

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
MAY 1, 2023
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Dawkins

Council Members Kathy Jensen (District 1); Shakeyla Ingram (District 2) (departed at 6:21 p.m.); Mario Benavente (District 3); D. J. Haire (District 4); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9)

Absent: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Kelly Olivera, Assistant City Manager
Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Chief of Staff
Kemberle Braden, Police Chief
Todd Joyce, Police Major
Chris Cauley, Economic and Community Development Director
Loren Bymer, Marketing and Communication Director
Lachelle Pulliam, Assistant City Attorney
Paul Allen, Assistant City Attorney
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Dawkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Council Member McNair.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Dawkins and City Council.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Council Member Jensen

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

4.0 OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4.01 City Council Policies Review Committee Recommendations

Council Member Jensen, City Council Policies Review Committee Chair, presented this item and stated the City Council Policies Review Committee have met every two weeks since January 25, 2023. From those meetings the Committee unanimously approved revisions and rescissions to several Council policies, which are included in the agenda packet.

The Committee members are Council Members Kathy Jensen (Chair), D.J. Haire, and Derrick Thompson. Staff serving this Committee are Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager, Jodi Phelps, Chief of Staff, Lachelle Pulliam, Assistant City Attorney, and Pamela Megill, City Clerk. Council Member Jensen thanked the Committee members and staff for all of their hard work on this item.

Council Member Jensen stated the Committee recommendations were sent to full Council each time the Committee had voted to approve the recommendations. The recommendations were again sent to full Council on April 19, 2023, with a request to contact the Committee members if they have any questions or concerns.

Council Member Benavente stated he has an issue supporting moving the sign-up for public forum from 7:00 to 5:00 p.m.; City Council Policy 120.9, Public Forum

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to place this item on the consent agenda of the next regular meeting, with the exception of Council Policy 120.9, Public Forum; for presentation and separate vote. Technical policies with staff recommendations to come to Council at a work session; date to be determined.

4.02 American Rescue Plan Act Workforce Development and General Funded Youth Mentoring Proposals

Mr. Chris Cauley, Economic and Community Development Director, presented this item and stated Council is asked to consider and provide consensus to support funding the proposed initiatives for Workforce Development and Youth Mentoring. Several of these organizations applied for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and are recommended to be funded for two to three years from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) instead. This allows for greater impact with General Funds, ARPA, and CDBG funds while we have these time-sensitive additional resources.

City Council allocated \$1,000,000.00 in ARPA funding for Workforce Development initiatives. Staff has collaborated with community leaders, members of City Council, the nonprofit sector, and educational institutions to determine the recommended funding. Consultation with groups like the Fayetteville Cumberland Economic Development Corporation, Mid-Carolina Council of Governments, Cumberland County Schools, and Fayetteville Technical Community College yielded a variety of programs and partnerships to assist with job skills training for low- to moderate-income individuals. The Youth Mentoring funds are the remaining balance of \$50,000.00 after funding the Tulsa Initiative and a high school mentoring program with Communicare.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to support funding the proposed initiatives for Workforce Development and Youth Mentoring.

4.03 Public Safety Strategic Items Update

Police Chief Kemberle Braden and Major Todd Joyce presented this item. Major Joyce stated registering your cameras does not allow the Fayetteville Police Department (FPD) access to your live video stream-it only enables investigators to know a camera is present at your location and easily request video evidence should an incident occur. It allows police to maintain a virtual database and map of all security cameras to identify potential evidence within the vicinity of a crime scene. Businesses can participate in the camera registration program, or they can take their security one step further by sharing public-area facing cameras with FPD. The FPD currently has 515 Registered Cameras and 226 Integrated Cameras. Camera registration takes less than one minute via our secure online portal at connectfayetteville.org.

