

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
CONTINUATION OF MAY 24, 2021
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER/ZOOM
MAY 27, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1); Shakeyla Ingram (District 2) (via zoom, arrived at 5:50 p.m.); 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); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Yvonne Kinston (District 9)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Telly Whitfield, Assistant City Manager
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Rebecca Jackson, Chief of Staff
Jay Toland, Assistant City Manager
Cliff Isaacs, Construction Management Director
Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Public Services Director
Gerald Newton, Development Services Director
Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Director
Taurus Freeman, Planning and Zoning Manager
Craig Harmon, Senior Planner
Jennifer Baptiste, Senior Planner
Kevin Arata, Corporate Communications Director
Chris Cauley, Economic and Community Development
Director
Randy Hume, Transit Director
Tiffany Neal, Assistant Transit Director
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Members of the Press

This is the continuation of the May 24, 2021, regular City Council meeting.

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order.

11.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

11.01 Disparity Study Update

Mr. Jay Toland, Assistant City Manager, introduced this item and stated the Council approved the consultant service contract to Griffin and Strong P.C. on April 26, 2021. This presentation is to familiarize the Council with the proposed timeline and action plan.

The objective of the Disparity Study is to determine the effectiveness of the current Small Local Business Enterprise Program (SLBE) and to recommend modifications and adjustments. The consultant shall provide the City with the current legal guidance relative to not only new legislation, policies, and procedures to meet any constitutional mandates, but also programmatic needs of the City.

The consultant will study the City's contractual awards in goods, service (professional and general), and construction for a five-year period. The study will cover the time period of July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020.

A further objective is to study the availability and utilization of minority and women-owned business enterprises and examine relevant evidence of race or gender based discrimination in the City of Fayetteville and Public Works Commission. Griffin and Strong P.C. will also provide an introductory presentation to the PWC Board at their May 26, 2021, meeting.

Ms. Michelle Clark, Griffin and Strong Consultant, presented a PowerPoint presentation and provided an overview of the following: background information on Griffin and Strong, staff directory and experience, explanation of what is a disparity study, process of the study, policy review, data collection and the work to accompany the data, relevant market analysis, availability analysis, disparity analysis, private sector analysis, community engagement, findings and recommendations, post study support, and the project arc (timeline).

Discussion ensued.

No action was taken on this item.

11.02 Transit Title VI Program

Ms. Tiffany Neal, Assistant Transit Director, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated the Transit Department is the recipient of federal transit grant funds with numerous terms and conditions. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires grantees to update and submit for approval a Title VI program every three years. The City's/FAST's Title VI program update is due on August 1, 2021.

Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. This plan incorporates Environmental Justice (EJ), which was initiated by Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations), and also addresses Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The program update has few changes since the 2018 program was approved.

City Council's approval of the program update is requested for submission to FTA.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to approve the Transit Title VI Program Update.
SECOND: Council Member Kinston
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

11.03 Approval of Service Standards for Fixed Route Bus Services

Mr. Randy Hume, Transit Director, presented this item and stated the City is the recipient of FTA transit operating and capital grants. FTA requires grant recipients that provide fixed route transit services to establish service standards and policies that ensure services are provided in a manner that is equitable and do not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. These standards and policies must address how service is distributed across the transit system, and must ensure that the manner of the distribution affords users access to these assets. The standards are required to address such factors as vehicle loads, frequency of service, availability of service, on-time performance, vehicle assignment and distribution of bus stop amenities such as benches and shelters.

Based on City Council's desire to expand the availability of shelters and benches and the fact that most stops that have ridership meeting the established threshold of 20 daily boardings for a shelter and 10 daily boardings for a bench, staff began working with the City's FACT members to reduce the thresholds in late 2019.

There are a few exceptions or barriers to shelter placement. These include (1) stops along NCDOT roadways that have planned improvement projects that will add bus stops once completed; (2) stops that require a private property easement that the property owner is unwilling to grant; or (3) stops where the topography and right-of-way make construction of an accessible bus stop infeasible. At the

current time, we have 144 stops with a shelter and/or bench installed. Prior to the pandemic, 76 percent of our average daily boardings occurred at sheltered stops. When the bench-only sites are added, 78 percent of riders have a stop with a seat. Two more shelters and a stop with bench will be installed by the end of May. Four more shelters will be ready for installation in July when the next order of shelter packages arrive. The number of daily boardings to warrant a shelter or bench are proposed to be reduced from 20 to 15 for a full shelter package and from 10 to 6 for a bench with trash can.

The revised standards also provide for some new methods to make transit buses easier and more convenient to use. The standards introduce "flag stops" for areas FAST has a very difficult time installing accessible bus stops. Staff plans to introduce a pilot project this summer along Strickland Bridge Road, Rim Road, Deep Creek Road, Stacy Weaver Road and Hoke Loop Road should that route be approved as part of the FY 22 budget. These areas that have deep ditches, few sidewalks, no curb or gutter and are difficult to obtain permits from NCDOT. We have also included on-demand services similar to LYFT and Uber as an alternative method of providing service in low-density and low-ridership areas. Such services are growing as part of transit services in North Carolina. The City of Wilson recently eliminated its fixed route bus service and replaced it with an on-demand model earlier this year.

The service standards once adopted will be incorporated into Transit's Title VI Program update and submitted to FTA for review. The Title VI program is being presented as a separate item for Council's review and approval.

Discussion ensued.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT TRANSIT SERVICE STANDARDS AND POLICIES.
RESOLUTION NO. R2021-040**

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to adopt the resolution to approve the Service Standards and Policies.

SECOND: Council Member Kinston

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (10-0)

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.