

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL/CUMBERLAND
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
CROWN CENTER, HOSPITALITY SUITE
1960 COLISEUM DRIVE
OCTOBER 28, 2008
8:00 A.M.**

Present: Mayor Tony Chavonne

Council Members Keith A. Bates, Sr. (District 1); Charles E. Evans (District 2); Council Members Robert A. Massey, Jr. (District 3); Darrell J. Haire (District 4); Bobby Hurst, (District 5); William J. L. Crisp (District 6); Valencia A. Applewhite (District 7)(arrived 8:25 a.m.); Theodore W. Mohn (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

County Commissioners J. Breeden Blackwell, Chairman; Dr. Jeannette M. Council, Vice Chairman; Billy R. King; Kenneth S. Edge; Diane Wheatley; Dr. John T. Henley, Jr., Edward Melvin

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager
Doug Hewitt, Assistant City Manager
Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney
James Martin, County Manager
Amy H. Cannon, Assistant County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Assistant County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Harvey Raynor, Assistant County Attorney
Sara VanderClute, County Public Information Officer
Jackie Tuckey, Communications Manager/Public Information Officer
David Lawrence, UNC School of Government
Marsha Fogle, County Clerk
Marie Colgan, Deputy County Clerk
Candice H. White, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1. Call to Order and Invocation

City of Fayetteville Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne and J. Breeden Blackwell, Chairman of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order. Commissioner Diane Wheatley offered the invocation.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Council Member Crisp moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Council Member Massey

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Commissioner Wheatley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

3. David Lawrence – UNC School of Government

Mayor Chavonne introduced David Lawrence from the UNC School of Government and his presentation, "An Overview of Local Government".

Mr. Lawrence stated under the American federal system, state governments are primarily responsible for all governmental functions not delegated to the federal government under the U. S. Constitution and each of the fifty state governments have divided responsibility for all activities under its control between itself and its local units of government to include cities and counties. Mr. Lawrence stated the responsibilities may differ from state to state but in North Carolina, city and county general-purpose types of government units are responsible for the major governmental activities required in every community.

Mr. Lawrence noted cities were formed primarily at the request of the people within their jurisdiction to serve the needs of their inhabitants and counties were historically established to serve state purposes and perform state functions in a given area. Mr. Lawrence outlined the differing purposes served by cities and counties as political units and spoke to special districts and authorities such as sanitary districts and rural fire protection districts.

Mr. Lawrence continued by providing a brief overview of the history of local government in North Carolina, beginning with Colonial Times through the present. Mr. Lawrence also spoke briefly regarding the merger of some city and county governments.

Mr. Lawrence responded to questions regarding flexibility of state mandates, school board funds, and city and county law enforcement. Council Member Crisp inquired whether city and county mergers were functioning successfully. Mr. Lawrence responded that a number of mergers had taken place across the country but it was difficult to determine whether they were better off because no control groups existed. Mr. Lawrence stated mergers were voted down in North Carolina because the people did not perceive it to be of any value.

Mr. Lawrence covered the comparative roles of city and county governments in North Carolina, and noted that both city and county governments have very broad powers and may exercise them separately or jointly. Mr. Lawrence provided a handout comparing functional responsibilities for both cities and counties.

Mr. Lawrence responded to questions regarding an annexation study and involuntary annexation laws, functional responsibility for hospitals, and means by which to educate citizens regarding city and county mergers.

Mr. Lawrence concluded his presentation and stated the North Carolina pattern of local government is flexible and provides for much local control and, within the limitations prescribed, city councils and boards of county commissioners have the discretion to provide the services and functions that will best serve the needs of their communities.

Commissioner Blackwell asked whether there were other items to come forward. Mayor Chavonne and Commissioner King addressed the future role of leaders with regard to the Shaw Heights area.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.