

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2002, 8:30AM

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chairman Jeannette Council
Commissioner John Henley
Commissioner Talmage Baggett

OTHERS: Breeden Blackwell, Chairman, Board of
Commissioners
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Barry Warren, Planning/Inspections Director
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Press

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Add: CLOSED SESSION – Attorney Client Matter
Delete: Item #7

1. Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2002

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to approve.
SECOND: Commissioner Henley
VOTE: UNANIMOUS

2. Consideration of amendments to the Wrecker Ordinance

The Wrecker Ordinance has been under review for the past couple of years. The Wrecker Ordinance that is being proposed is similar to the one in the City of Fayetteville. The People representing the wrecker businesses in the County have been meeting with staff to come up with an ordinance that is fair to the public and one that also closely mirrors the City of Fayetteville. In addition, the City of Fayetteville has also been working with us on the ordinance. This ordinance will apply to people who are on the rotation list to be called in when there are vehicles to be moved as a result of accidents or vehicles which have broken down for some reason. While the language of this ordinance is not the same as the City's, the standards are generally the same. If the Policy Committee approves the Ordinance it will go the City for review. It will then come to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The Ordinance includes a fee schedule which will be adopted also. The Wrecker Review Board has reviewed and endorsed the amended Ordinance.

One effect the Ordinance will have is to keep people who are not on the rotation list from going to an accident and perhaps charging exorbitant prices for wrecker services. The Ordinance also addresses storage of vehicles and provides for someone to be available at the storage facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners.

SECOND: Commissioner Baggett

DISCUSSION: The Committee expressed hope that the review of the Ordinance by the City

of Fayetteville could be accomplished and brought back to the Board of Commissioners within 90 days.

SECOND: UNANIMOUS

3. Discussion of a Joint City/County Appearance Committee (discussed at the City-County Liaison Committee)

The Planning Board is currently doing an appearance study for the Town of Spring Lake. Barry Warren, Planning/Inspections Director, noted that the appearance of our gateways was an issue discussed by the joint meetings of the Planning Boards in Fayetteville, Hope Mills and the County Planning Board. Commissioner Henley noted that the Chamber of Commerce and Greater Fayetteville Futures are also interested in the gateway appearances of our community. Barry Warren, Planning Director, will work with Hope Mills and Fayetteville Planning Boards to work towards a consensus of how we make our gateways attractive. He will keep us informed of the progress.

4. Discussion of county policy regarding longevity pay for employees who are called in to active military duty

BACKGROUND: A county employee was called into active duty in October, 2001 and was on military leave without pay. Longevity pay is paid based on your pay status as of December 1. This employee was not in "pay status" at that time. The employee has expressed concern that he did not receive longevity, as he did work the majority of the year. He noted that he had been involuntarily called to active duty and he should be entitled to a longevity check.

James Lawson, Personnel Supervisor, noted that Cumberland County's military leave policy has been established under the same guidelines that apply to employees subject to the State Personnel act, which complies with Federal law. All National Guardsmen and Reservists ordered to active duty are entitled to reinstatement to county employment in the same position or one of like status, seniority and pay with the same agency or another county agency, if necessary, at the completion of their active military service. In addition the County provides military leave with pay for 120 working hours for

active duty service related to training, summer camp, mandatory schools, required physical exams or active state duty not exceeding 30 consecutive days. An employee may cash in and receive a lump-sum payment for their entitlement of 120 hours of annual active duty for training pay. Those who return to county employment from military leave without pay shall also receive county service credit for the period served on extended duty.

In discussing the issue and whether or not to amend our county policy it was noted that in most cases, the 120 hour lump sum payment far exceeds the longevity payment and that the county should not do both.

As the employee will receive the 120 hour lump sum payment it was the consensus of the Committee that we not change our current policy regarding longevity pay.

5. Discussion of rescheduling commissioners' meetings which may fall on a national holiday.

The Committee discussed the issue of rescheduling any commissioners' meeting which falls on a national holiday to the next day. The national holiday in question is President's Day which falls on the third Monday in February. In addition, we sometimes have commissioners' meetings on Easter Monday, depending on when Easter falls on the calendar (the County observes Good Friday and the Board of Commissioners does have a meeting scheduled for April 1, 2002, which is Easter Monday). It was noted that schools are closed on Easter Monday.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to recommend that the Board adopt a policy rescheduling commissioners' meetings which fall on a national holiday (President's Day) and/or on Easter Monday to the next day (Tuesday).

SECOND: Commissioner Baggett

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

(These two specific days are in addition to the holidays observed by the county, which may fall on a meeting date).

6. Discussion: Fort Bragg RCI Property Tax Initiative

Mr. Roy Adams, AIT and chairman of the Greater Fayetteville Futures Military Tax Force appeared and requested the Committee to look at providing some incentives to the developer who will be building and/or renovating some housing on Fort Bragg. As background information, it was noted that once the Army deeds the housing to the developer, it then becomes appropriate for the county to assess property tax. Mr. Adams suggests that the County should establish an incentive program that will relieve the tax burden on the developer by offering incentives for the developer to locate a corporate office in Cumberland County.

Mr. Adams noted the importance of the developer using local subs to do the work at Fort Bragg as opposed to bring in subs from out of town. It is Mr. Adams hope that by offering incentives the developer may be more open to using local people, which in turn will enhance the county's economic development.

Commissioner Henley said if this could be worked out under the county's current incentive program, it would be a major infusion of capital into Cumberland County.

County Manager James Martin noted concerns about maintaining equity with our local developers.

Grainger Barrett, County Attorney, said the incentives could in fact negate the revenues received as a result of the construction and renovation

Commissioner Breeden Blackwell said Congressman Hayes has committed that once a contractor has been selected for the project, local people will be brought to the table to discuss their qualifications for the jobs.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved that staff address the issue of creating incentives to encourage the developer/contractor to use local labor and materials for the project and bring back something to this committee at the next meeting.

SECOND: Commissioner Baggett

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

James Martin, County Manager, asked that an Economic Development matter be added to the Closed Session.

7. Other Matters – Naming of county buildings

This matter was deleted from the agenda. Staff is still getting together some information about what other counties are doing.

8. CLOSED SESSION: Attorney Client Matter and Economic Development matter

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to go into Closed Session for an Attorney Client Matter and an Economic Development matter.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner Baggett moved to go back into Open Session.

SECOND: Commissioner Henley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS