

FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
TOWN HALL MEETING
WESTOVER RECREATION CENTER
MARCH 19, 2007
6:30 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); Curtis Worthy (District 7); Juanita Gonzalez (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Absent: Lois A. Kirby (District 5); Paul Williams (District 6);

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager

Stanley Victrum, Assistant City Manager

Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney

Doug Hewett, Management Services Director

Tom Bergamine, Interim Chief of Police

B. E. Nichols, Fire Chief

Jerry Dietzen, Solid Waster Director

Terrie Hutaff, Human Resources Development Director

Bobby Teague, Engineering and Infrastructure Director

Shawnell Jones, Customer Focus

Frank Simpson, Inspections Director

Victor Sharpe, Community Development Director

Brad Whited, Fayetteville Regional Airport Director

Jerome Brown, Transit Director

Robert Barefoot, Parks and Recreation Director

Tracey Glover, Information Technology Manager

Joe Glass, PWC Engineering Manager – Water Resources

Jackie Tuckey, Communications Manager

Nathan Walls, Public Information Specialist

Candice H. White, City Clerk

Members of the Press

1. Call meeting to order and welcome.

Mayor Chavonne called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to those in attendance.

2. Invocation

The invocation was offered by Elder Ruby Hines of the Parks Chapel Baptist Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Chavonne led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Chavonne introduced Mr. Dale E. Iman, City Manager, and called on Mr. Tom Bergamine, Interim Chief of Police, to provide an update on the Fayetteville Police Department.

4. Presentations

- Crime Prevention – Fayetteville Police Department

Interim Chief Bergamine presented this item and gave an overview of the Civilian Crash Investigators initiative. Interim Chief Bergamine reviewed efforts to reduce speeding violations to include coordination with Ft. Bragg to send military personnel receiving citations to a traffic education program on Ft. Bragg and a policy adopted by the District Attorney's office that requires violators to appear in court. Interim Chief Bergamine informed citizens about the "Be the Badge" Program, the Citizens Police Academy, Citizens on Patrol, Community Watch Groups, community policing and the anticipated placement of zone officers in the next few months. Interim Chief Bergamine spoke to the positive results of police recruitment efforts and gave a brief overview of the training of new police officers.

Council Member Gonzalez introduced individual Council Members and drew five names for prizes.

5. Public Forum

Mr. Joseph S. Fudala, 1422 Granada Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28314 thanked Mr. Jim Rutherford, City Inspector, for his work and delivered accolades to Council Member Bates for getting the job done when contacted by citizens.

Mr. Thomas E. Wall, Jr., 827 Dalmore Drive, Cumberland County, NC, 28311 expressed concern for problems encountered with water accumulation in the crawl space underneath his newly constructed home and cited similar issues encountered by homeowners in the Inverness, Greystone and Fairfield Farms subdivisions. Mr. Wall stated the problem is not the fault of homeowners and something should be done about the water damage.

Mayor Chavonne stated city staff have been analyzing problems in the neighborhoods and looking for contributing factors and will have a report of findings available to Council Members at their April 2, 2007 Work Session.

Ms. Jean Hutchinson, 327 West Summerchase Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28311 expressed concern for code enforcement violations that have jeopardized the health, safety and welfare of homeowners in her subdivision due to water accumulation underneath their newly constructed homes. Ms. Hutchinson said no one has been held accountable for the problems even though an official reprimand had been issued to the builder. Ms. Hutchinson asked Council to work with homeowners to find a solution.

Ms. Rebecca Lemings, 114 Ingleside Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 expressed concern about speeding on North Reilly Road in the Benjamin Martin Elementary School zone and stated she had been informed that because it is a state road, only the Department of Transportation could reduce the speed limit. Ms. Lemings asked Council Members to amend the city ordinance to effectuate a safer speed. Ms. Lemings stated she appreciates the efforts of the Fayetteville Police Department to enforce speed limits, but the school zone needs a reduced speed limit to make it safer for children.

