

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – FY15 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
1225 RAMSEY STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM B, FAYETTEVILLE, NC
FEBRUARY 18, 2014 – 7:30 AM
MINUTES

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council, Chairman
James Martin, County Manager
Amy Cannon, Deputy County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Quentin McPhatter, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Melissa Cardinali, Finance Director
Sally Shutt, Public Information Director
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Marshall Faircloth
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Billy King
Commissioner Ed Melvin

CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE

PRESENT: Mayor Nat Robertson
Council Member Kady-Ann Davy (District 2)
Council Member Robert T. Hurst, Jr. (District 5)
Council Member Lawrence O. Wright, Jr. (District 7)
Theodore L. Voorhees, City Manager
Kristoff Bauer, Deputy City Manager
Jay Reinstein, Assistant City Manager
Scott Shuford, Development Services Director
Victor Sharpe, Community Development Director
Rebecca Rogers-Carter, Strategic Planning Manager
Pamela J. Megill, City Clerk

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE
AND FAYETTEVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER

PRESENT: Russ Rogerson, Executive Vice President
Hanah Ehrenreich, Fayetteville Regional Chamber Economic
Development Consultant

FAEGREBD REPRESENTATIVES:

PRESENT: David Gogol, Vice Chair
Nick Weber, Director
Beena Patel, Managing Advisor

The purpose of this special meeting was to develop the FY15 federal agenda and a strategy to achieve the goals. This meeting also provided an opportunity to meet the FaegreBD representatives and learn about the outlook for various federal programs.

Rebecca Rogers-Carter, Strategic Planning Manager, called the meeting to order and introduced FaegreBD consulting team members David Gogol, Nick Weber and Beena Patel. Mr. Gogol shared information about FaegreBD stating its approach is goal driven and they want to have a plan developed that is measurable, resource oriented and targeted. Mr. Gogol stated FaegreBD is bipartisan and attempts to be realistic by working within the existing environment. Mr. Gogol provided a brief history of grants dating back to the 1970's and the introduction of earmarks to meet specific needs. Mr. Gogol asked attendees to introduce themselves, and asked each elected official to highlight the major concerns and issues of their respective governing bodies.

Chairman Council stated the Board of County Commissioners has not decided on priorities as a group but due to the complexity of county government, the priorities do not change much from year to year. Chairman Council stated the biggest priority centers around education because it takes up a lot of the county's budget, and the school systems serves a large amount of federally connected students and special need students. Chairman Council also stated the county has needs related to veteran services because of the large number of veterans in the community who are dealing with mental health issues. Chairman Council further stated the detention center stays full and there needs to be alternative ways to assist military service people and their families. Chairman Council stated demands on the county are huge and the county lacks discretionary funds to deal with the demands.

Mayor Robertson stated the Fayetteville City Council recently participated in a Strategic Planning retreat and the top priorities identified were crime, economic development and quality of life issues associated with parks and recreation. Mayor Robertson also stated breaking and entering and human trafficking are major concerns as they relate to the crime issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Davy stated she would like to see more grant opportunities and perhaps identify grant opportunities to partner with the county. Mayor Pro Tem Davy stated she has concerns related to homelessness, expanding transit to a regional level and economic development that would bring more industry to the area.

Council Member Wright stated he was concerned about crime, with gun violence and breaking and entering being the primary concerns. Council Member Wright also stated he had concerns about economic development to include disenfranchised businesses. Council Member Wright acknowledged the good working relationship between the city and the county, and stated community recreations opportunities need to be enhanced for the community because it will help reduce crime.

Council Member Hurst stated he appreciates the relationship between the city and the county and the two governing bodies working well together. Council Member Hurst stated he would like to see grant opportunities for the newly initiated Gateways and Roads Committee program and for the Fayetteville Beautiful program. He also stated he would like to see workforce training initiatives.

Mr. Gogol inquired as to whether the parks and recreation needs were for capital construction or land. Mr. Voorhees responded new construction and federal property not on the Ft. Bragg post may be helpful. Ms. Rogers-Carter stated one of the points identified in the citizen survey conducted by the city highlighted the need and desire for more public swimming pools.

Ted Voorhees, Fayetteville City Manager, stated the city is unique because it serves as the retail and medical services hub for an eight county region. Mr. Voorhees stated the city has approximately 208,000 residents and that count may increase up to 500,000 when taking into account people who travel to the city from neighboring counties and smaller towns. Mr. Voorhees stated the city is unable to scale its public safety services to meet that need and traffic congestion is a direct result of this influx of non-residents. Mr. Voorhees also stated Fayetteville has the lowest property tax base of any of the major cities in the state and has a very thin stream of revenue from which to operate. Mr. Voorhees further stated Fayetteville has over 100,000 residents on Ft. Bragg who are federally connected and 48% of the city's employment is connected to the military. Mr. Voorhees expressed concern for the lack of industry and professional level jobs, and stated the largest employers in the area are city and county governments, the Cape Fear Valley Health System, Goodyear and Walmart. Mr. Voorhees stated the community has a good school system, a huge stream of well-trained military and is close to the Research Triangle, but business and industry will not come to the area.

Mr. Gogol inquired regarding workforce development and stated there may be an opportunity to map federal initiatives around the re-employment of veterans. Mr. Gogol also stated the large military base and the community's great relationship with the military base may provide an opportunity to create a model that could possibly draw more attention to the area.

Council Member Wright stated he has resided in Fayetteville since 1976 and becomes frustrated when he sees the growth happening around the area but not in it. Council Member Wright stated the focus needs to be on bringing jobs to the area and the biggest challenge is how to accomplish it.

James Martin, County Manager, stated the federal advocacy program poses a great opportunity and also a great challenge. Mr. Martin stated all the issues he had heard brought forward are relevant and he feels the two keys to addressing the issues are finding a way to create jobs and capital investment.

A brief discussion ensued regarding programs and assistance for the homeless and the need to look at homelessness in a different way in order to provide one-stop services, housing and economic development programs.

Ms. Rogers-Carter thanked the elected officials for their participation in the meeting.

February 18, 2014 Special Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board