

FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

LAFAYETTE ROOM

FEBRUARY 27, 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); Curtis Worthy (District 7); Juanita Gonzalez (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Absent: Paul Williams (District 6)

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

David Nash, Planning Department

Candice H. White, City Clerk

Tim White, The Fayetteville Observer

Don Worthington, The Fayetteville Observer

Mayor Chavonne called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and provided a brief review of the February 19, 2007 meeting.

Maps for 6-District Plan B and 6-District Plan C were distributed. Mr. Michael Crowell, Attorney with Tharrington Smith LLP in Raleigh, North Carolina, stated the maps included requests made at the previous meeting which included: 1) putting neighborhoods into District 2 that appeared to be chopped up, 2) taking an area in District 6 and putting it in District 3 and extending District 6 into Chestnutt Hills, and 3) using Morganton Road and Skibo Road as dividing lines. Mr. Crowell stated Skibo Road was used as a dividing line because District 3 was too small to use both Morganton Road and Skibo Road.

Mr. Crowell distributed population charts for Plan B and Plan C and reviewed the figures contained therein. Mr. Crowell stated Plan C was developed because of concern over incumbent addresses. Mr. Crowell stated the Justice Department will take into account the addresses of incumbents when looking at the prospects for those districts to elect an African-American or white candidate.

Council Member Bates asked which of the plans submitted thus far stood the best chance of being cleared by the Justice Department. Mr. Crowell stated there was a slight edge to Plan A and Plan C would likely be second. Mr. Crowell stated all three plans had been developed with an eye to appearance, shape, main roads and precinct lines and could likely be improved with Council's input. Mr. Crowell pointed out Plan B was an altered Plan A and stated he would like to work further with the percentages of Plan B under Council's direction.

A lengthy exchange followed after which Mr. Crowell stated he would apply Council's suggestions to a redraw of Plan C for a subsequent Plan F. Mr. Crowell stated he would also apply Council's suggestions to a redraw of Plan B for a subsequent Plan G. Mr. Crowell explained problems could be encountered when picking up people in districts because of the effect on the African-American/white percentages.

Consensus of Council was to schedule a public hearing for Thursday, March 29, 2007. Mr. Crowell noted single or multiple maps could be considered at the public hearing.

Council Member Worthy asked what the main focus of the Justice Department would be for clearing the plan. Mr. Crowell responded a one-person/one-vote and drawing at least three districts with an African-American voting majority. Council Member Worthy expressed concern that with three districts having an African-American voting majority, there would be three districts in which the African-American percentage would be light and African-Americans could not be elected.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Meredith moved to go into closed session for consultation with Attorney.

SECOND: Council Member Bates

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

The regular session recessed at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Worthy moved to reconvene in open session.

SECOND: Council Member Haire

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

The regular session reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.