

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
LAFAYETTE ROOM  
JUNE 27, 2012  
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne

Council Members Keith Bates, Sr. (District 1); Kady-Ann Davy (District 2) (arrived at 5:30 p.m.); Robert A. Massey, Jr. (District 3) (arrived at 6:30 p.m.); Darrell J. Haire (District 4); Bobby Hurst (District 5); William J. L. Crisp (District 6); Valencia A. Applewhite (District 7); Wade Fowler (District 8); James W. Arp, Jr. (District 9)

Others Present:

Kristoff Bauer, Interim City Manager

Brad Whited, Interim Assistant City Manager

Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney

Lisa Smith, Chief Financial Officer

Michael Gibson, Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director

Pamela Megill, City Clerk

Members of the Press

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Chavonne called the meeting to order.

### **2.0 INVOCATION**

Council Member Haire offered the invocation.

### **3.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Parks and Recreation – Park Bond Proposal**

Mayor Chavonne welcomed and introduced Ms. Andrea L. Harris, President of the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development. Ms. Harris stressed the importance of providing as much information as possible to the local businesses, and to take advantage of all resources available to ensure local businesses were aware of the bidding opportunities. She shared ways to increase outreach efforts such as pre-bid conferences.

Mayor Chavonne welcomed and introduced Mr. Jay Warshaw, President of Evolution Hoops. Mr. Warshaw provided an overview of the Evolution Hoops program and stated the company was in the process of establishing a 24,000 square foot indoor basketball facility in Wilmington and would like to establish a similar facility and program in Fayetteville. He stated the City would have to provide the land and building at a cost of \$3 million for a year-round youth basketball program. He commended the City Council for exploring positive outreach to the community.

Mr. Kristoff Bauer, Interim City Manager, initiated a telephone conference call with Mr. Tom Lee, Bond Attorney. Mr. Bauer reviewed the questions he had received from Council and the responses from the Bond Attorney as follows:

#### **Q10. Can there be a list of options on the ballot?**

Only issue is debt authority, a separate ballot is required for each debt authorization and they must pass independently. Statutory language does not permit options on the ballot. The ballot question cannot be confusing to the voters; specific dollar amount, the purpose, and a yes or no response.

#### **Q11. What language can be included on the ballot regarding the tax rate?**

On General Obligation bonds we include in the ballot language that states “authorizing the levy of taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on said bonds”.

Mayor Chavonne clarified that prior to the election they could educate the voters and let them know the increased tax would probably be around 2.25 percent.

#### **Q12. Is the tax rate fixed or can it be adjusted by Council?**

There is an obligation to pay debt service and City’s pledge property tax revenue to meet that obligation, but if you have other options to meet that obligation (sales tax) you are permitted to do so.

**Q13. Can funding for a Police Substation be included in the Parks and Recreation Bond issue?**

If the Police Substation is located in a park that would be applicable, if not, the police substation would have to be listed as a separate item.

Mr. Bauer thanked Mr. Tom Lee, Bond Counsel, for his responses and input. Mr. Bauer provided the following questions from Council with the staff responses.

**Q14. Can we modify the existing skateboard plan to provide limited skateboard opportunities throughout the community along with the major skateboard site?**

Staff would recommend taking \$125,000 from the existing budget to create three to four satellite locations TBD during design.

**Q15. What is the impact of removing the freshwater aquarium from the Cape Fear River Front Park project?**

Direct costs are estimated to be \$665,000. Additionally, some support areas, for example, parking lot could be reduced for a total reduction of about \$1 million for a revised project budget of \$5 million.

**Q16. What organization or boards have endorsed putting the Parks and Recreation Bond proposal on the ballot in February?**

The Chamber of Commerce, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Joint City/County Senior Citizens Advisory Commission and Association of Realtors.

A discussion period ensued and a series of questions were posed to determine if there was consensus from the Council.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council wanted to decrease the size of the skateboard park and provide smaller community skateboard parks. The consensus of the Council was in the affirmative.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council wanted to remove the freshwater aquarium from the Cape Fear River Front Park project. Consensus of the Council was in the affirmative.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council wanted to eliminate the remaining \$5 million Cape Fear River project and use the \$5 million for the purchase of land to facilitate the multi-center.

Consensus of the Council was in the negative.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council was interested in placing a substation item on the ballot. Consensus of the Council was in the negative.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council was interested in having the following two questions on the ballot: (1) Do you support Parks and Recreation Bond for X amount of dollars? and (2) Do you support building a Police sub-station at a cost of X amount of dollars? The Council consensus was in the negative.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council was interested in holding the proposed bond election in February 2013 or November 2013. Consensus of the Council was to hold the election in February 2013.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council was interested in initiating a year-round basketball facility, a \$3 million package to be added to the bond package. Consensus of the Council was in the negative.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council was interested in having the following two questions on the ballot: (1) Multi-purpose center and all other items (approximately \$55 million) and (2) All facilities with the exception of the multi-center (approximately \$26 million). Consensus of the Council was in the negative.

Mayor Chavonne inquired if Council was interested in having a restructured package as proposed by Mayor Pro Tem Arp for a cost of approximately \$30.2 million. Consensus of the Council was in the negative.

Council Member Crisp inquired of Mr. Michael Gibson, Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director, as to how long the parks and recreation bond package proposal had been in the making. Mr. Gibson replied six years.

Council Member Haire stated the community had been studied and there had been numerous meetings to gather citizen input.

Mayor Chavonne stated this item would be presented again at the July 9, 2012, City Council meeting.

#### **4.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.