

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 29, 2007, 7:00PM
SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

PRESENT: Chairman Kenneth S. Edge
Vice Chairman Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Jeannette Council
Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.
Commissioner Billy R. King
Commissioner Edward Melvin
Commissioner Diane Wheatley
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Budget Staff from Finance Department
Marie Colgan, Deputy County Clerk
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Press

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to hold the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for FY07-08.

Additions to agenda: CLOSED SESSION: Attorney Client – NCGS 143-318(a)(3) and Economic Development – NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4).

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to add the Closed Session Items to the agenda.

SECOND: Commissioner Wheatley

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing.

SPEAKERS:

1. Sue Horne, Director, Fayetteville Area Sentencing

Ms. Horne thanked the Board for its financial support of the Fayetteville Area Sentencing Program.

2. Jennifer Sullivan – Botanical Garden

Ms. Sullivan thanked the Board for its financial support and noted it is excited about a new visitor's complex that will be added to the Garden. She estimated it would increase

attendance from 17,000 annually to about 68,000. She said it would also be the Center piece for the Greenway System. The Garden also acts as an education center for the school system with tours of the garden providing information regarding the different plants.

3. Joan Ingalls

Ms. Ingalls asked the Board to reconsider restoring funding for increased hours at the Bordeaux Branch library. She said the increased hours would especially help the senior citizens and young mothers with small children.

4. June Lancaster

Ms. Lancaster noted she is the Bordeaux representative on the Friends of the Library Board. She asked the Board to support increasing the hours at the Bordeaux Branch Library. She also noted the Library is asking for funding of additional hours for the East Regional Branch and the Spring Lake Branch.

5. Robbin Tatum, Chair, Library Board of Trustees

Ms. Tatum asked the Board to provide funding to restore hours at the Bordeaux, East Regional and Spring Lake branches. She noted the excessive cuts in hours made in 2002. She said \$76,000 would be needed to restore the hours at the Bordeaux Branch, \$116,000 for the East Regional Branch and \$40,000 for the Spring Lake Branch. In addition Ms. Tatum indicated the libraries will be used more and more by students in the school system as new requirements will come on line for 9th graders who will be required to do research papers in order to move forward to the next grade.

6. Tammy Laurence, Chairman, Child Advocacy Board

Ms. Laurence thanked the Board for its financial support. She noted a new secure video system being used in the court system where children can testify without having to face the defendant in the courtroom. The defendant can view the proceedings and participate via video. She also noted that law enforcement officers are being trained on how to talk with children who have been traumatized.

7. Tevia Grimenstein

Ms. Grimenstein asked the Board to consider funding for additional hours at the East Regional Branch Library. She said the funding would provider a broader service for citizens in that area, would alleviate confusion about the hours the library is opened, and provide greater service to working parents who need to utilize the library. The extended evening and weekend hours would also allow the Library to provide more programs for the public.

Chairman Edge thanked all of those who spoke at the public hearing. He then closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Henley moved to go into Closed Session for Attorney-Client matters (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and an Economic Development Matter – NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4).

SECOND: Commissioner Blackwell

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Commissioner Council moved to go back into Open Session.

SECOND: Commissioner Melvin

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Meeting adjourned: 8:30PM.

Marsha Fogle, Clerk