

FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

LAFAYETTE ROOM

MARCH 21, 2007

5:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne

Council Members Keith A. Bates, Sr. (District 1); Charles E. Evans (District 2); Robert A. Massey, Jr. (District 3); Darrell J. Haire (District 4); Lois A. Kirby (District 5); Paul Williams (District 6); Curtis Worthy (District 7); Juanita Gonzalez (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager

Stanley Victrum, Assistant City Manager

Karen M. McDonald City Attorney

Michael Crowell, Tharrington Smith LLP

Doug Hewett, Management Services Director

Candice H. White, City Clerk

Don Worthington, The Fayetteville Observer

Mayor Chavonne called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated the meeting had been called to consider an additional district plan.

Mayor Chavonne introduced Mr. Michael Crowell, Attorney with Tharrington Smith LLP in Raleigh, North Carolina. Mr. Crowell provided a map for 6-District Plan J and distributed population charts for the same. Mr. Crowell noted percentage similarities for voting age African-Americans in both Plan G and Plan J. Mr. Crowell noted Plan J placed two incumbents in district 1, two in district 2, two in district 3, two in district 4, none in district 5 and one in district 6. Mayor Chavonne asked whether a balancing of incumbents within the six districts would make any difference with the Justice Department. Mr. Crowell stated it would not be an issue unless there were too many African-Americans in one district or the intent was to keep an African-American in a majority black district. Otherwise, it would not be an issue.

Council Member Bates asked of 6-District Plan C1, 6-District Plan G or 6-District Plan J, which stood the best chance of being cleared by the Justice Department. Mr. Crowell stated Plan G and Plan J contained no significant differences and both provided an apparent ability for African-Americans to elect candidates. Mr. Crowell stated Plan C1 actually lagged behind in its numbers.

Council Member Bates asked of 6-District Plan G and 6-District Plan J, which stood the best chance of being cleared by the Justice Department. Mr. Crowell stated for pre-clearance under the Voting Rights Act, there were no significant differences in either plan.

A brief discussion ensued and Mr. Crowell responded to questions posed by Council Members. A 6-District Plan K was created to review split districts in the Montclair neighborhood. Consensus of Council was to take 6-District Plan G and 6-District Plan J forward to the public hearing on Thursday, March 29, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.