

FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JUNE 7, 2007

7:00 P.M.

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

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); Curtis Worthy (District 7); Juanita Gonzalez (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Absent: Council Member Paul Williams (District 6)

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager

Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager

Stanley Victrum, Assistant City Manager

Doug Hewett, Assistant City Manager

Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney

Amanda Briggs, Assistant City Attorney

Karyn Brunson, Assistant City Attorney

Lisa Smith, Chief Financial Officer

Jerry Dietzen, Solid Waste Management Director

Jerome Brown, Transit Director

Jackie Tuckey, Communications Manager

Candice White, City Clerk

Members of the Press

INVOCATION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was offered by Council Member Haire followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Chavonne requested that the order of the public hearings be adjusted as follows: A. curbside recycling, B. transit fares and C. additional stormwater fee.

MOTION: Council Member Gonzalez moved to approve the agenda with the order of public hearings as requested.

SECOND: Council Member Worthy

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A.Consider the establishment of an annual fee of \$30.00, effective July 1, 2008, for the purpose of establishing a curbside recycling program.

Jerry Dietzen, Solid Waste Management Director, provided an overview of the proposed recycling plan to begin July 1, 2008. Mr. Dietzen stated the preliminary \$30 per year fee was not adequate to cover the costs of a curbside recycling program. Mr. Dietzen stated the appropriate cost, which is in line with the current statewide average, is \$39 per year. Dale E. Iman, City Manager, stated the proposed \$30 fee was introduced before a program audit was performed. Mr. Iman provided information regarding the program audit and other factors contributing to the annual fee. In response to a question posed by Council Member Worthy, Mr. Iman stated program costs could increase proportionate to program growth and participation rates.

This is the advertised public hearing set for this date and time. The public hearing opened at 7:10 p.m.

David Hayes, 1702 McGougan Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303 stated recycling is the right thing to do because the State is banning more and more items from landfills, restricting landfill operations and increasing costs.

Ed Hood, Jr., 1306 General Lee Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28305 spoke to recycling credits as a way to offset the cost for those who cannot afford the fee and stated recycling as an industry creates jobs.

James Wilson, 228 Summertime Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303 stated recycling is in the best interest of the community and will have an impact on how people view the city.

Kamina Fitzgerald, 1932 Daphne Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28304 stated curbside recycling is the best fit for the city and is the right thing to do.

Henry Otten, 726 Eugene Street, Fayetteville, NC 28306 suggested ways to assist those who cannot afford the annual recycling fee.

Rollin Shaw, 202 Devane Street, Fayetteville, NC 28305 thanked the City Council for forming the Recycling Task Force and stated the curbside recycling program is long overdue.

Bill Watt, 5624 Watersplash Lane, Fayetteville, NC 28311 stated a community recycling program is long overdue because certain items are no longer being allowed in landfills.

Ronald Harrison, 1575 Mintz Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28303 stated the recycling program should be implemented as well as some means of assisting those citizens who will feel the financial impact of the annual fee.

Melinda Harrington, 410 Rollingwood Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28305 stated recycling makes a good first impression of the city.

Patricia Dean, 1435 Colonial Park Drive, Fayetteville, NC stated she did not understand why business and industry were not involved in recycling and sharing in the cost of recycling.

Jody Rosacher, 3533 Sweetbay Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28311 stated recycling is a necessary and essential part of becoming a progressive city.

Wendy Michener, 223 Hillside Avenue, Fayetteville, NC stated she would like to have recyclable materials picked up at her place of business.

Pat Leahy, 4139 Innisfree Place, Fayetteville, NC 28306 read a newspaper article that cited the benefits of recycling and stated she has been recycling since 1970.

Floyd W. Johnson, 716 Amber Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28311 expressed concern that the annual fee would place a financial burden on citizens with limited funding and resources and stated recycling should be a budgeted government service.

Larry A. Barner, 337 Rhew Street, Fayetteville, NC suggested alternatives to cut the cost of recycling and thereby reduce the recycling fee.

Imam Eronomy Muhammed, 2700 Murchison Road, Fayetteville, NC stated recycling is crucial if the City of Fayetteville is to standup and be counted.

Phillip Gilfus, 2602 Colgate Drive, Fayetteville, NC delivered a resolution from the Cumberland County Democratic Party urging the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and the Fayetteville City Council to adopt curbside recycling programs.

