

**FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
LAFAYETTE ROOM
JANUARY 28, 2016
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Nat Robertson

Council Members Kirk deViere (District 2); H. Mitchell Colvin, Jr. (District 3); Chalmers McDougald (District 4); Robert T. Hurst, Jr. (District 5); William J. L. Crisp (District 6); Larry O. Wright, Sr. (District 7); Theodore Mohn (District 8); James W. Arp (District 9)

Absent: Council Member Kathy Jensen (District 1)

Others Present: Theodore Voorhees, City Manager
Karen McDonald, City Attorney
Jay Reinstein, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Arata, Corporate Communications Director
Tracey Broyles, Budget and Evaluation Director
Pamela Megill, City Clerk
Representatives from Surrounding Municipalities
Members of the Press

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 INVOCATION

Council Member McDougald offered the invocation.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Robertson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Council Member Mohn moved to approve the agenda

SECOND: Council Member McDougald

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

5.0 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5.1 Sales Tax Agreement

Mayor Robertson welcomed all in attendance and recognized the City Council members present. Mayor Robertson introduced the item, and stated the City Council is looking for a win-win for everyone.

Council Member Crisp stated the proposed interlocal agreement had been provided to Council via e-mail earlier today, and stated he is advocating extending the agreement for another three years, with the County and Mayor's coalition to come together and discuss the agreement no later than January 2017.

Mayor Pro Tem Colvin stated the County Commissioners have a deadline to make a decision on this item. There have been numerous discussions on this matter. He stated he is not 100 percent in agreement, but in the interest of statutory deadlines we need to establish a decision; we owe it to our citizens.

Council Member deViere asked if anyone had been in discussions with the other municipalities included in the agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Colvin stated the County Commissioners would have that conversation with them.

Council Member Hurst asked why the discussion date is so late, and asked why the discussions cannot begin immediately, and further stated we are the economic driver in this county.

Mayor Robertson stated since 2003 we have been in an agreement that supplements the other municipalities budgets from the City of Fayetteville's merchants; I do not believe this is a good deal for the citizens of Fayetteville to continue to supplement other general funds; those of the County and the other municipalities.

Council Member Crisp stated he believes January 2017 is a realistic time to begin discussions; it's beyond the election. This is a sustaining mechanism and protects funding for the other municipalities so they can plan their budgets for the upcoming year.

Council Member Mohn stated the County is concerned about the forthcoming re-evaluation of property values.

Council Member Arp stated we should have been working on this item two years ago, and now we are in a fix, having an open ended agreement is not only wrong, it's fiscally irresponsible, my concern is that in three years we will be having the same conversation; this item should be one of our strategic priority.

MOTION: Council Member McDougald moved to approve the sales tax distribution interlocal agreement with one amendment; to change the word "negotiate" to "discussion".

SECOND: Council Member Crisp

VOTE: PASSED by a vote of 7 in favor to 2 in opposition (Council Members Robertson and Hurst)

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.