

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2008, 8:00AM
CROWN CENTER

PRESENT: Chairman Breeden Blackwell
Vice Chair Jeannette Council
Commissioner Kenneth Edge
Commissioner Diane Wheatley
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Harvey Raynor, Deputy County Attorney
Sara VanderClute, PIO
Marie Colgan, Deputy County Clerk
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
City Council – all members present
Dale Iman, City Manager
Candice White, City Clerk
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Other City Staff

The purpose of this special meeting is to receive a presentation from David Lawrence, School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill, regarding the functions of city and county governments.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and the Mayor of the City of Fayetteville.

Both boards unanimously approved the agenda.

David Lawrence reviewed the statutes pertaining to the function of county and city governments. Historically, counties developed as subdivisions of the state to provide state services within geographic areas. Municipalities developed as residents grouped together in increasingly urban densities and sought to have a higher level of services provided. The one thing that city governments are mandated to do is code enforcement. He noted that there are certain activities the state authorizes for counties and certain activities for cities. Counties are subject to a number of “mandates”, which may or not include funding from state government. Cities have more “local choice” on what services they may provide. Counties now have authority to do just about anything a city can do except for street maintenance and construction and operation of public utilities.

Counties are more decentralized than cities in that Boards of Commissioners and County Managers have less authority over many departments or agencies as far as hiring and functions. Cities are highly centralized and have more control over budgetary issues and greater control to guide city policy. The County Manager in many instances does not have authority for hiring in some of the agencies in county government. In contrast, the City Manager pretty much hires all city department heads. Counties are required by law to provide funding for schools, but have no authority on how the funds should be spent. Counties also are responsible for human services, for which the state supplies the largest portion of the funding, and also mandates how the funding shall be used.

In reply to questions concerning merger of local governments, Mr. Lawrence noted that because merger does not accomplish monetary savings, may towns/counties elect not to

do it. Commissioner Council noted that merger is not always done to save money, but in some instances it provides more efficiency and greater convenience for the public.

In reply to annexation questions, Mr. Lawrence said the law never intended that “donuts” (areas sandwiched in between city lines that have not been annexed) be formed. Specifically, relating to the Shaw Heights annexation issue, the Mayor noted that city staff has been directed to look at Shaw Heights and other “donut” areas that are in need of city-type services.

So, in closing, Mr. Lawrence noted that the differences between county and municipal governments are functionality, decentralization and state involvement.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Clerk to the Board