Mark Ledger, 430 Lionshead Road, Fayetteville, NC stated although the curbside recycling program as proposed may be based on assumptions and estimations, it should move forward on good faith with the details figured out as the program progresses.

Linda Devore, 2616 Dartmouth Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304 stated the youth of today appreciate recycling and demand it of the community in which they want to live. Ms. Devore stated the proposed curbside recycling program is a reasonable and responsible plan at a reasonable and responsible price.

The public hearing closed at 7:55 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Bates moved to adopt a citywide curbside recycling program effective July 1, 2008 with a fee no more than the state average of \$39 per year with the program created as an enterprise fund to ensure no costs are incurred by the City's general fund.

SECOND: Council Member Haire

Council Member Worthy noted businesses had not been mentioned as a part of the recycling program. Council Member Worthy also asked if consideration could be given to picking up recyclables every other week and lowering the rate to \$30 per household. Mr. Iman stated curbside recycling programs are typically offered to single-family residential households and no models or research are available for recycling for multi-family units, businesses or institutions. Mr. Iman explained the process that would be involved in securing the best price for the service.

Council Member Haire asked if subsidies could be budgeted to assist with annual fees. Mayor Chavonne stated grant opportunities are under discussion. Council Member Bates stated the Homestead Exclusion is also being explored for those who qualify.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

The regular session recessed at 8:05 p.m.

The regular session reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

B. Consider increasing all transit fares, including but not limited to, changing the adult bus fare from \$.75 to \$1.50, effective July 1, 2007.

Jerome Brown, Transit Director, provided a brief overview of the proposed increase in transit fares. Council Member Worthy asked whether additional services or benefits would be provided with the increase in transit fares. Mr. Iman responded the proposal originated with Council and it would be Council's decision whether to provide for enhanced services or a reduction of the general fund subsidy.

Council Member Haire asked how improvements to the bus system would be determined. Mr. Iman stated Mr. Brown had been asked to analyze the transit system and make recommendations by July 1, 2007. Other questions and comments followed.

This is the advertised public hearing set for this date and time. The public hearing opened at 8:40 p.m.

Charles Luther, 1509 Cardiff Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304 stated buses are not running throughout the entire City, in particular the West side of Fayetteville, and new buses and bus service are needed.

Jeffrey Jones, 170 Cooper Street, Fayetteville, NC 28306 stated individuals who ride the buses, work for the citizens of Fayetteville and should be treated with respect.

Veneita G. Wesley, 629 Gables Court, Apt. #2, Fayetteville, NC 28301 stated the National Highway Transportation Fund provides funding for all transit systems in the United States and her research shows the City of Fayetteville has never applied for the funding.

Albert Bryant, Jr., 5433 Dorcia Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28314 asked that fare increases be tabled and that a committee of citizens be organized to discuss the transit system. Mr. Bryant also suggested that bus routes be expanded throughout the entire City, with hours of operation from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Mayor Chavonne called attention to the Fayetteville Area System of Transit Proposed Fare Increases and noted some of the fares would not change.

Rev. Charles W. Humphries, III, 2517 Southern Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28306 stated a survey of riders indicated an increase in services should accompany the increases in fares. Mr. Humphries stated bus services should be provided at night and on Sundays in order to meet the needs of the public.

George W. Quinn, 1804 Overlook Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28301 stated the handicapped cannot afford a rate increase. Mr. Quinn asked that bus routes be extended for the handicapped so they can have access to Methodist College and the Crown Coliseum.

Patricia Tisdale, 220 Windsor Drive, Fayetteville, NC stated the bus serves as her car and she needs more time to work the fare increase into her budget.

Wanda McKoy, 1116 Simpson Street, Fayetteville, NC stated people are trying to make ends meet and cannot afford the fare increase.

Christine Smith, 412 Wilmington Road, Fayetteville, NC stated people who ride the public transit system depend on it and the fare increase is an injustice to the working poor.

Patricia Dean, 1435 Colonial Park Drive, Fayetteville, NC stated starting in January of this year, change was not longer given back from dollar bills given for bus fare. Ms. Dean also asked when the results of the ridership survey conducted by a research company would be available.

William E. Harris, 5706 Meharry Drive, Fayetteville, NC spoke to the disrepair of buses, fumes inside the buses and emissions outside the buses. Mr. Harris stated public transit vehicles adequately equipped to transport the handicapped are needed.