Council Member Bates stated at the time the speed limit was studied, the state indicated a reduction would not deter speeding and recommended greater enforcement of the current speed limit.

Council Member Haire spoke to the state's justification as to why the speed limit should not be reduced and stated Council is pushing the Police Department to be more visible to help slow down the traffic.

Mayor Pro Tem Massey clarified City Council is not opposed to amending the city ordinance but it does not want an ordinance that cannot be enforced.

Mr. Iman confirmed the city cannot effectuate speed limits on state roads and stated the city is looking into projects and funding to slow traffic down on Ramsey Road and Reilly Road.

Ms. Jody Risacher, 3537 Sweetbay Circle, Fayetteville, NC, 28311 expressed concern about the lack of progress in curbside recycling. Ms. Risacher asked that Council make recycling a priority.

Mayor Chavonne stated city staff will provide a curbside recycling program presentation to Council Members at their April 2, 2007 Work Session and it is open to the public.

Council Member Gonzalez spoke to the current recycling of yard waste, cans and newspapers and concurred there is still much to be done in the area of recycling.

Council Member Bates provided information from meetings he attended with the Mayor and stated the state has issued a moratorium on new landfills. Council Member Bates further stated single stream recycling efforts will be needed to save landfills.

Council Member Meredith spoke to the proliferation of "orphan" landfills in North Carolina and stated landfill operators may be assessed a surcharge to fund cleanup of "orphaned" dumps.

Mr. Ken Jackson, 3537 Sweet Bay Circle, Fayetteville, NC, 28311 spoke in support of curbside recycling and asked Council Members to make it a priority in the near future.

Ms. Terri S. Union, 115 Parkview Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, 28305 spoke in support of curbside recycling and expressed concern that it was not listed in Council's top twelve priorities. Ms. Union stated recycling can further develop the city's economy and increase the city's tax base. Ms. Union, a PWC Commissioner, spoke of PWC's Go Green Program and other

environmentally conscious initiatives.

Ms. Julia M. Love, 439 Harlow Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28314 stated residents on Ft. Bragg have curbside pickup and barrack units have drop-off recycling sites. Ms. Love expressed concern that the city will loose potential residents from BRAC to towns such as Sanford and Pinehurst that have recycling programs.

Ms. Lucy Fernandez, 603 Huske Street, Fayetteville, NC, 28305 stated state legislation will soon mandate that anyone holding an ABC license will have to recycle beverage containers. Ms. Fernandez asked that the city take advantage of the momentum that will be created by the legislation and start a recycling program.

Ms. Mary Kay Hennessey, 219 Claremont Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, 28305 spoke in support of recycling and stated she is shocked that the city has not initiated a recycling program since she moved to Fayetteville in 1976. Ms. Hennessey predicted that landfills will become future drilling mines as raw materials become more and more unavailable and stated there is a definite market for curbside recycling items.

Mr. John E. Poulos, 4368 Ferncreek Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28314 spoke in support of recycling and stated he was disappointed it was not in the top twelve priorities set by Council. Mr. Poulos spoke to the poor conditions and locations of city drop-off sites and recycling bins and expressed concern about the sustainability of natural resources. Mr. Poulos stated recycling creates jobs, an increase in sales revenue, environmental benefits and a decrease in dependence on foreign oil.

Mr. Rusty Long, 415 Cape Fear Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 stated comments have been made about the community everyone wants to have, so the city and its citizens need to work to make it so.

Ms. Melinda A. Harrington, 410 Rollingwood Circle, Fayetteville, NC, 28305 alluded to macro level costs associated with the lack of recycling and stated the City of Fayetteville needs to create public value and institute a recycling program.

Ms. Elaine P. Murry, 7207 Bailey Court, Fayetteville, NC, 28314 expressed concern for debris on the corner of Reilly Road and Clifdale Road, along the All-American highway and around boxcars. Ms. Murry also expressed concern about trash and clothing strewn around blue box drop off sites for used clothing.

