

FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
TOWN HALL MEETING
SMITH RECREATION CENTER
JANUARY 29, 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); Lois A. Kirby (District 5); Juanita Gonzalez (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Absent: Paul Williams (District 6); Curtis Worthy (District 7)

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager
Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager
Stanley Victrum, Assistant City Manager
Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney
Doug Hewett, Management Services Director
Tom McCarthy, 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

Faith Thompson, Customer Focus Director

Frank Simpson, Inspections Director

Victor Sharpe, Community Development Director

Brad Whited, Fayetteville Regional Airport Director

Jerome Brown, Transit Director

Kathy McPhail, Risk Management Director

Robert Barefoot, Parks and Recreation Director

Craig Hampton, Special Projects Director

Lisa Smith, Chief Financial Officer

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 all in attendance.

2. Invocation

The invocation was offered by Rev. Garfield Warren, Pastor of College Heights Presbyterian Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Presentations

- Crime Prevention – Fayetteville Police Department

Mr. Tom McCarthy, Chief of Police, presented this item and gave an overview of crime prevention and explained the Community Watch Program and community policing. Mr. McCarthy thanked Council Members for providing a pay plan for police officers, which decreased the turn over rate, and thanked the recruitment officer for his efforts, which resulted in increased recruitment. Chief McCarthy further stated traffic issues, gang issues and greater enforcement in school zones will be areas of focus in 2007 and his departure from the department after five and a half years will be seamless because of the caliber of officers remaining.

- Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste – Solid Waste Department

Mr. Jerry Deitzen, Solid Waste Director, presented this item and gave an overview of pickup for solid waste, bulk items, yard waste and loose-leaf collection. He gave the location of recycling drop-off sites and promoted the use of the brown rollout carts stating one would cost \$30.00 and two would cost \$50.00. Mr. Deitzen also provided a location for tire disposal at no charge.

- Neighborhood Appearance – Inspection Department

Mr. Frank Simpson, Inspections Director, presented this item and gave an overview of the Inspection Department's responsibilities for junk and abandoned vehicles, overgrown lots, substandard housing and zoning ordinances for flood ways, watersheds and signs.

Council Member Gonzalez announced the six winners of brown roll out carts: Ms. Christine McQueen, Mr. Phillip Gilfus, Ms. Margie Whitehead, Mr. John Decker, Mr. Charles Harris and Mr. Garland Sinclair.

5. Public Forum

Mr. Joseph Taylor, 1104 Center Street, Fayetteville, NC, 28306 expressed his appreciation to Council Members and staff for the sweep performed in Massey Hill and asked that it continue.

Mr. Garland Sinclair, 1200 North Street, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 expressed concern for the coverage of the six/three referendum and stated it was not a black/white issue, but a have/have not issue. Mr. Sinclair also expressed concern for the decline of the North Street neighborhood over the past fourteen years due to poor air quality resulting from dust generated by Fay Block and the lack of enforcement of clean air standards.

Mr. David Pugh, 775 Rosewood Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 expressed concern that six/three Council districts would allow the Haymount area to dictate policy. Mr. Pugh also expressed concern regarding a house in his neighborhood with drive-through drug service and asked that an undercover police officer visit him so he can point it out.

Mr. Ronald Harrison, 1575 Mintz Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 encouraged citizens to cast an informed vote on the February 6, 2007 referendum and not a vote based on distrust, frustration and anger. Mr. Harrison also spoke in support of allowing commercial daycares in neighborhoods and asked Council to appoint a committee to conduct a broad and comprehensive study of childcare services and ways to improve availability and affordability. Mr. Harrison expressed concern over current zoning restrictions and Council's inability to consider alternatives.

Council Member Bates responded day cares are on the Policy Committee's agenda and North Street is on the agenda for the air quality stakeholders' meeting.

Council Member Evans explained his opposition to businesses in neighborhoods and expressed concern for letters sent out to neighborhood residents because some citizens do not understand them.

Council Member Haire stated he believed some businesses can survive in neighborhoods and need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis rather than handled as a broad issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Massey pointed out that Council's job is to serve the overall needs of citizens and be able to strike a balance between commercial, industrial, business and residential needs.

Council Member Meredith stated citizens need to trust that Council Members are making decisions based on their homework and not knee-jerk reactions based on emotion.

Mr. Elmer Floyd, 207 Courtney Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 expressed concern about the economic effect BRAC and the widening of Murchison Road will have in the African-American community because of a lack of accessibility. Mr. Floyd appealed to Council for an access on Murchison Road to the Martin Luther King freeway and stated the City Council and Board of County Commissioners should express the need to the Department of Transportation because citizens can not accomplish this on their own.

Mr. Theodore DeBose, 1637 Seabrook Road, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 spoke in opposition to allowing businesses to operate in neighborhoods. Mr. Debose also spoke regarding five-star hotels, restaurants and convention centers along Murchison Road in conjunction with BRAC and

stated the city needs to expand its economic base because Ft. Bragg has not brought the city the economic development it needs.

Mr. Jesse Kirkland, 2200 Lake Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 expressed concern about the city being divided over the six/three referendum and the need to make changes to bring an end to the fighting. Mr. Kirkland also expressed concern over residents of Jasper Street being held prisoners in their own homes because of the proliferation of guns and shootouts. Mr. Kirkland suggested the city install cameras to monitor activity on Murchison Road and Jasper Street.

Mr. Phillip Gilfus, 2602 Colgate Drive, Fayetteville, NC, 28304 challenged the City Council to get youth involved in city government and mentor potential leaders. Mr. Gilfus expressed concern for the lack of sustainable development in the city and asked Council Members to include it when developing their long-range plans.

Council Member Evans relayed information regarding a meeting he attended with Council Member Meredith regarding youth ages 18 to 35. Council Member Gonzalez provided examples of Council's involvement with youth.

Ms. Cynthia King, 1121 North Street, Fayetteville, NC, 28301 expressed concern regarding the poor quality of life and lack of clean air on North Street due to dust from Fay Block and stated residents of North Street are complaining because something has to be done to eradicate the situation. Ms. King questioned how Fay Block was allowed to expand and stated all human beings deserve to breathe clean air.

Mr. Michael Evans, 1113 Simpson Street, Fayetteville, NC, 28305 expressed concern that the six/three referendum was dividing the city and stated Council needs to bring the city together in 2007 and show some vision. Mr. Evans stated the city needs economic development so graduates will not longer move elsewhere to find employment and bus transportation needs to be provided to the annexed areas of the city. Mr. Evans encouraged citizens to vote and vote for the person, not a straight democratic ticket.

Council Member Gonzalez stated the next Town Hall meeting would be held on March 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Westover Recreation Center.

6. Adjourn

There being no one further to speak, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.