

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Thursday, September 07, 2000, 8:30 AM**

**Present:** H. Mac Tyson II, Chairman  
Jeannette M. Council, Commissioner  
James Martin, Deputy County Manager  
Juanita Pilgrim, Assistant County Manager  
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager  
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney  
Amy H. Cannon, Finance Director  
Tonya Harris-Council, Public Information Director  
Rhonda C. Raynor, Deputy Clerk to the Board

**Absent:** Billy R. King, Commissioner

**Others:** Gwen Wright, Human Relations Specialist, City of Fayetteville Human Relations Commission  
Press

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Tyson offered the invocation.

**1. Approval of Minutes: May 4, 2000.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Council offered a motion to approve the May 4, 2000 Finance Committee meeting minutes.

**SECOND:** Chairman Tyson

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**2. Consideration of Proposal for Joint Human Relations Commission (Per Request of the City-County Liaison Committee)**

Mr. Martin advised that in July of 1999 the Board of Commissioners and the Fayetteville City Council held a joint meeting. One of the topics of discussion was a Joint Human Relations Commission. He noted the proposal from the City Manager with regard to a joint commission with the County. (That information is attached to and made a part of these minutes.)

Gwen Wright, Human Relations Specialist with the City of Fayetteville addressed the committee. She advised the idea of a joint commission came out of community-wide study circles where the basis was race relations. The proposal for the development of a joint commission is outlined in the information presented. (The information is attached to and made a part of these minutes.) A seventeen member volunteer board is proposed that would be appointed by the Fayetteville City Council and the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners. The City of Fayetteville Human Relations Department would provide staff and technical assistance. The mission of the Commission would not change unless the volunteer board decided to change it. Services are provided to anyone that contacts their office however, services provided to residents outside of the City of Fayetteville are limited.

Juanita Pilgrim advised the Commission is providing information now. They would not expand their staff. They want to embrace County ideas and provide services they cannot currently provide.

Ms. Wright advised she understands there is a proposed reorganization of the City of Fayetteville Human Relations and Recreation departments. The program would use recreation centers as cultural centers. The Human Relations focus would not change. There would be no director. The departments would become a Community Affairs Department with one department head serving as an assistant to the City Manager. Human Relations services would be provided in recreation centers rather than just in City Hall. She noted there has and continues to be concern among the commission members that the merger would dilute the services of the Human Relations Department.

Juanita Pilgrim asked what the projected budget for the department would be for FY 02.

Ms. Wright stated the projected budget would increase 3-5%.

Mr. Martin asked if the services would be expanded to County recreation centers if the County were to participate in funding.

Ms. Wright advised Human Relations would expand services to County recreation centers if the County were to participate.

Mr. Martin noted the County must deal with how the County can help and support Human Relations under the current financial situation being faced. Based on the information he has seen approximately 20% of the complaints are from county residents. In looking at the budget situation, he feels a better allocation of funds may be 20-25% of the Human Relations departmental operations.

Chairman Tyson stated the 20% figure would be acceptable. He also stated the staff of the Human Relations Department should be 20% county residents.

Mr. Martin also noted it is realistic to expect that the percentage of County complaints and contacts will increase as the Human Relations expansion into the County increases. That will result in an increase in the County's funding percentage.

**MOTION:** Chairman Tyson offered a motion to direct staff to develop a proposal outlining County participation in the Joint Human Relations Commission of 20% pro-rata funding based on the number of complaints from County residents per calendar year. The proposal should also include a recommendation for the number of appointments that the County can make to the Commission. This information is to be presented to the full Board of Commissioners at the September 18, 2000 regular meeting. Staff is to present a draft proposal to Commissioners Council and Tyson for review and possible suggestions prior to placement on the September 18th meeting agenda.

**MOTION:** Chairman Tyson offered a motion that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution drafted by Management requesting that the Federal Government fully fund those students from Fort Bragg Schools that are now in the County School System, and if not to provide for and build a high school on Fort Bragg to educate those students. The resolution should also include an optional request for a local exemption from the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act. This resolution is to be forwarded to Cumberland County's congressional delegation and senators. Staff is to present a draft resolution to Commissioners Council and Tyson for review and possible suggestions prior to placement on the September 18th meeting agenda.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Council

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Council stated she has some concerns with telling the Federal Government to fund these students or build a high school. She would like to make them understand how needy Cumberland County really is. Chairman Tyson stated that trying to make them understand how needy the County is has not worked in the past. He noted management could word the resolution so that it would not be too harsh.

Mr. Martin stated the resolution could make a statement to address the concerns expressed by Commissioners Council and Tyson. He noted the County has begun a major school expansion project that has included these students. He feels there are some benefits short of going to the left or right that could get the County some relief.

Commissioner Council stated she would like to have some cooperation with other agencies in this matter.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

Commissioner Council noted she would like to have a realistic strategic plan for the County budget.

The Committee directed staff to present a report at the next meeting that includes the feasibility of expanding the role of the Planning Board and the Planning Director to assist with the overall strategic plan for Cumberland County.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Council offered a motion to adjourn.

**SECOND:** Chairman Tyson

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.