Major Joyce stated the FPD currently has 60 License Plate Readers (LPR) in operation and they are positioned along major thoroughfares within the City. The LPRs have resulted in over 700 felony and misdemeanor offenses having been charged. Multiple felonious amounts

of illegal narcotics, to include cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines and fentanyl, have been seized. LPRs have assisted with the seizure of tens of thousands of dollars associated with criminal activity along with the seizures of multiple guns. There have been over 100 stolen vehicles recovered and over 30 vehicles seized. The technology has assisted with locating multiple missing persons.

Chief Braden stated three areas of a 1 square mile were identified based upon historical calls for service data for shots fired and weapon related incidents. The areas that were identified are within each of the three patrol districts. ShotSpotter identified locations to install the sensors and have secured the majority of permissions to include businesses and utility providers. As the installation of sensors are occurring, ShotSpotter will be onsite to conduct training with FPD personnel. Once training has occurred and the policy has been implemented, the platform will go live to include a dashboard on the FPD website.

Chief Braden stated in April 2023 FPD hosted a regional CIT training course. Twenty-eight officers attended from the southeast region and ten of those were Fayetteville Police Officers. In 2022 the FPD completed Autism Awareness training for the entire department. During the 4th Quarter 2022, the entire department completed Mental Health First Aid training. Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues. ICAT (Integrating, Communications, Assessment, and Tactics) training assists in de-escalation in all events and has shown to be specifically effective in dealing with subjects in crisis or suffering from mental illness.

Chief Braden stated the Mission Statement for Community Assistance, Response, Engagement, and Stabilization (C.A.R.E.S.) is Serving our Community with Respect, Compassion and Trust. The purpose is to outline the duties and responsibilities of the Fayetteville Police Department C.A.R.E.S. team in response to homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse related calls for service. The goal of the C.A.R.E.S. unit is to help those most vulnerable connect to community resources and establish long-term stability in the Fayetteville area to improve the safety, health and wellness of individuals, their loved ones and the community. The C.A.R.E.S. team is comprised of the Fayetteville Police Department Homeless Coordinator, the Fayetteville Police Department Mental Health Community Liaison, Fayetteville Police Department Victim Advocate, Sworn Fayetteville Police Department Counterpart(s), and overseen by the Administrative Services Manager.

Discussion ensued.

A consensus vote was not taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Dawkins recessed the meeting at 6:50 p.m., and reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

4.04 Budget Discussion and Revised Calendar

Mr. Jeffrey Yates, Assistant City Manager, presented this item with the aid of PowerPoint presentation and stated this briefing will provide an overview of the following: Review of the Parking Lot, General Fund Balance Review, ARPA Funding Review, Parks and Recreation Bond Financial Plan, 2022 General Obligation Bond Funding Plan, Revisions and Additions to the Parking Lot, and Recommended Calendar Revisions.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Ingram stated the Cape Fear Regional Theatre (CFRT) has requested \$2.5 million funding; \$500,000.00 per year for five years. Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, stated the CFRT request will need to be placed in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to place the CFRT request for \$2.5 million; \$500,000.00 allocation for five years into the CIP budget and bring back additional options.

4.05 City Council Agenda Item Request - Begin PWC Commissioner Appointment Process 8/1/2023 - Council Member Hondros

Council Member Hondros presented this item and stated he is seeking support from City Council to accelerate the appointment of the next Public Works Commissioner.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to open up the applications process for a Public Works Commissioner appointment as soon as possible and bring back a proposed accelerated appointment schedule. Council Members Haire and Thompson were opposed to the consensus vote.

4.06 City Council Agenda Item Request - Develop an Office of Community Safety and Mental Health - Council Member Jensen

Council Member Jensen presented this item and stated if Fayetteville residents have a mental health crisis after 6:00 p.m., there is no one to assist, except the Police, and further stated we need an Office of Community Safety and Mental Health.

Discussion ensued.

Consensus of Council was to direct staff to add this item to the Budget Parking Lot; for one dedicated person to identify and centralize, and to develop an Office of Community Safety and Mental Health.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.