

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING FOR CLOSED SESSION AND
FY 2015 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
117 DICK STREET, 1ST FLOOR, ROOM 118
JUNE 9, 2014, 6:30 PM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jeannette Council, Chair
Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Vice Chair
Commissioner Charles Evans
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe
Commissioner Billy King (arrived 6:38 p.m.)
Commissioner Ed Melvin
Amy Cannon, County Manager
James Lawson, Assistant County Manager
Quentin McPhatter, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Melissa Cardinali, Finance Director
Vicki Evans, Accounting Manager
Kelly Autry, Accountant
Bob Tucker, Accountant
Todd Hathaway, Finance Department
Deborah Shaw, Finance Department
Sally Shutt, Public Information Director
Candice White, Clerk to the Board
Kellie Beam, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Press

ABSENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth

Commissioner Council called the special meeting to order and announced that Commissioner Marshall Faircloth was tending to business out of state due to a death in the family. Chairman Council provided the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Chairman Council requested a motion to go in to closed session.

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved to go into closed session for Personnel Matter(s) pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6).

SECOND: Commissioner Evans

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (5-0)

MOTION: Commissioner Melvin moved to reconvene in open session.

SECOND: Commissioner Keefe

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

MOTION: Commissioner Evans moved to appoint Amy H. Cannon to serve as the County Manager.

SECOND: Chairman Council

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

MOTION: Commissioner Edge moved that the Board enter into a contract with Amy H. Cannon as the County Manager effective today, June 9, 2014, at a salary of \$187,695.00 until changed by action of the Board, plus an employer 401(k) account contribution of one percent of her salary; and pay the County Manager a monthly salary supplement in the amount of \$700.00 in-lieu of any in-County travel allowance, with the full amount of this supplement being subject to all withholding and retirement contributions; and pay the County Manager the same amount of any annual stipend or bonus as is paid to all other employees.

SECOND: Commissioner Keefe

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

Chairman Council stated although he could not be present, the unanimous selection of Ms. Cannon to serve as the County Manager also included Commissioner Faircloth. Chairman Council stated the commissioners hired The Mercer Group consulting firm to conduct a nationwide county manager search and received fifty-nine applications from across the nation and one from overseas. Chairman Council stated early in the process, the Mercer representatives met one-on-one with county commissioners and in small groups with department heads to learn the characteristics and qualities they wanted in a county manager. Chairman Council stated after narrowing the applicant pool, the commissioners interviewed two in-state and two out-of-state candidates. Chairman Council stated the commissioners were pleased with the hiring process, which was very thorough and deliberate.

Chairman Council stated Ms. Cannon served as Interim County Manager following former County Manager James Martin's retirement and had, in effect, a two-month interview with the commissioners and also provided a recommended budget presentation during that time on May 29th. Chairman Council stated Ms. Cannon has the experience and skills to manage the county government team and has already introduced new initiatives in her recommended budget as the county faces economic challenges on the state and federal level.

Chairman Council stated Ms. Cannon is the first woman to manage the county and became the deputy county manager in February 2011 after previously serving as the assistant county manager for financial and administrative services since 2000. Chairman Council stated Ms. Cannon was the county's finance director from 1998 to August 2013 and has worked for the county's finance department since 1990.

Chairman Council stated Ms. Cannon is a Fayetteville native and graduated from Seventy-First High School; she holds an accounting degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and is a licensed public accountant and a North Carolina Certified Government Finance Officer. Chairman Council stated under Ms. Cannon's leadership, the county's finance department has received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting every year from 1998 to 2013.

Chairman Council recognized Ms. Cannon who accepted the appointment and thanked the Board for the opportunity and for placing their confidence in her. Ms. Cannon stated she was honored to be selected as the county manger and looked forward to working with the county's talented department heads and management team with a shared vision to move the county forward.

FY15 Budget Public Hearing

Chairman Council called on Amy Cannon, County Manager, who explained the Board of Commissioners' procedures for public hearings.

Candice White, Clerk to the Board, advised there were nineteen speakers signed up for the public hearing.

This is the duly advertised/noticed public hearing set for this date and time.

Council opened the public hearing.

The clerk to the board called the following speakers:

Shelby Townsend – Ms. Townsend of Unchain Cumberland County asked the Board to assign 1% of the fines, adoption fees and pet tax collected through Animal Control to a "Big Fix" spay/neuter program. Ms. Townsend stated the objective is to reduce the number of animals that enter the shelter and eliminate the need to euthanize animals. Ms. Townsend stated this will save the county money and benefit Animal Control.

