

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 10, 2006, 8:00AM
JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND THE FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL

PRESENT: Chairman Billy R. King
Vice Chairman Kenneth S. Edge
Commissioner Talmage S. Baggett, Jr.
Commissioner J. Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Jeannette M. Council
Commissioner Diane Wheatley
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk to the Board
Sara VanderClute, Pubic Information Officer
Other County Staff
Mayor Tony Chavonne
Mayor Pro Tem Robert Massey
Councilman Keith Bates
Councilman D.J. Haire
Councilman Paul Williams
Councilman Curtis worthy
Councilman Wesley Meredith
Kyle Sonnenberg – Acting City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Candice White, City Clerk
Other City Staff

1. The Chairman and Mayor called their respective Boards to order.
2. Consideration of a Closed Session to discuss an Economic Development Matter (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4))

This item was removed from the agenda.

3. Discussion regarding the City developing zoning compatible with the County's R40 in newly annexed areas

Commissioner Baggett asked the City to consider developing similar zoning to the County's R40 which would designate comparable density in some of the annexed areas. The new zoning designation would be especially helpful in those areas with poor soils.

No action.

4. Discussion of sewer extension policy

Kyle Sonnenberg, Acting City Manager, said that staff from the city and county are working to put together a map outlining future extensions. Growth patterns, topography, etc. will be taken into consideration in developing the map.

A meeting will be called in the next few weeks to bring everyone up to date on issues that are ready to go. The map will take a little while longer to prepare.

5. Discussion/update of Transit System Feasibility Study

Both Boards approved asking the NCDOT to do a regional transit system study. A letter has been forwarded to the State requesting such a study.

Councilman Wesley Meredith inquired if both boards would be willing to provide the funding for a system once a study has been completed. He noted there is no need to spend money on a study if the two Boards are not willing to fund the recommendations.

Chairman King said there needs to be a dedicated funding source to fund a transit system.

Commissioner Wheatley said that perhaps the study could address whether or not a regional transit system is needed. She suggested that perhaps transportation subsidies could be used to provide service to those people who are truly in need of transportation assistance as opposed to a larger service area.

Commissioner Edge said it would be difficult to unconditionally support funding without having an opportunity to assess the study results. He noted that the County has other major capital outlay issues it must address and that those issues would take priority.

The Transit Committee will be meeting next week.

6. Update: Government Consolidation Study

Commissioner Blackwell noted the study is underway and department heads from the county and city are being interviewed. He also noted there will be another video conference scheduled at which the Columbus, Georgia merged groups would be available to answer questions. The video conference will be at FTCC. No date has been set at this time.

7. Discussion of storm water management issues

The City has identified the need for \$43 million to address storm water improvements and has asked that it be allowed to increase its storm water fee in the city limits to address these needs. The County and City Attorney are working on some changes in Storm Water Utility Ordinance and interlocal agreement to authorize an increase of fees for the

City. The draft of these changes will go to both governing boards for review and approval. The County Attorney explained that the County sets and collects the fees and the City operates the Storm Water Utility. We are currently operating in Phase I, which primarily addresses quality issues and not quantity problems. The agreement was modified about six years ago to allow some minor repairs. The General Assembly has adopted rules for Phase II, which will become effective next year.

Councilman Bates suggested the City should review some of its policies and building standards before Phase II starts.

Councilman Worthy suggested that the revenues could perhaps be re-directed for better use.

The Storm Water Utility collects fees in the amount of about \$2 million per year. The additional fee increase for the City will be used to address some of its major projects.

The County Manager noted that the Facilities Committee has asked for an estimate of the cost to conduct a study of drainage issues along Locks Creek. Once the study is completed funding will have to be found to correct the problem.

8. BRAC Update

The Mayor noted there are two BRAC committees. One is the Regional BRAC Committee made up of 11 counties, Ft. Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. This committee has applied for a \$1.2 million grant from the federal government. The grant will be used to address growth management and the impact of BRAC growth.

Representatives from the City, County and FACVB went to Atlanta in September and met with over 800 people, providing information regarding housing, education and quality of life in Cumberland County. Other meetings will also be held – one in February geared to education issues and one in April geared to housing.

A local BRAC Committee has been formed to address local issues.

Councilman Worthy noted the importance of holding down the tax rate as part of our effort in marketing Cumberland County as the destination for BRAC families coming into this area.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:05AM.