

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER/ZOOM
APRIL 6, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1); Shakeyla Ingram (District 2) (via zoom); Tisha S. Waddell (District 3) (via zoom); D. J. Haire (District 4); Johnny Dawkins (District 5); Chris Davis (District 6); Larry O. Wright, Sr. (District 7); Yvonne Kinston (District 9)

Absent: Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Telly Whitfield, Assistant City Manager
Jay Toland, Assistant City Manager
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Gerald Newton, Development Services Director
Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Director
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director
Lee Jernigan, Assistant Public Services Director
Jerry Clipp, Human Resources Development Director
Dwayne Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Rebecca Jackson, Chief of Staff
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to approve the agenda.
SECOND: Council Member Dawkins
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Council Member Wright moved to go into a closed session for attorney-client privileged matters; personnel.
SECOND: Council Member Davis
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

The regular session recessed at 5:03 p.m. The regular session reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Wright moved to go into open session.
SECOND: Council Member Haire
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

5.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5.01 FY 22 Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Deb Manzo, Strategic Planning Consultant, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated as the City of Fayetteville continues to grow and thrive, the City Council looks to chart a course with a strategic plan which articulates a vision for our community's future that will ensure vitality and sustainability and provides direction for the City's programmatic performance expectations. Commitment to strategic planning and performance management strengthens the City of Fayetteville, ensuring excellent services and a high quality of life for residents.

The Fayetteville City Council has worked very diligently to commit this organization to high performance and to use data and stakeholder input to create a strategic plan for the City that is forward thinking, progressive, relevant and outcome based. The Mayor, City Council, and staff share a duty to ensure that the actions of public officials, employees, contractors, and volunteers of the City are carried out in the most responsible manner possible and that City policy, budgets, goals and objectives are fully implemented. In February 2021, the City Council met virtually in a two-day annual retreat to refine the City's strategic plan, prioritizing Targets for Action (TFA) for FY 2022.

The City Manager's Office has directed the Office of Strategy and Performance Analytics to meet regularly with teams to advance the Council's TFA and to report progress to City Council on a quarterly basis during a City Council meeting. As many of the TFA for FY 2021 and FY 2022 are tightly related and/or continuing, staff has incorporated the Third Quarter Strategic Performance Report into the City Council briefing for April 6, 2021, providing the status of FY 21 TFA as of March 31, 2021, for Council consideration moving forward into the next fiscal year.

Commitment to performance management and strategic planning strengthens the operations of the City of Fayetteville, ensuring excellent services and a high quality of life for residents. It allows for long-range planning at the organizational level with alignment to departmental operations and performance expectations. With this system in place, the City is able to allocate resources appropriately and build strategies for continuous improvement. The City of Fayetteville desires to be data driven and results-focused with a robust strategic plan and performance framework. The City believes that better policy is developed through proactively encouraging resident, employee and business participation in government and by providing diverse engagement opportunities with easy and open access to public data and information.

Dr. Manzo provided an overview of the draft FY 2022 Strategic Plan and FY 2021 3rd Quarter Report.

Discussion ensued.

Unanimous consensus of Council was to approve the draft FY 2022 Strategic Plan and FY 2021 3rd Quarter Report.

5.02 Legislative Briefing - American Rescue Plan Act Update

Ms. Leslie Mazingo, Federal Lobbyist, Strategics Consulting, presented this item and stated there is still no set guidance from the Government on how the City can use the funds it will be receiving through the American Rescue Plan. Fayetteville is expected to receive \$35.25 million through the American Rescue Plan. The total amount of assistance coming through the plan to the County and surrounding municipalities totals more than \$113 million. Guidance on the funding from the federal government has previously been minimal. The dispersion of funds is an "evolving process" that is subject to change. The money does not work like a grant would in that it is not allocated for a specific purpose. The City will receive the money and be required to report back that they spent it within federal guidelines.

Ms. Mazingo stated baseline principles from the National League of Cities for the City's planning purposes suggest cities conduct an assessment of community needs and recovery. And also to avoid spending the money on new programs or anything that would require steady income.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Colvin thanked Ms. Mazingo for the briefing.

5.03 Reopening City Facilities Matrix

Mr. Jerry Clipp, Human Resources Development Director, presented this item and stated staff is recommending the reopening of City Hall and City facilities to the public, beginning on May 3, 2021, this is the same reopening date scheduled for Cumberland County facilities. Mr. Clipp provided a document that detailed the various risk levels. Mr. Clipp stressed the importance of keeping employees and the public safe.

Council Member Ingram asked if there was a way to gauge the comfort levels employees have regarding returning to their work place. Mr. Clipp responded we could gather employee input, but many employees have not been in a position to work virtually; first responders, solid waste collection, transit drivers, etc.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Colvin thanked Mr. Clipp for his presentation.

Mayor Colvin recessed the meeting at 7:51 p.m., and reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

5.04 Micro-Mobility (electric scooters/bikes) Program

Mr. Taurus Freeman, Planning and Zoning Manager, presented this item and stated over the past several months, City staff has been contacted by two companies, Bird Corporation and Spunk Scooter, requesting permits to operate a micro-mobility program in the City. The vendors would like multiple locations throughout the City to be operated on public roadways.

