

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 29, 2004, 8:00AM
HAMONT GRILL
FAYETTEVILLE NC

PRESENT: Board of Commissioners:

Jeannette Council, Chair
John Henley, Vice Chair
Talmage Baggett
Breden Blackwell
Kenneth Edge
Billy King
Edward G. Melvin

Fayetteville City Council :

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall Pitts
Mayor Pro Tem Lois Kirby
Curtis Worthy
Mable Smith
D.J. Haire
Johnny Dawkins
Robert Massey

STAFF: James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Nancy Roy – County Planning/Inspections Director
Marsha Fogle, County Clerk
Roger Stancil, City Manager
Jason Brady, Public Information Officer
Karen McDonald, Attorney
Janet Jones, City Clerk

Others: Press

INVOCATION: Mable Smith

The items referred by Paul Williams, City Council, were not discussed as Mr. Williams could not be present for the meeting.

Other matters of concern:

D.J. Haire, City Council, noted the importance of the city and county working together on air quality and environment issues. The Master Transportation Plan if adopted by both entities would help the environmental issues. He urged the county to support the Plan and at the appropriate time consider funding. It was noted there will be an update on the Transportation Plan at the next City-County Liaison meeting – July 22, 2004.

Talmage Baggett, County Commissioner, asked the City to keep in mind the need for utilities in the rural areas of the county. He noted that PWC would be devoting funds for infrastructure improvements in the newly annexed areas, but did not want them to forget about other needs. He also noted the contact person with PWC with whom the county generally works with on these matters is no longer there. Commissioner Baggett also said he hoped the City would consider a voting slot for a member of the Board of Commissioners on the PWC Board. He thanked the City and PWC for allowing the County to have a liaison member.

Breden Blackwell, County Commissioner, commended both entities on working to end duplication of services and making government more responsive to its citizens.

Chairman Council, Board of Commissioners, inquired about the status of the Joint Human Relations Department. Mr. Martin, County Manager, said staff was looking at providing a person from the county to assist the city in addressing human relations issues in the county. More information will be coming to the Board shortly.

Grainger Barrett, County Attorney, noted that the County and City are currently working jointly on a Joint Appearance Commission. Councilmember Haire asked whether or not the County would be appropriating money to assist in sprucing up the gateways into the County. The County Manager advised that no money has been set aside for that purpose.

D.J. Haire, City Council, spoke about the need for a lobbyist in Washington DC. He suggested the Board of Commissioners join the City Council and the Cumberland County Business Council in contracting with a firm to represent us at the federal level. Commissioner Henley inquired as to who would be selecting a firm to represent us. Roger Stancil noted that the City of Fayetteville put out RFP's and has narrowed the selection down to four firms. Lois Kirby, City Council, noted that at this time the Council has not voted to hire a firm. To date, the County has not seen the proposals. Commissioner Blackwell noted that the Business Council has adopted the concept of hiring a lobbying firm and will bring information to the Board of Commissioners at some point. Johnny Dawkins, City Council, noted the proposals run from \$100,000 - \$150,000 a year.

Kenneth Edge, County Commissioner, inquired if the City has a grants' writer. They do not have a specific person who writes grants. However, the four firms who submitted proposals for lobbying could also provide that service. In addition, FTCC, FSU and Methodist College provide some expertise to the City when needed. Commissioner Blackwell said grant writers will soon become a thing of the past. He stated there is a web site that can be accessed to give information on grants available for specific purposes, as well as samples of how to write grants. Juanita Pilgrim, Asst. County Manager, noted the county has looked at the web site, but at this time has not elected to use it. Commissioner Edge noted that the City and County share some issues such as air quality and housing and it might be cost effective to share a grants' writer. Commissioner Henley noted that The Ferguson Group, one of the 4 finalists noted above, does provide that type of service.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Clerk to the Board