

CUMBERLAND COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
NEW COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
OCTOBER 4, 2012 – 10:30 A.M.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council, Chairman
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe

OTHER COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT:

Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Ed Melvin (left at 11:00 a.m.)
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth (left at 12:10 p.m.)
Commissioner Billy King (left at 12:00 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Phyllis Jones, Assistant County Attorney
Howard Abner, Assistant Finance Director
Sally Shutt, Chief Public Information Officer
Jeffery Brown, Engineering and Infrastructure Director
Debbie Miller, Purchasing/Buyer
Thelma Matthews, Purchasing/Accounts Manager
Sharon Sanders, Veterans Services
Andrea Harris, NC Institute of Minority Economic
Development
Tony Dodson, NC Institute of Minority Economic
Development
Bridget Wall-Lennon, Director of Office for HUB
Val Applewhite, Fayetteville City Council
Bill Crisp, Fayetteville City Council
Susan Monroe, Cumberland Regional Improvement
Corporation
Augustus Webber, Cumberland Regional Improvement
Corporation
Rev. Rosie McMillan, Citizen
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

Commissioner Council called the meeting to order.

Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager, requested Item 6 – Discussion on Proposed Print Management Policy be removed from the agenda and tabled until the November 1, 2012 meeting of the Policy Committee.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Keefe moved to approve the minutes as presented.
SECOND: Commissioner Council
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

Commissioner Evans asked that Item 2 – Discussion on Economic Development for Minorities and Women and Item 3 – Discussion on Purchasing Opportunities for Local Businesses be consolidated to one agenda item and renamed Consideration of the Hire Fayetteville/Cumberland County First Job Creation Policy Information. Commissioner Keefe stated he would like Item 2 and Item 3 to remain separate because he placed Item 3 – Discussion on Purchasing Opportunities for Local Businesses on the agenda.

2. DISCUSSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR MINORITIES AND WOMEN

Commissioner Evans stated he would first like to applaud Cumberland County for establishing a local preference for purchasing goods and services and Commissioner Keefe for promoting local preference. Commissioner Evans stated the City of Fayetteville City Council recently adopted the “Hire Fayetteville First Job Creation Policy” and the goal of the policy is to create economic opportunity for Fayetteville and Cumberland County businesses and to support job creation. Commissioner Evans further stated the policy would be implemented by using the City of Fayetteville’s spending power in a manner that would promote fiscal responsibility and maximize the effectiveness of local tax dollars by ensuring that the city’s spending for goods and services provide business opportunities to Fayetteville and Cumberland County and historically underutilized businesses as measures to support our local economy. Commissioner Evans stated he feels the county’s current policy is a notable start but does not go far enough. Commissioner Evans further stated the city’s policy encourages utilization of locally owned businesses and specifically includes veterans, women, minorities and disabled-owned businesses.

Commissioner Evans stated he recommends the definition of a local business means a business with a principle place of business in Cumberland County and the business must be headquartered or have an established place of business in Cumberland County in which 20% or more of the business work force are residents of Cumberland County. Commissioner Evans stated he would like to see the county’s performance monitored with respect to utilizing locally owned businesses, especially for veteran, women, minority and disabled-owned businesses. Commissioner Evans stated he would also like

to see a joint disparity study conducted to include Cumberland County, City of Fayetteville, Board of Education, PWC, educational institutions and major medical centers. Commissioner Evans stated during these tough economic times he would like to demand that everyone in local government do everything in their power to support locally owned small businesses.

Commissioner Evans asked Fayetteville City Council Member Val Applewhite to explain what the City of Fayetteville adopted and how it would benefit county government. Ms. Applewhite stated the main focus is economic development and job creation and the Fayetteville City Council adopted the “Hire Fayetteville First Job Creation Policy” with a goal to look internally at what the city can do with their own spending dollars to improve economic development and job creation in Cumberland County. Ms. Applewhite stated the city would like to see money infused back into the local economy through local businesses to give them the opportunity to expand or hire and create jobs internally in Cumberland County. Ms. Applewhite stated she would also like to see the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County partner together to have a joint disparity study conducted and adopt a joint policy to support local businesses. Ms. Applewhite stated the goal would also be to use joint spending dollars to create more jobs in this community by supporting local businesses.

Bill Crisp, Fayetteville City Council Member, stated the city has not kept a good track record of where their dollars have gone and the economic impact of those dollars. Mr. Crisp stated the “Hire Fayetteville First Job Creation Policy” will include Cumberland County and not just the City of Fayetteville.

Commissioner Council stated she applauds the City of Fayetteville’s efforts and feels the city is following the lead Cumberland County set. Commissioner Council further stated she would like to continue to receive information from the City of Fayetteville on the policy.

Commissioner Evans asked if the county keeps track of the money spent on local businesses in Cumberland County. Ms. Cannon stated that Cumberland County does keep track of money spent on local businesses and this information can even be sorted by zip code. Ms. Cannon further stated the Cumberland County Finance Department is working on developing an additional monitoring system to keep track of more specific information in dealing with local businesses.

