

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
J.W. SEABROOK AUDITORIUM
FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
1200 MURCHISON ROAD
DECEMBER 2, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Nat Robertson

Council Members Kathy Jensen (District 1); Kady-Ann Davy (District 2); Mitchell Colvin (District 3); Chalmers McDougald (District 4); Robert T. Hurst (District 5); Larry Wright, Sr. (District 7); Theodore W. Mohn (District 8); Jim Arp (District 9)

Absent: William J. L. Crisp (District 6)

Others Present:

Theodore L. Voorhees, City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Kristoff Bauer, Deputy City Manager
Rochelle Small-Toney, Deputy City Manager
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Members of the Press

1.0 Welcome

Mr. Ricardo Morgan, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed those in attendance.

2.0 Posting of the Colors

Police and Fire Departments Honor Guard Team performed the Posting of the Colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by those in attendance.

4.0 National Anthem

Ms. Jasmin Sessoms sang the National Anthem.

5.0 Invocation

The invocation was offered by Reverend Reginald Johnston.

6.0 Administration of Oaths of Office

Mr. Nat Robertson was sworn in by the Honorable James Floyd Ammons, Jr., Senior Resident Superior Court Judge.

Ms. Kathy Jensen, District 1, was sworn in by Jimmy Keefe, Chairman, Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Kady-Ann Davy, District 2, was sworn in by Ms. Mable C. Smith, Notary Public.

Mr. Mitchell Colvin, District 3, was sworn in by the Honorable Cheri Beasley, North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice.

Mr. Chalmers McDougald, District 4, was sworn in by the Honorable Edward A. Pone, District Court Judge.

Mr. Robert Thomas Hurst, Jr., District 5, was sworn in by the Honorable James Floyd Ammons, Jr., Senior Resident Superior Court Judge.

Mr. Larry Wright, Sr., District 7, was sworn in by Ms. Mable C. Smith, Notary Public.

Mr. Theodore W. Mohn, District 8, was sworn in by Council Member D.J. Haire, Notary Public.

Mr. James William Arp, Jr., District 9, was sworn in by the Honorable James Floyd Ammons, Jr., Senior Resident Superior Court Judge.

7.0 Call to Order

Mayor Robertson called the meeting to order and thanked all present for their attendance.

8.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Council Member Hurst moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Arp

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

9.0 Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Robertson called for nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tempore.

MOTION: Council Member McDougald moved to nominate Council Member Davy for the position of Mayor Pro Tempore.

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Arp

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

10.0 Opening Address

Mayor Robertson gave the following opening address:

It is with great honor that I now stand here representing you, representing over 200,000 residents and representing our newly elected City Council. This City Council has some large shoes to fill going forward, but I am confident you will see us working together, united.

I would like to begin by recognizing so many special guests that we have with us tonight.

Please excuse me for not recognizing each of you individually but there are so many dignitaries here, it would take a while. Let me just say the Council and the community appreciate you being here, sharing this time with us.

I would like to thank Fayetteville State University and Chancellor James Anderson for partnering with the City and allowing us to use this beautiful venue tonight, Ms. Jasmin Sessoms for a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem, our Fire & Police Department Honor Guard, Reverend Reginald Johnston from My Father's House Christian Church and a special thank you to my good friend, our Master of Ceremonies, Ricardo Morgan.

Please allow me this opportunity to extend a warm and grateful welcome and appreciation to one of this City's best assets, a person who has served Fayetteville tirelessly for 26 years and has announced her retirement effective December 31st. Mrs. Brenda Barbour has served side by side with five Mayors and dozens of Council Members. She has been the glue that has kept us all together. Thank you Brenda for your service.

Tonight marks the first official Council meeting with us serving together to represent Fayetteville and its residents. This meeting signifies a time of transition as six new Council Members, including myself, take office. That's a large number of newly elected officials. But that's also a great reason to get excited.

The recent municipal election was highlighted by the largest voter turnout in quite some time. That's a clear sign that Fayetteville residents are paying more attention to City government and are demanding greater responsiveness and accountability. Mayor Chavonne and past Council Members dedicated so much of their time to serving our residents. Their hard work and efforts have created a foundation giving all residents a reason to be involved and excited about their local government.

We will run with the torch that was passed to us by Mayor Chavonne and the former Council Members. We will work closer with the County Commissioners and County staff and will continue to foster the relationship we have with Lieutenant General Anderson and Fort Bragg. One area of opportunity we can improve on is our ability to work together in unison and harmony. We will utilize good teamwork and set good policy to provide quality services to all residents.

We all agree that one of those common goals is to reduce crime in our city. No doubt that crime is a problem in Fayetteville. Property crimes plague our city but we have the right man for the job in Police Chief Harold Medlock. This Council will stand with the Chief and provide the resources he needs to make a difference. I am in support of quarterly crime summits that bring the community and our government partners together to discuss criminal behavior and find solutions that will improve outcomes. This Mayor and this City Council are ready to do whatever it takes to make Fayetteville a safer place for you to live and do business.

Crime affects our quality of life; it also affects economic development in our community. The unemployment rate in Fayetteville is unacceptable. It's my job as Mayor and our job as Council to provide ideas, incentives and sound public policy to bring more good paying jobs to Fayetteville.

As a former business owner, I am excited to work with our business community to improve our local economy and make it easier for businesses to do business in Fayetteville. We will work with Doug Peters and the Chamber to expand our tax base and bring those good paying jobs home.

Our list of challenges is long – homelessness, public transportation, development codes, traffic, stormwater and our PWC relationship. I know that now is the time to come together, to listen to one another, to build consensus and find solutions that will serve our residents.

Tonight, on my first night as your Mayor, I challenge all of us to work hard and leave our egos at home and focus on doing the “right things for the right reasons.”

I, Nat Robertson, declare that everyone in Fayetteville matters and this Council will work its hardest at making sure that basic services are provided and everyone’s needs are met. That might seem like a tall task, but it’s a task worth accomplishing. And I will do my best each day as Mayor to meet that goal and every goal that is placed before this City Council.

Please join me again in welcoming your new City Council to work!

11.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

12.0 Retire the Colors

The Fayetteville Police and Fire Departments Honor Guard Team retired the colors.