Gail Riddle – Ms. Riddle, Trustee of the Library Board, thanked the Board for its past support of the Cumberland County Library system and explained how the library system has adapted to and continues to adapt changing times.

Carol Knight – Ms. Knight, Vice President Elect of the Friends of the Library, extended her appreciation to the Board for its support of the Cumberland County Library. Ms. Knight stated she and her children feel like the library is an extension of their home office.

Deborah Mintz – Ms. Mintz, Executive Director of the Arts Council, thanked the Board for their service and recognizing that the cultural arts community is vital to the area. Ms. Mintz provided a snapshot of the Arts Council's annual report for June 2012 – June 2013.

Betsy Small – Ms. Small, Town of Linden Commissioner and Trustee of the Library Board, spoke to many programs provided by the library and thanked individuals at the North Regional Branch for the weekly story time programs for children and the computer/internet classes.

Alizdair Ray – Alizdair stated he is ten years old and feels like the library is his second home because he can go there to increase his learning and reading abilities and get help with his school assignments. Alizdair stated he also reads to kids at the library during story time.

Angela Ray – Ms. Ray, Secretary of the Friends of the Library, stated she really promotes the library and began taking her son to the library at an early age so he could utilize all the activities at the library.

Harold Williams – Mr. Williams stated the Linden community needs a building to use as a recreation area for children. Mr. Williams asked for funds to keep kids out of the streets and jail and to provide them with a place for learning.

Berth Williams – Ms. Williams stated Linden needs funds to lease a building for youth and adults.

Margie Whitehead – Ms. Whitehead stated Linden has not been afforded county services, has fallen through the cracks, has been paying Park and Recreation taxes for over 35 years and needs tutors for disadvantaged children. Ms. Whitehead requested funds to lease a building and stated Linden does not have access to a library, a recreation center or a park.

Jeffrey Hunt – Mr. Hunt, President/CEO of Greater Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce, stated Spring Lake needs the Board's continued involvement in economic development through the Greater Spring Lake Chamber of Commerce because the Board's involvement creates the jobs that are needed in Spring Lake.

Chief District Court Judge Beth Keever – Judge Keever stated it is time for the county to move its offices out of the courthouse because there is need for more space for courtrooms to expand. Judge Keever spoke to the epidemic of children coming into the court system and the need to run DSS court every week. Judge Keever stated without courtroom space, cases continue to run over. Judge Keever stated juvenile court cannot be run without a waiting room area. Judge Keever also stated Veterans Court should be up and running within the next three months.

Clyde Vaughan – Mr. Vaughan, President of the Cumberland County Veterans Council, thanked the Board for its support on behalf of the 47,000 veterans in the surrounding area.

Joseph T. Sorce – Mr. Sorce, President of the Cumberland County Association of Educators, expressed appreciation to the Board for the school funding agreement. Mr. Sorce expressed the importance of bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians and teacher assistants, and stated with all of the state cuts, he hopes the Board can help.

Greg Taylor – Mr. Taylor, Ft. Bragg Regional Alliance, provided a packet outlining recent accomplishments, successful collaborations and a proposed work

plan for 2014-2015. Mr. Taylor stated the lease of the county building is the only rate affordable for the Fort Bragg Regional Alliance. Mr. Taylor requested \$25,000.

Don Williams – Mr. Williams appeared on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club and stated he hoped the Board would fund the summer program again in the FY15 budget so scholarships can be given to children who would otherwise be unable to participate. Mr. Williams shared information about summer program activities.

Laberta Roberson – Ms. Roberson, Secretary of Linden Community Cultural Enhancement Center, asked the Board to provide a building for recreation so Linden could provide resources to its citizens.

Sondra McMillan – Ms. McMillan stated she had been a bus driver for over 25 years and worked in child nutrition for 24 years. Ms. McMillan asked the Board to consider teacher assistants, cafeteria workers, custodians and bus drivers in the budget.

Christi Davis – Ms. Davis stated she was a teacher advocate for classified personnel and asked the Board to use county funds to fund the positions currently held or to increase salaries.

There being no further speakers, Chairman Council closed the public hearing.

Chairman Council thanked all the speakers and everyone who took time to participate in the process. Chairman Council stated the Board of Commissioners would take their comments into consideration.

MOTION: Chairman Council moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Commissioner Keefe

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board