Dennis Endre, 110 ½ N. Virginia Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28305 spoke to the message sent to prospective employers when public transportation funds are cut and the need for transportation

at night for students who work and attend college.

Wendy Michener, 223 Hillside Avenue, Fayetteville, NC stated no bus system in the entire United States pays for itself and a bus system is a public service that should be subsidized by government.

Imam Economy Mohammad, 2700 Murchison Road, Fayetteville, NC agreed with those in opposition to the increase in fares and stated citizens cannot be denied access to public transportation.

Keith Rose, 3005 Scotty Hills Road, Fayetteville, NC spoke to limited operating times and routes. Mr. Rose asked that the need for transfers be alleviated and that buses operate on time.

Michael Evans, 1113 Simpson Street, Fayetteville, NC stated the bus system needs extended hours of operation and express service in order to eliminate so many stops. Mr. Evans also stated seating at bus stops and bus service for the annexed areas are needed.

Pat F., 1237 Hamlet Street, Fayetteville, NC stated Bus #40 needed to run before 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays so she could get to work on time. She also stated some of the buses need to be repaired, new buses need to be provided, air-conditioners need to be repaired and bus drivers need a raise.

Charles Edward Evans, 926 Fleetwood Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28305 spoke to the experience of Council Members who rode the public transportation system and concerns expressed by citizens.

Charleston Johnson, 629 Campbell Terrace, Fayetteville, NC stated he resides in public housing and depends on public transportation when his car breaks down. Mr. Johnson stated buses should be on time and more bus stops are needed.

Warren Johnson, 924 Spellman Drive, Fayetteville, NC stated buses pass him by because he is handicapped and sometimes the buses do not show up at all. Mr. Johnson stated the handicapped need bus service with appropriate accommodations.

Enoch McNeill, 441 Moore Street, Fayetteville, NC stated buses do not stop for him and use the excuse that the handicap ramps do not work. Mr. McNeill stated only a few bus drivers will assist him with getting on the bus.

The public hearing closed at 9:45 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Evans moved to table the proposed transit system fare increases until a report and recommendation is received from staff.

SECOND: Council Member Haire

Discussion ensued regarding the issues and concerns brought forth by citizens.

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 8 in favor to 1 in opposition (Council Member Meredith)

C.Consider the establishment of an additional monthly storm water fee of \$2.00 per equivalent service unit, effective July 1, 2007, to fund storm water control and quantity mitigation measures and facilities within the municipal limits of the City of Fayetteville.

Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager, provided a brief overview of stormwater challenges confronting the City and the establishment of the additional monthly stormwater fee to address infrastructure needs.

This is the advertised public hearing set for this date and time. The public hearing opened at 9:50 p.m.

Clinton Harris, 4713 Watauga Drive, Fayetteville, NC expressed concern for water accumulation on Murchison Road and stated he was opposed to the additional stormwater fee.

William E. Harris, 5706 Meharry Drive, Fayetteville, NC spoke to flooding on Murchison Road and water bugs in his house that come from water accumulation in the drainage system.

Bob Bennett, 1828 Conover Street, Fayetteville, NC presented a resolution from the Joint Stormwater Advisory Board that supported the adoption of the additional monthly storm water fee of \$2.00 per equivalent service unit and the establishment of a drainage improvement trust fund for drainage facility construction.

Leslie Lewis, 229 Murray Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC stated she was opposed to the additional stormwater fee because she did not know the reasons behind the increase.

Allen R. Williams, 1200 Murchison Road, Fayetteville, NC expressed concern for the adverse affect the proposed additional stormwater fee would have on the budget and campus of Fayetteville State University.

John Gillis, 128 S. Churchill Drive, Fayetteville, NC acknowledged that stormwater issues need to be addressed and stated the proposed increase in fees is one of the fairest ways to address the issues.

Don Stewart, 312 Murray Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC spoke in favor of the additional stormwater fee and stated stormwater issues affect all citizens in the community.

Tim Holverson, 2530 N. Edgewater Drive, Fayetteville, NC asked that consideration be given to phasing in the additional stormwater fee because of the detrimental impact it could have on the business community.

The public hearing closed at 10:30 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to establish a base fee of \$1 per month for stormwater quality and \$2 per equivalent service unit per month for drainage improvements.

SECOND: Council Member Evans

A brief discussion ensued about setting priorities for the increased stormwater revenues.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.