Mr. Wilbert Blandons, 2237 Calista Circle, Fayetteville, NC, 28304 stated as Pastor of Antioch United Pentecostal Church, ministries are underway to recycle neglected young lives within the community. Mr. Blandons stated a Life Focus and Empowerment office is soon to open and will focus on programs to instill hope and value in young people. Mr. Blandons stated he would like to speak with Council Members regarding their level of commitment to empowering youth.

Council Member Evans stated he and Council Member Meredith attended a conference regarding ways to let youth know how they can take part in local government and a survey had been sent out to hear their concerns.

Mr. Ray A. Smith, 5110 Foxfire Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 expressed concern for problems in the Foxfire and Westover areas and stated most problems are taken care of by a phone call to Interim Chief Bergamine. Mr. Smith stated marshal arts are being started for youth and asked for Council's support in the effort.

Mr. Bobby J. Ewell, 846 Abilene Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 expressed concern about the slow progressive decline of neighborhoods such as his and wanted to know what the City of Fayetteville was doing to maintain its older neighborhoods. Mr. Ewell noted the lack of code enforcement and an ordinance to take care of junky properties.

Council Member Gonzalez stated 433-1FAY can be called to have a city inspector look into non-emergency neighborhood problems.

Ms. Annie P. Starks, 911 Siesta Court, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 stated she has lived in the Ponderosa neighborhood for thirty-four years, the neighborhood is deteriorating and houses are going up for sale. Ms. Starks asked why this was happening and stated she had put a lot of money into her home and could not sell it for what she has in it.

Council Member Evans suggested that Ms. Starks report such matters to the city and assured her the report would be confidential. Council Member Evans also suggested Ms. Starks contact her City Council representative.

Mr. Joshua Guy, 861 Foxcroft Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28311 stated he was twelve years old and thanked Council Members for the meeting because it helped him better understand politics and government.

Mr. Bobby M. Hill, 5311 Brookfield Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 thanked the Fayetteville Police Department for its efforts and stated Interim Chief Bergamine should be hired as the city's Police Chief. Mr. Hill stated Brookfield Road and Yadkin Road is a dangerous intersection and neighborhood residents drive through the neighborhood to a stop light to enter/exit the neighborhood during certain times of the day. Mr. Hill stated state roads run all through the city, but the City Council still has a responsibility for the safety of the city's citizens.

Mr. William J. Crisp, 3804 Sunchase Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28306 thanked Council Members for their dedication and devotion. Mr. Crisp stated he cannot accept that the city cannot change speed limits on state roads and stated he would do whatever is needed to do something about it. Mr. Crisp stated Interim Police Chief Bergamine is the right man for the city's Police Chief.

Iman Eronomy Muhammad, 2700 Murchison Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 stated he was pleased to see Council Members in the community interacting with citizens. Mr. Muhammed suggested the city manager contact North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue to talk about bringing businesses to Fayetteville. Mr. Muhammed stated recycling is no small matter and citizens of Fayetteville want it.

Mr. George Grimes, 706 Bronco Lane, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 expressed concern for school zone conditions and speeding and stated there are no sidewalks on Bronco Lane.

Mr. Ray Love, 910 Siesta Court, Fayetteville, NC, 28303 stated kids in the Westover community have to walk in the street or someone's yard because there are no sidewalks. Mr. Love stated many of the residents in the area are renters and therefore will not get involved with petition-initiated sidewalks. Mr. Love asked Council Members to find a way for the city to install sidewalks in order to save the children and better serve citizens.

Mayor Chavonne spoke to current urban standards as opposed to older standards and the city's sidewalk policy.

Council Member Gonzalez announced the next Town Hall meeting would be held on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Recreation Center on Ft. Bragg Road.

6. Adjourn

There being no one further to speak, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.