

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**MAY 15, 2008**

**5:00 P.M.**

**LAFAYETTE ROOM**

Present: Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne

Council Members Keith A. Bates, Sr. (District 1)(departed at 6:40 p.m.);

Charles E. Evans (District 2); Darrell J. Haire (District 4); Bobby Hurst (District 5); William J. L. Crisp (District 6); Valencia A. Applewhite (District 7); Theodore W. Mohn (District 8); Wesley A. Meredith (District 9)

Absent: Council Member Robert A. Massey, Jr. (District 3)

Others Present: Dale E. Iman, City Manager

Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager

Stanley Victrum, Assistant City Manager

Doug Hewett, Assistant City Manager

Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney

Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Manager

Candice H. White, City Clerk

Press

Mayor Chavonne called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Dale E. Iman, City Manager, stated budget amounts were at their maximum with the fund balance level at 10% of the general fund. Mr. Iman further stated this was consistent with City Council policy.

Mr. Iman reviewed the following in response to questions submitted by City Council:

- o Scope of services to be provided by the Cumberland County Business Council (CCBC) for a contract amount of \$415,000;
  - o Debt issuance to finance construction of stormwater projects;
  - o Funding for payments in lieu of sidewalks currently at \$59,946 and funding for open space fees currently at \$151,062;
  - o Police Department fleet currently at 379 vehicles;
  - o Take-home vehicles across the City currently at 271;
  - o Citizens on Patrol (COP) program budgets for FY 2007-2008 compared to FY 2008-2009 and number of vehicles assigned to the program;
  - o Seven soil streets remaining to be addressed in 2010 following completion of projects funded in FY 2008-2009 and seventeen soil streets not to be recommended for paving.
- In response to a question posed by Council Member Haire, Kyle Sonnenberg, Assistant City Manager, explained the CCBC marketed big box structures as part of its business and industrial site inventory. Discussion ensued regarding Council input to services provided by the CCBC, accountability measures, lack of success in attracting new businesses to the area and growing the City's tax base. Council Member Hurst stated the CCBC had made a commitment to submit quarterly reports to the City.

Mr. Iman stated \$43 million in stormwater improvements had been identified; the engineering and construction of smaller miscellaneous projects were being funded from current revenues with larger projects being funded by pay-as-you-go. Mr. Iman further stated bonds to fund larger projects would not be needed until FY 2009-2010.

Discussion ensued regarding take-home vehicles and reimbursement of personal vehicle use for work-related travel. Mr. Iman noted the take-home policy had been amended to eliminate out-of-county take-home vehicles and reduce the number of take-home vehicles.

With regard to the Citizens on Patrol program, Mr. Iman stated the Police Department was reexamining the structure of the program and believed sufficient funding would be available within the program budget. Mr. Iman further stated the Police Department general operating budget should accommodate any improvements to the program.

In response to questions regarding soil streets, Mr. Iman explained the seventeen streets within the City that were not recommended for paving consisted of nonfunctional streets such as stubs and turnarounds in addition to situations unique to the individual streets. Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation beginning with an overview of the general fund and other revenue funds to include stormwater, recycling, transit and airport. Mrs. Broyles followed with an overview of general fund revenue assumptions.

Mrs. Broyles then provided an overview of the FY 2008-2009 fee schedule and outlined recommended fee changes for Engineering and Infrastructure, Fire, Inspection, Police, Parks and Recreation, and Solid Waste Departments. Mrs. Broyles reviewed changes to parking fees and contractor parking permits.

Discussion ensued regarding a loss of funds in prior years for street closings and current increases in fees associated with advertising and notification costs. Council Member Crisp asked about street paving assessments. Mr. Iman explained subsidies were available for qualifying property owners.

Discussion ensued regarding the basis for the calculation of fire inspection fees. Mayor Chavonne asked that staff compare the city's rates to other cities and similar services in Cumberland County.

Discussion continued regarding Park and Recreation fees for Festival Park, the Dogwood Festival and International Folk Festival. Council Member Meredith inquired about changes to the fee schedule pursuant to adoption by Council. Karen M. McDonald, City Attorney, responded the fee schedule could be amended and a budget ordinance amendment would not be required to do so.

Mr. Iman responded to questions regarding solid waste abatement fees. Doug Hewett, Assistant City Manager, spoke to options under review for larger recycling carts.

With regard to the increase in the parking space fee, Mr. Sonnenberg stated parking space lessees and the Downtown Parking Committee had reviewed and agreed with the increase to \$35, which would apply to all lots except the Franklin Commons lot. Mr. Iman explained leased parking spaces were not guaranteed during special events or weekends and lessees were informed of this in advance.

Mrs. Broyles continued with an overview of FY 2008-2009 transit, stormwater, and recycling revenues and expenditures. Mrs. Broyles noted the fee schedule for transit had been revised consistent with Council action not to increase transit fares. Discussion ensued regarding the April 28, 2008 motion for a \$100,000 budget increase for transit, changes to transit staffing and pay plans, and the \$100,000 commitment to the Goodyear Company. Mr. Iman noted funds from the elimination of solid waste reimbursements to townhomes and condominiums and prolongation of the \$100,000 incentive payment to Goodyear could be considered for additional transit funding.

Mrs. Broyles provided an overview of revenues and expenditures for the airport and noted expenditures had increased 22% due to the rehabilitation of the airport parking lot. Discussion ensued regarding improvements to the airport parking lot and whether transit routes to the airport could be added and paid for from the airport enterprise fund.

Mrs. Broyles concluded her presentation with a recap of the general fund budget, budgets for all annual funds and Capital Improvement Plan.

Council Member Haire asked whether funds were budgeted for bathrooms at Martin Luther King Park. Mr. Iman explained the agreement Council entered into with the Martin Luther King Committee, owners of the park, was that the Committee would construct the park and make permanent improvements while the City would provide park maintenance. Mr. Iman further explained the proposed Parks and Recreation ballot issue included a half million dollars that could provide significant improvements to the park.

Consensus of Council was to provide budget questions prior to the next budget workshop to allow staff sufficient time to research and provide responses. Mrs. Broyles noted PWC would provide a brief budget presentation at the next budget workshop.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.