

CITY COUNCIL\CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING
1225 RAMSEY STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, NC
MAY 14, 2015
11:00 A.M.

Present: Mayor Nat Robertson

Council Members Kady-Ann Davy (District 2); Chalmers McDougald (District 4); William J. L. Crisp (District 6); Larry O. Wright, Sr. (District 7); James W. Arp, Jr. (District 9)

Commissioners Kenneth S. Edge, Chairman; Marshall Faircloth, Vice Chair; Jeanette Council; Glenn Adams; Jimmy Keefe

Absent: Council Members Kathy Jensen (District 1); Mitchell Colvin (District 3); Robert T. Hurst, Jr. (District 5);

Theodore Mohn (District 8)

Others Present:

Chris Ray, Mayor, Spring Lake

Billy Horne, Mayor, Stedman

Theodore Voorhees, City Manager

Rochelle Small-Toney, Deputy City Manager

Jay Reinstein, Assistant City Manager

Karen McDonald, City Attorney

Victor Sharpe, Community Development Director

Rebecca Rogers-Carter, Strategic Program Analytics Director

Amy Cannon, County Manager

Rick Moorefield, County Attorney

Sally Shutt, County Communications and Strategic Initiative Manager

Candice White, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Warren Miller, President, Fountainworks, Inc.

Denise Neunaber, Executive Director of the NC Coalition to End Homelessness

AnneMarieMaiorano, Housing and Community Revitalization Division Director, Wake

County

Pamela Megill, City Clerk

Members of the Press

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by Cumberland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kenneth Edge and City of Fayetteville Mayor Nat Robertson. Chairman Edge stated the purpose of this joint meeting is to address homelessness in our community.

Mayor Pro Tem Davy thanked the County Commissioners for hosting the meeting and thanked County staff for facilitating the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Davy introduced Mr. Warren Miller, President of Fountainworks, Inc., and stated Mr. Miller will be facilitating the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Davy also introduced the two guest speakers, Ms. Denis Neunaber, Executive Director of the NC Coalition to End Homelessness, and Ms. AnneMarie Maiorano, Housing and Community Revitalization Division Director for Wake County. Mayor Pro Tem Davy stated both of our governing boards know the homelessness issues we have in our community as evidenced by the fact that we have identified reducing homelessness as a strategic objective. Additionally, the City has forged a partnership with the Fayetteville VA medical center to reach a common goal of ending veteran homelessness.

ORIENTATION

Mr. Warren Miller, President of Fountainworks, Inc., provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

SPEAKERS

Ms. Denise Neunaber, Executive Director of the NC Coalition to End Homelessness, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Shifting our System and Resources to End

Homelessness”, and stated the keys to ending homelessness are affordable housing, appropriate services, and adequate income. Ending homelessness means ensuring that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days.

She stated one night in January 2014 the overall count of people that were homeless was numbered at 11,440 in the State of North Carolina, of those 78 percent were sleeping in emergency shelters or transitional housing, 22 percent were sleeping in unsheltered locations, 65 percent were adults with no dependent children, 35 percent were people with families with children. She stated there is now a new approach to crisis intervention that is to use housing as an intervention and provide stabilization with the housing. Transform homeless services to crisis response systems that prevent homelessness and rapidly return people who experience homelessness to stable housing. We need to focus on permanent housing. She stated criminal history, bad credit history, housing history, and limited financial resources are all barriers to getting housing, and there are also barriers to keeping housing [financial (insufficient income and poor budgeting), behavioral problems, substance abuse and tenancy skills]. Ms. Neunaber concluded her presentation by stating two recommendations for moving forward are to invest in solutions and to invest in system oversight.

Ms. AnneMarie Maiorano, Housing and Community Revitalization Division Director of Wake County, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Wake County Housing Program, and stated the Multi-Service Intake Center is a joint effort by the City of Raleigh, Wake County, and Private Partnership to end and prevent homelessness. It serves as a main point of entry for coordinated assessment for homeless individuals and families, it addresses needs with clarity, dignity, and accuracy. She gave an overview of the voucher program, the various centers and housing complexes providing assistance to the homeless, review of existing affordable housing programs and the affordable housing development program in Wake County.

Mr. Miller facilitated discussion between County and City elected officials and developed a list of potential initiatives to address homelessness in the next year. The list included establishing a designated point-person to facilitate coordination of homeless efforts throughout the community, as well as developing a multi-service intake process for identifying homeless individuals and referring them to the appropriate resources, with the longer-term goal of establishing an intake center. Several elected officials called for engaging the faith community in a coordinated program to sponsor homeless families, similar to an effort Ms. Maiorano said was taking place in Wake County.

County Chair Edge stated a homelessness analysis and needs assessment was completed in November 2014 for the Continuum of Care and Cumberland County Community Development Department. A copy of the report was provided to the elected officials.

Consensus of the elected officials was to direct County and City staff to work jointly to prioritize the actions outlined and develop projects accordingly. Mr. Theodore Voorhees, City Manager, stated the City’s proposed budget provides the City’s \$10,000.00 contribution to purchase a Homeless Management Information System with Cumberland County, and \$40,000.00 to partner with the County to develop a joint approach to the coordination and oversight of the various homelessness activities in our community, with the County serving as the lead agency for most human service, social service, and behavioral health issues. Ms. Amy Cannon, County Manager, stated she has also included funding in her recommended budget for homelessness projects.

County Chair Edge thanked everyone for attending and thanked the speakers for their respective presentations. Mayor Robertson acknowledged and thanked the more than 50 people attending the meeting, including all the representatives present from organizations that work with the homeless.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.