economic development efforts and stated he informed Larry Bass with Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) that FTCC has been selected as the site. Mr. Moorefield stated an application will be submitted for a tax-exempt status and everything is on track to put the corporation in place. Commissioner Faircloth stated the Board of

Commissioners will make appointments to the economic development board at its Monday, November 16 meeting.

C. UPDATE ON TURF FIELD INITIATIVE

Councilmember Arp stated the joint turf field initiative is not part of the Parks and Recreation package but needs to be a collective effort between the City, the County and the Cumberland County Schools because it is directly tied to economic development. Councilmember Arp stated the City Council put economic development and crime as its main issues and they are both connected. Councilmember Arp spoke further about the proposal he presented at the March 12 meeting of the committee, sports as tourism, kids that could be mentored through sports and suggested that the City and County finance the package and each agree to provide \$1 million annually for six years so the tracks and fields can be built as the money is available. Councilmember Arp stated the fields belong to the schools and the County, and the idea would be that the schools would not have to put any money up front. Councilmember Arp stated maintenance of the fields would go to the schools so he would recommend that teachers be hired as subcontractors and provided a supplemental income.

Dr. Frank Till, Superintendent Cumberland County School System, stated this initiative was presented to the Board of Education and although the Board did not make a decision due to concerns about funding, they were not opposed to it. Dr. Till stated the schools do not have upfront money and this would not be a priority; however, this does not mean that the schools would not be part of the partnership.

Tim Kinlaw, Associate Superintendent of Auxiliary Services Cumberland County School System, stated the funding source is key as is the ability of the County to meet those needs. Mr. Kinlaw inquired regarding the County's funds for recreation. Ms. Cannon stated most of the County's money goes to the City for operations and there is a dollar amount set aside each year for capital improvements but it is not a significant amount.

Commissioner Council asked Dr. Till whether the Board of Education decided that this initiative was a priority over teachers, transportation and school maintenance, and whether the Board of Education was going to find \$6 million. Dr. Till stated the Board of Education has been told that the schools would not be in the position to fund this initiative but that the schools might be in a position to assist with maintenance because they already handle maintenance of the fields. Dr. Till stated the Board of Education was not anticipating being a funder of this initiative. Commissioner Council stated she is aware that the schools have had to lay off people and some classrooms do not have textbooks. Commissioner Council stated the County is concerned about unfunded mandates handed down by the state because the County cannot fill in the gaps. Dr. Till clarified that the Board of Education has not voted on this initiative but they were not opposed to it when it was presented. Commissioner Council questioned whether more time needed to be spent on this initiative. Councilmember Arp stated he did not want this initiative to compete with teachers and text books but there are opportunities for grants and other opportunities to find money. Councilmember Arp stated the County is losing to surrounding counties in an economic development sense and when military families move to other counties, which is why he would like to see this initiative come to a vote.

Commissioner Faircloth stated this is really not an update but more of what was presented in March, and if another update is provided, it should include details on how this initiative can be financed. Commissioner Faircloth stated when considering the school's capital needs and the list of capital needs the County has, this is low on the priority list for both bodies. Commissioner Faircloth suggested however that the dream be kept alive. Mayor Robertson stated there might be an opportunity to use red light camera revenue.

D. RED LIGHT CAMERA REVENUE

Ted Voorhees, City Manager, provided the following data on the red light camera program from July 8 to the end of October, 2015:

- 4,236 citations
- \$93,300 paid to the school system through September
- \$66,235 payment to the school system for October
- \$159,535 total amount paid to school system from July 8 to the end of October
- Program began with 4 cameras; 10 cameras currently in place so revenues will increase

Commissioner Faircloth stated he would like to have an update on how many lives have been saved although there is likely not a factor to gauge those numbers.

Mayor Robertson stated he would like to have a red light camera update at every meeting or every other meeting of the committee.

E. JOINT 911 UPDATE

Mr. Voorhees stated with preliminary staffing analysis complete, Mission Critical Partners, Inc. (MCP) and their partner SHRADERGROUP, completed their interviews with City and County staff. Mr. Voorhees stated at this point there are three candidate sites, each of which will undergo a detailed feasibility review to determine suitability for a new facility. Mr. Voorhees stated a draft assessment report will be provided to the City and County for review in mid to late January, 2016.

6. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mayor Robertson stated the Mayor Pro Tem will chair the committee meetings in 2016 and the first meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 11:30 am at the Hilltop House Restaurant.

There were no other items of business.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board