

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 30, 2002, 7:30 AM
SPECIAL MEETING WITH FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
HOLIDAY INN BORDEAUX – WELLINGTONS**

PRESENT: Chairman Breeden Blackwell
V. Chairman Talmage Baggett
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth S. Edge
Commissioner John Henley
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner J. Lee Warren, Jr.
Mayor Marshall Pitts
Mayor Pro Tem Mark Kendrick
Councilmember Lois Kirby
Councilmember Curtis Worthy
Councilmember D.J. Haire
Councilmember Mabel Smith
Councilmember Juanita Gonzalez
James Martin, County Manager
Roger Stancil, City Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Lisa Smith, City Finance Director
Jason Brady, City Public Information Officer
Tonya Harris-Council, County Public Information
Officer
Director
Tom Lloyd, County Interim Planning/Inspections
Monroe Rascoe, County Animal Control Director

The two Boards were called to order. Councilmember Curtis Worthy delivered the Invocation and the group enjoyed breakfast.

Issues of concern:

1. Cleaning up of the gateways to our city, specifically, Murchison Road at

the Fort Bragg end.

Councilman Haire noted that one of the City's goals is to clean up the gateways to the City. He asked what if anything the county is doing in that regard.

It was noted that at the last City-County Liaison meeting, last week, the Liaison Committee approved the recommendation for a Joint Appearance Commission. This recommendation will go to the two Boards for action. In addition, it was noted the County Inspection Department is working on some issues in that particular area dealing with structures that are not in compliance; however, those issues cannot be resolved overnight. The County supports the clean-up efforts by organizations. The County does not have staff to do roadside cleanup. Tom Lloyd noted that Spring Lake is applying for a grant to assist them in landscaping and in sidewalk construction. The County Planning Staff is updating the zoning ordinance to address non-residential areas so that developers address the appearance issues as they develop. The ordinance will come to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Baggett noted some areas on 301 Business that needs some attention, such as mowing the grass. He said grass is growing up along the median barriers. He also noted that area in front of the Coliseum needs some maintenance.

2. New traffic pattern for Bragg Boulevard, Murchison Road.

It was noted that a presentation was made to the County by Rick Heicksen of the County Planning Department reviewing the options. Ft. Bragg will review the options. At this time no decision has been made about the new traffic pattern.

Commissioner Henley said it was his guess that Bragg Boulevard would be closed. He suggested that we push to speed up construction of the outer loop in addition to the Bragg Boulevard-Murchison Road project.

3. Newport Generation Plant

Mayor Pitts said the Newport Generation Plant project may be in jeopardy. He noted the importance of the project to the community. He said it was a project in which there would be very little drain on our infrastructure and would expand our tax base. He noted that the City of Fayetteville is not planning nor can it legally annex Eastover. The annexation issue appears to be a problem and is one that could affect bringing the Generation Plant to our area. He said that the Eastover Water and Sewer District will

have the right of first refusal on the project. The Mayor said annexation is not an issue.

Commissioner Baggett noted that annexation was a concern. He noted there has been no communication with the “elected” officials in the Eastover Water & Sewer District concerning this project. He said if annexation is not an issue, look at doing the project without annexing the property in question.

Councilmember Lois Kirby noted the importance of both boards working together for the good of all of the citizens.

Commissioner Baggett noted this Newport Generation Plant is a “venture capital project”. He said Newport has never built a generation plant. He said he was sure they would sell the plant at some point.

Councilmember Worthy said the project would be a win-win for the City and the County.

Chairman Breeden Blackwell suggested a committee be formed to discuss the issues related to the project.

Commissioner Henley noted this issue has not been discussed at PWC Board meetings. He said he is not clear about why the new plant would want to be annexed and subject to city taxes. Commissioner Henley suggested that we need to look at the larger issue of how the decisions made by PWC affects the county, while the county has no vote or input. He said the short-term issue is the Newport Generation Plant; however, the elected officials need to look at the long-term issues also.

Councilmember Mabel Smith suggested that what affects the City also affects the County and vice versa. She said no one can guarantee what will happen 20-30 years down the road.

Commissioner Warren noted that the Eastover Sanitary District is an elected body and by law is only 2-3 steps away from being a municipality. It already has some of the same powers enjoyed by municipalities. He said we owe it to all the citizens to be fair. He noted that the Eastover residents are not in favor of annexation whether it be 100 acres or 12 acres. Commissioner Warren also noted that federal funds are being used for the Eastover Sanitary District and one of the conditions is that as long as the funds are owed to the federal government, none of the area can be annexed.

Chairman Blackwell appointed Commissioner Henley, Commissioner Baggett and County Manager James Martin as the county’s representation on a committee to talk

about the Newport General Plant. The Mayor will appoint some people from the City. Included will be members from the Eastover Sanitary District Board as well as someone from Newport Generation. The Committee will report back to its respective boards ASAP.

Commissioner Edge said the Boards ought to start believing what the other is saying. He said he believes it when the Mayor tells him the City is not interested in annexing Eastover. He also noted the importance of being better informed on issues.

4. Sales Tax Distribution

Mayor Pitts said it is his belief the County will change the way it distributes the sales tax. He said he did not believe the County had any choice. He asked that the County consider phasing in the ad valorem method over a three-year period. In addition, he noted that in counties where this is currently the method of distribution, counties are working with municipality on equity issues. He noted the cities don't get any meals tax funds or occupancy tax money. He said the City has no extraterritorial on municipal influence area rights. He said Fayetteville is totally shut out. He said please consider the equity issue and phasing in the ad valorem method over a three-year period if and when the sales tax distribution is changed.

Commissioner King said he thought what the City is asking was reasonable and the Board would be sensitive to the request.

It was noted the County will be making a decision about the sales tax distribution issue by April of 2003.

5. Public meeting for Fayetteville citizens

Chairman Blackwell said the County will schedule a public meeting for Fayetteville city residents to express their thoughts and concerns.

Commissioner Baggett said he thought nothing would do more to foster a good relationship than the county having a voting member on the PWC Board. He asked the City to give this some consideration.

Mayor Pitts said he had no problem with the County having a commissioner on the PWC Board. He said the problem lies in that the General Assembly would have to approve

the amendments to the Charter and he has concerns about opening up the City Charter to the “whims” of the legislature.

Commissioner Baggett said he felt we had good local representation at the state level to take this local bill and get it passed in a manner that would not provide problems for the City.

The two Boards decided they would meet again in September.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:20AM