Commissioner Keefe stated he feels it is important to define what constitutes a minority. Andrea Harris, North Carolina Institute of Minority Development, stated the definition of minority comes from the results of a disparity study because the study is based on everyone that does business with the county.

Commissioner Council stated she appreciated everyone attending the meeting and would like for the City of Fayetteville to keep Cumberland County informed throughout the process.

3. DISCUSSION ON PURCHASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Commissioner Keefe stated he would like to briefly discuss purchasing opportunities for local businesses. Commissioner Keefe further stated he was interested in Executive Order #50 issued by Governor Perdue and asked what options the county had to implement Executive Order #50 on a local level. Rick Moorefield, County Attorney, stated for informal bids between \$0 and \$90,000, the county already has similar flexibility. Commissioner Keefe asked Mr. Moorefield to get clarification on informal bids.

Ms. Cannon stated the latest information she has been given by Cumberland County Purchasing is that roughly 61% of the county's expenditures are local when you take out payments to the school system and Fayetteville Technical Community College. Ms. Cannon further stated some county purchases will never be with local businesses, especially when it related to computer software and maintenance, which is a major expense to the county.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED REVISED NOISE ORDINANCE REQUESTED BY SHERIFF BUTLER

Mr. Moorefield stated the existing noise ordinance is enforced by the Sheriff's Office and the current enforcement mechanisms are not working. Mr. Moorefield stated the Sheriff's Office is asking the Board of Commissioners to adopt the proposed revised noise ordinance.

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to approve the proposed revised noise ordinance as presented by the county attorney.
SECOND: Commissioner Keefe
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

5. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC USE OF COUNTY-OWNED FACILITIES POLICY WITH SEPARATE DISCUSSION ON THE USE OF HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

Commissioner Keefe stated there has been an ongoing discussion about the public use of county-owned facilities. Commissioner Keefe stated he would like to discuss having a separate policy on the use of the Historic Courthouse because a lot of money has been spent to renovate the Historic Courthouse and he does not feel it should be restricted from public use that would not be in line with the reason the courthouse was renovated in the first place. Commissioner Keefe stated he feels the Historic Courthouse should not be used for political or religious events but should be available to the public for other community events.

Commissioner Evans asked if there would be a fee charged for individuals requesting to use the Historic Courthouse. Commissioner Keefe stated he feels there should be a fee charged to pay for additional staffing and other costs involved with the use of the building. Commissioner Evans stated he feels citizens should be entitled to use the facility and wants to make sure the fee is reasonable.

Mr. Moorefield stated he would draft a policy for the committee's consideration that would allow non-religious and non-political use of the Historic Courthouse subject to a fee.

6. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED PRINT MANAGEMENT POLICY – TABLED UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, 2012 MEETING
7. REPORT ON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICE DEPARTMENTS EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

Phyllis Jones, Assistant County Attorney, stated at the June Policy Committee meeting, the Policy Committee requested staff to research the issue of whether county departments that fall under the State Personnel Act (SPA) and use the state job application could be required to use the county job application or whether the departments even have that option. Ms. Jones noted county departments that fall under the SPA are the Department of Social Services, Mental Health and Public Health.

Ms. Jones stated the North Carolina Administrative Code provides that “persons applying for a local vacancy must complete and submit the official application form designated by the hiring authority and approved by the reviewing state agency”. Ms. Jones further stated the hiring authority for each department with employees subject to the SPA is the director of the agency. Ms. Jones stated the statutes and code provision lead her to the conclusion that the director of each county department subject to the SPA may choose the application form required of applicants so long as the choice is approved by the reviewing state agency.

James Lawson, Assistant County Manager, stated Mental Health and Department of Social Services are still using the state application at this time and Public Health is using the county application.

8. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES DIVISION

Jeffery Brown, Engineering and Infrastructure Director, stated the purpose of the Rules and Regulations is to set uniform requirements for all Cumberland County Water Districts. Mr. Brown stated the Rules and Regulations also establish the rate schedule, billing policy and connections fees for the connected and non-connected users in the District. Mr. Brown explained the Rules and Regulations are needed to create guidelines and procedures for both the county and customers to adhere to.

Mr. Brown stated construction in the Southpoint area will begin soon and the Public Utilities Division would like the Rules and Regulations to be established prior to construction in order for customers to project the cost of their future water bills. Mr. Brown stated he feels that having the Rules and Regulations in place prior to construction will allow potential customers to make a more informed decision about connecting to the system.

Mr. Brown stated he and county management recommend that the Policy Committee approve the Rules and Regulations and place it on the October 15, 2012 Board of Commissioner's agenda for consideration of adoption.

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to approve the Rules and Regulations of the Public Utilities Division as presented.
SECOND: Commissioner Keefe
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0)

9. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Commissioner Council stated she would like any proposed agenda items to be submitted in writing before they are placed on the agenda in order to clear up any confusion on the agenda.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:20 PM