

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
NOVEMBER 28, 2016
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Nat Robertson

Council Members Katherine K. Jensen (District 1); Kirk deViere (District 2); Mitchell Colvin, Jr. (District 3); Robert T. Hurst, Jr. (District 5); Larry O. Wright, Sr. (District 7); Theodore Mohn (District 8); James W. Arp (District 9)

Absent: Council Members Chalmers McDougald (District 4); William J. L. Crisp (District 6)

Others Present: Douglas Hewett, city Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Kristoff Bauer, Deputy City Manager
Jay Reinstein, Assistant City Manager
Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Director
Jim Palenick, Economic and Business Development Director
Victor Sharpe, Community Development Director
Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Director
Scott Shuford, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Anthony Kelly, Interim Police Chief
Rob Stone, Engineering and Infrastructure Director
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robertson called the meeting to order and announced this is the second public hearing on the subject of baseball.

Mayor Pro Tem Colvin, Baseball Committee Chair, thanked all in attendance for their interest in baseball and our community, and stated the Council is interested to hear from the public on the proposed baseball park. Mayor Pro Tem Colvin stated the proposed baseball stadium is viewed as an economic development tool.

2.0 INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Council Member Wright.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Mayor Robertson and City Council.

4.0 UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER

Mr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager, presented this item with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and stated staff anticipates the agreement with the Houston Astros will be formally considered by the City Council at a special meeting on December 13, 2016. Mr. Hewett provided an overview of parking within half a mile of the proposed stadium. He showed drawings of the conceptual design of the proposed stadium, and stated this will be a community asset, not just a baseball stadium.

5.0 PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Public Hearing on the Proposed Baseball Stadium

This is the advertised public hearing set for this date and time, the public hearing was opened.

Mr. Ralph Huff, 606 Forest Lake Road, Fayetteville, NC, appeared in favor and praised the City Council for their unanimity for the proposed baseball stadium, this project and others will transform us to catch up with other municipalities in this state.

Ms. Sharon Valentine stated she is a cheerleader for the proposed baseball stadium, and said she thinks the Murchison Road location would have been a better selection rather than the downtown location, and cautioned that the downtown location may suffer flooding.

Mr. Bill Bowman, 1662 Greenock Avenue, Fayetteville, NC, appeared in favor and supports the proposed baseball stadium, and requested the Baseball Committee seriously consider naming the proposed baseball stadium the "Babe Ruth, Baseball Stadium".

Mr. Darden Jenkins stated he is committed to this project, and said it would be nice for everyone to all get on the same sheet of music and support the baseball stadium; I am here to help, this is a great project.

Ms. Denise Williams stated she does not think the proposed baseball park is a good idea, and will create a lot of traffic problems. There are a lot of poor people in Fayetteville, and the \$33,000,000.00 could be put towards helping the poor and homeless.

Mr. Jerry Reinoehl, 516 Deer Path Drive, Fayetteville, NC, expressed his concerns regarding the pedestrian overpass and provided a handout showing examples of various types of pedestrian overpasses.

Mr. Terry Samperton appeared in favor of the proposed baseball park; this is a giant step for Fayetteville, and if taxes need to be raised a penny or two, I am all for it, let's move this project forward.

Mr. Charles Matthews stated the proposed baseball stadium will greatly enhance the City of Fayetteville. Mr. Matthews cautioned against placing the stadium next to a railway station and in an area subject to flooding, and recommended locating the stadium on Murchison Road (adjacent to Shaw Mill Road).

Mr. Justin Hall stated he has a vested interest in the proposed stadium; it will create great synergy for commerce, and asked what will happen to the J.P. Riddle stadium. Mr. Hall also asked what the team will be named and said he preferred the name "Patriots".

Ms. Jackie Taylor stated a downtown stadium will be an economic driver for the downtown area, especially many of the empty buildings, and stated she is looking forward to new restaurants locating in the downtown area. All great cities in this country have baseball.

Mr. Dave Wilson stated he is very enthusiastic about the baseball plans, the City needs something in its core. The Prince Charles Hotel has been nothing less than a disaster, and expressed concerns regarding the Prince Charles Hotel having linkage with the proposed baseball park.

Discussion ensued.

There being no one further to speak, the public hearing was closed.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.