Micro-mobility programs are used within many municipalities, universities, and business campuses nation-wide. Micro-mobility refers to a range of small, lightweight vehicles operating at speeds typically below 20 miles per hour and driven by users personally. Micro-mobility devices include bicycles, e-bikes, electric scooters, electric skateboards, shared bicycles, and electric pedal-assisted bicycles.

In August 2018, the City Council heard a similar request regarding bike sharing at the work session. At the time, bike sharing was being utilized as a pilot program at Fayetteville State University, which lasted until 2019. The program ended due to lack of participation at the university.

The speed of micro-mobility diffusion has not come without growing pains. Some cities were caught off guard with the sudden influx of shared dock and dockless vehicles, especially after companies launched their fleets without municipal approval. Cities like Raleigh, Durham, and Charlotte have enacted local laws pertaining to e-scooters. Some cities have banned the scooters/bike share entirely, while others have allowed them. Most municipalities polled in North Carolina thus far have not taken the ordinance route. The vehicles can encourage multi-modal access to specific areas/districts, events, and the downtown. In addition to walking, driving, using bike racks, and electric vehicle charging stations, a micro-mobility program could provide additional transportation means to the public. Yet, public safety, liabilities, the minimum age to ride, and traffic guidelines were just some of the concerns.

The City Council can enact rules and regulations for the program with the passage of an ordinance that allows for multi-modal transportation in the City. Micro-mobility programs are typically instituted by vendors that provide their vehicles and associated maintenance at no cost to the host municipality.

Discussion ensued.

Unanimous consensus was to select Option # 2 - Establish a sub-committee of the City Council to review further the issues and impacts with the City Management Office and present findings and recommendations back to the City Council.

5.05 City Council Agenda Item Request - Cliffdale Road Survey - Council Member Kinston

Council Member Kinston presented this item and stated that Cliffdale Road is a highly travelled area, with a section that has had numerous accidents to include fatal accidents. Council Member Kinston stated she is seeking consensus from Council to direct staff to seek assistance from NCDOT to request a study be conducted to determine deliverable corrects and/or modifications to improve safety. The main focus area is between Woodstream Apartments and Hermitage Place.

Discussion ensued.

Unanimous consensus of Council was to move this item forward.

5.06 City Council Agenda Item Request - USDOJ - City-SPIRIT, an overview for Community Leaders and City Officials - Mayor Colvin

Mayor Colvin presented this item and stated this request is to ask Council to officially request the Community Justice Department of the USDOJ to facilitate racially charged issues discussion. This request stems from the presentation that was provided to Council members on February 5, 2021, by Mr. Dion Lyons, Conciliation Specialist for the US Department of Justice.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff and the Human Relations Commission to contact Mr. Lyons and ask for participation and engagement in the City Spirit Program. Council Member Waddell was in opposition to the consensus vote.

5.07 City Council Agenda Item Request - Street Lights on Cliffdale Road - Council Member Wright

Council Member Wright presented this item and stated he and Council Member Kinston are seeking consensus from Council to make street lighting on Cliffdale Road a priority and urgent matter. There have been too many accidents to include fatal accidents due to the lack of lighting on a very dark stretch of this road.

Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager stated Duke Energy is the provider that would install the lights, this is a NC Department of Transportation highway and encroachment agreements have already been submitted. Mr. Hewett stated staff would be able to provide the project schedule. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen recommended contacting the State Representatives and requesting a meeting with NCDOT.

Unanimous consensus of Council was to direct staff to move this item forward.

5.08 City Council Agenda Item Request - Clean Up Litter in the City using our own Citizens - Council Member Wright and Council Member Banks-McLaughlin

Council Member Wright presented this item and stated this is a joint request from himself and Council Member Banks-McLaughlin. Council Member Wright stated they are seeking consensus from Council to engage staff to provide information and suggestions regarding picking up litter and possibly hiring jobless and/or homeless citizens to assist with this project.

Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, reported there will be an item on the April 12, 2021, City Council agenda regarding litter, illegal dumping and City clean-up initiatives.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to report back on litter collection initiatives, possibly working with partnerships and organizations that assist the homeless. Council Member Waddell was in opposition to the consensus vote.

5.09 City Council Member Agenda Item Request - Naming Senior Center West after former Council Member William Crisp - Council Member Davis

Council Member Davis presented this item and stated he is asking for an exception to City Council Policy No. 155.4, Naming of City properties after individuals, in order to name Senior Center West after former City Council Member William Leon Joseph Crisp in honor of his great service record and community impact.

Discussion ensued.

Unanimous consensus of Council was to direct staff to set up a public hearing for the naming of Senior Center West after former Council Member William Leon Joseph Crisp; granting an exception to City Council Policy No. 155.4.

5.010 City Council Agenda Item Request - Redistricting Consultant Decision - Council Member Kinston

Council Member Kinston presented this item and stated on October 5, 2020, Council was advised of the possibility of having to conduct another redistricting in 2021 following the release of the 2020 Census results. Council Member Kinston further stated she is seeking Council consensus to direct staff to hire a redistricting consultant; a consultant should be able to assist with the navigation in question to determine if there are imbalances existing with the percentages to move Council forward with the redistricting. We need to be proactive rather than reactive.

Discussion ensued.

Unanimous consensus of Council was to move this item forward.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.