City of Fayetteville
Mayor and City Council
Called Meeting
Minutes
June 2, 2026

Call to Order

The Mayor and City Council of Fayetteville met for a Work Session on June 2, 2026, in the Training Room at City Hall. Mayor Edward Johnson and Council Members Darryl Langford, Joe Clark, Niyah Glover, Emmett Spurlock, and Shannon Moultrie were present. Also present was Manager Ray Gibson, and City Clerk Chelsea Siemen.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Langford made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Fiscal Year 2027 (FY2027) Proposed Budget

Accounting Manager Karen Austin provided an overview of the proposed FY2027 budget. The proposed budget totals $66,598,586, representing an increase of approximately $11 million over the FY2026 budget. Revenue projections increased by $2,878,459, while projected expenses increased by $1,079,594.

Ms. Austin also reviewed updates to the General Fund tax revenue projections, which reflects expected fluctuations in revenues from property tax collections under the new House Bill, as well as the additional expenses the City will pay for County tax collection services.

She presented departmental budget requests, noting that the General Government budget reflects the largest increase among departments, primarily due to consulting services and computer system software upgrades and enhancements. Additional budget adjustments were proposed to support departmental initiatives, including:

- Communications Department: City Hall Art Gallery Display Program; an initiative intended to showcase artwork within City Hall and enhance community engagement.

- Planning and Zoning Department: Funding for the execution of City Priority Projects, including Highway 85 Corridor Study, Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) updates, Comprehensive Plan updates, and Small Area Plans

- Economic Development: Off-site office space expansion. It was also noted that the request for $300,000 to fund a Placemaking Plan project was deferred and will be revisited during the mid-year budget review in January.

The Special Revenue Funds, which include budgets for the City's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Mainstreet Tourism Board, were reviewed next.

Ms. Austin stated that the Main Street Tourism budget reflects the removal of funding previously allocated for the establishment of a Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), an initiative that has been put on hold for the time being.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) budget contained no significant changes; however, discussion focused on future DDA initiatives, including oversight of the recently acquired Gingercake Property and its future development.

City Manager Ray Gibson informed Council that the DDA is exploring non-City-funded options to preserve the Lester House, which has been slated for demolition. However, if funding is not secured within the allotted timeframe, the property will proceed with the planned demolition.

Lastly, Ms. Austin reviewed the Enterprise Fund, which includes increases to the Water and Sewer Budget to support the transition of certain services back in-house, including the Department Director position.

Mayor and Council supported the proposed budget, as presented, for adoption; however, they expressed interest in exploring future opportunities to provide financial relief or cost reductions for homestead property owners.

Reports and Comments:

City Manager Ray Gibson informed City Council that the July 2, 2026 Work Session will be cancelled due to the Fourth of July Holiday.

Adjourn:

Clark moved to adjourn the meeting. Glover seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chelsea Siemen, City Clerk