

FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND JOINT COMMITTEE
HILLTOP HOUSE RESTAURANT - 1240 FT. BRAGG ROAD
January 14, 2016 - 12:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

FAYETTEVILLE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nat Robertson
Kirk deViere, Fayetteville City Council

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge

OTHERS PRESENT:

Theodore L. Voorhees, City Manager
Rochelle Small-Toney, Deputy City Manager
Michael Gibson, City Parks and Recreation
Director
Jason Briggs, City Treasurer
Scott Shuford, City Planning and Code
Enforcement Services Director
Robert Stone, City Engineering and
Infrastructure Director
Lee Jernigan, City Traffic Engineer
Will Deaton, City Comprehensive Planner
Jennifer Ayre, City Senior Administrative
Assistant
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Sally Shutt, Public Information and
Government Affairs Officer
Tom Lloyd, Planning and Inspections Director
Patti Speicher, Planning Manager
Candice White, Clerk to the Board

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robertson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2.0 INVOCATION

Michael Gibson provided a prayer of thanks.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Consensus was to approve the agenda

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 12, 2015

Consensus was to approve the agenda.

5.1 RED LIGHT CAMERA UPDATE

Mr. Lee Jernigan, Traffic Engineer, explained that the Red Light Camera program began on July 1, 2015 with four cameras. On July 8, 2015 citations began to be issued for those four cameras. On October 1, 2015 six more cameras were set up at intersections. Those cameras went live with citation issuing on October 8, 2015.

The reasoning to begin the program again was to teach citizens about the dangers of running red lights and improve safety, not to give citations. However, as of December 21, 2015, 7,423 citations have been issued from all cameras.

Mayor Robertson asked Mr. Jernigan how exactly the program worked. Mr. Jernigan explained that a total of eight intersections are covered with the ten cameras. Video is recorded at a slow rate of speed 24/7 until certain parameters are met indicating the possibility of a violation which gives the camera the directive to speed up the frame rate. The camera will record a total of twelve seconds of video, six before the violation and six after the violation. The vendor then reviews each possible violation. A violation will only occur according to North Carolina law if the vehicle enters the intersection after the light has turned red, if the vehicle is in the intersection when the light changes, no citation should be given. If a violation is evident, a citation is issued. The citizen can request an appeal if they believe they are not at fault.

Mayor Roberson asked Mr. Jernigan how many complaints they have received regarding violation citations. Mr. Jernigan stated he has personally only been contacted about two violations. He states that the vendor has received a total of forty-four requests for appeals with only four being dismissed out of 7500; giving them a .005% dismissal rate.

Commissioner Edge stated that because the objective was to improve safety, has the amount of violations and accidents decreased? Mr. Jernigan explained that currently there is not enough data to date to make that determination. DMV Data usually lags by two to three months so the expectation is that in six months enough data will be gathered by all ten cameras to make a study if the cameras have assisted in improved safety.

Commissioner Edge also asked if the cameras can be moved or will more cameras be added later. Mr. Jernigan stated that it is possible to move the cameras and that conversations regarding moving forward with the movement of cameras or addition of cameras.

Mr. Jeff Thompson with Up and Coming Weekly asked how much currently has the City collected from the Red Light Camera Program and how much of that has been given to the Cumberland County

School System. Mr. Briggs gave the following numbers: The City has transferred \$255,444 to Cumberland County Schools for citation receipts through November 2015. The programmatic costs through November 2015 which are reimbursed to the City from Cumberland County Schools totals \$87,187. The City has received \$107,660 from paid citations for December and will be transferring to the schools later this month once reconciliations are completed. Based on December's receipts this being the first true month with all 10 cameras in collections the City projects that the school system will benefit \$891,000 per year.

5.2 CAPE FEAR RIVER ZONING

The Cape Fear River Study Area extends from Ramsey Street and 87 down to Interstate 95 and MIA.

The existing land use is a scattering of multiuse from residential areas to vacant land. The planning department believes that there is room for infill and development along the vacant areas with significant growth in the North along I-295.

During the study it was determined that there are not easily accessible river access points. The planning and zoning department have been working at determining the best access points. Possible options are along the Cape Fear River Trail, Campbellton Landing, The Cape Fear Botanical Garden, Arnette Park and the new Fish and Wildlife Ramp.

The City wants to work at protecting the land around it by zoning for River-Dependent Uses and River-Related Uses. The River-Dependent uses include activities which can be carried out only in or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the water body for: waterborne transportation including marinas; recreation; sewage disposal; or water supply. The River-Related uses include activities which are not directly dependent upon access to a water body but which are directly associated with water-dependent or waterway uses to add value to the use or activity, such as institutional, residential, or recreational uses.

In 2001 a River plan was formed, but never completed. The new plan has utilized some of the original 2001 plan while incorporating ideas on how to protect the river. The proposed planning process is as follows: Project Initiation; Coordination with the County Planning; Public Meeting # 1; Feedback and Survey Results; Coordination with Botanical Gardens and Campbellton Landing Property Owners; Characters Areas (i.e. Neighborhoods, Crown Center), this will then funnel down into proposed land use ideas and they will go to City Council with recommendations.

The first public meeting will be held later this month with one of the owners from Campbellton Landing. After this meeting staff will review the Survey results.

Key Finding # 1, Amount of Public Land / Institutional. The City of Fayetteville owns 1008 acres, Methodist University owns 688 acres and Cumberland County owns 483 acres. The planning department has realized through this finding that there are not many actual river access points. The key is to work on the access points and the extension of the Cape Fear River Trail.

Key Finding # 2, Need for River Access. The City's goal is to improve public and recreational access as well as increase awareness and use of the current access points which will in turn foster appreciation for the River. Create sources of economic development by utilizing a coordinated plan for development of additional access and recreation.

Key Finding # 3, Focus on River - Dependent Uses. The goal is to emphasize River - Dependent and River - Related uses, such as recreational boating, traditional waterfront activities, and ensure availability of shoreline. The City plans on enhancing historic preservation efforts along the river while also implementing a buffer overlay.

Mr. Voorhees pointed out that the City Council would like to move quickly on the buffer area of protection, and asked when should they plan to see it brought before them? Mr. Shuford expressed his understanding for the need of urgency and the planning department expects it to be brought forward before the end of the fiscal year, July 1, 2016. He continues with the thought that between state and city regulations they do not expect citizens on the river to get close enough to the bluff to see and development.

Mayor Robertson stated that the intent of City Council is not to hinder development, but to protect it correctly.

6.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mr. Voorhees requested moving the next meeting up. Mayor Robertson agreed with the request to meet at the end of February instead of the beginning of March due to a 911 consultant being available. The Mayor asked Commissioner Edge if this was acceptable. Commissioner Edge stated that it would be fine, but to check with Candice White before a date is set to verify it isn't during the conference in D.C.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER L. AYRE
Senior Administrative Assistant
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NAT ROBERTSON
Mayor