

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
JULY 11, 2024
3:15 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Mitch Colvin

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1) (arrived via Teams at 3:28 p.m.); Malik Davis (District 2); Mario Benavente (District 3) (via Teams); D. J. Haire (District 4); Lynne Greene (District 5); Derrick Thompson (District 6); Brenda McNair (District 7) (arrived via Teams at 3:18 p.m.); Courtney Banks-McLaughlin (District 8); Deno Hondros (District 9) (via Teams)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, City Manager
Joshua Hall, Police Attorney
Kelly Olivera, Assistant City Manager
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager
Kemberle Braden, Police Chief
Kevin Dove, Fire Chief
Jerry Clipp, Human Resource Development Director
Loren Bymer, Marketing & Communications Director
Jennifer Ayre, Deputy City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Colvin called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Council Member Thompson.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Colvin and City Council.

4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to approve the agenda with the removal of Item 5.2, Closed Session for Attorney-Client Privilege.

SECOND: Council Member Thompson

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (8-0)

5.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5.1 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DISCUSSION

Mayor Colvin stated on June 27, 2024, Council held a special meeting where the School Board members attended, and City Council voted to approve the staff working with Cumberland County Schools (CCS) on a Memorandum of Agreement for School Resource Officers (SROs) and Traffic Control Officers (TCOs).

Mr. Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager, presented this item with the assistance of a powerpoint and stated the City received notice from the Sheriff's Office on May 21, 2024, that they would no longer be providing SROs and TCOs for schools within the Fayetteville City limits. That set in motion a series of meetings and communications about CCS's request to City Council for the Fayetteville Police Department to provide SROs and TCOs.

CCS will reimburse the City for the actual cost of 25 officers' salaries and benefits annually with an additional \$3,000.00 per SRO a year in one-time costs. The draft agreement does not cover all costs

such as cars and administrative support. CCS is willing to reimburse the City for TCOs in the following manner: FY25 at 100 percent and decreasing by 25 percent each fiscal year, ending with no reimbursement in FY29.

Mr. Lindsay presented key points from Police Chief Kemberle Braden regarding the feasibility of the request. Beginning August 26, 2024, the Police Department recommends having 6 roving SROs for 9 high schools and all other schools will need separate security provided by CCS. By January 1, 2025, hire, train, and assign 9 SROs to all 9 high schools. By August 2025, hire and train an additional 10 or more SROs to cover all 10 middle schools. The estimated annual cost of TCOs is in excess of \$1.1 million for 66 TCOs to cover all City Schools. The Fayetteville Police Department will respond to all 911 calls for service at the City schools.

This solution is not cost neutral. The one-time cost of a police vehicle and computer for an officer is \$61,090.00. Recurring costs for uniforms, supplies, training, and five-year amortization of the one-time costs is \$13,888.00 per officer. At five years for all costs, even with CCS paying salary and benefits plus a \$3,000.00 one-time payment, it would cost the City an estimated \$1,661,000.00 if fully staffed at 25 SROs. This does not include fuel, repairs, software, body worn cameras, weapons, and other indirect costs.

Discussion ensued regarding the draft agreement, funding, and ability for the Police Department to manage the SROs and TCOs.

MOTION: Council Member Banks-McLaughlin moved to direct staff to work with the School Board to revise the SROs agreement to be a one-year term, based upon what the staffing levels that the Police Chief can provide and in that 12-month period seek to revise a longer-term agreement that would contemplate changes similar to the Wake County agreement.

SECOND: Council Member Thompson

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 9 in favor to 1 in opposition (Council Member Benavente)

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to have a discussion at the August work session about having a meeting inviting Cumberland County Schools, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, and the Cumberland County Sheriff.

SECOND: Council Member Benavente

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Council Member Greene requested a friendly amendment to extend the discussion to the September or October work session.

Council Member Hondros accepted the friendly amendment for the August or September work session. Council Member Benavente removed his second.

MOTION: Council Member Hondros moved to have a discussion item on the August or September work session for Council to discuss requesting a future formal meeting with County partners to discuss a long-term collaboration.

SECOND: Council Member Davis

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 9 in favor to 1 in opposition (Council Member Benavente)

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to authorize the City Manager the authority to provide TCOs at designated schools within the City and to execute a one-year memorandum of agreement to provide TCOs.

SECOND: Council Member Davis

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Council Member Thompson requested adding discussion of a long-term plan to address how this can be funded.

Council Member Haire accepted the friendly amendment.

MOTION: Council Member Haire moved to authorize the City Manager the authority to provide TCOs at designated schools within the City and to execute a one-year memorandum of agreement to provide TCOs and have discussions for a long-term plan to address funding.

SECOND: Council Member Davis

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 9 in favor to 1 in opposition (Council Member Benavente)

5.2 CLOSED SESSION FOR ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

This item was removed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.