

Council Members

District 1: Terry Graham
District 2: Charlene McGriff
District 3: Billy Mosteller, Secretary
District 4: Larry Honeycutt
District 5: Steve Harper, Chair
District 6: Allen Blackmon
District 7: Brian Carnes, Vice-Chair

**County Administrator**

Dennis Marstall

County Attorney

John K. DuBose III

Clerk to Council

Sherrie Simpson

October 12, 2022

4:00 PM

**101 North Main Street
Lancaster, SC 29720**

**LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
County Council Chambers, County Administration
Building, 101 North Main Street, Lancaster, SC 29720**

MINUTES

Council Members Present: Allen Blackmon, Brian Carnes, Terry Graham, Steve Harper, Larry Honeycutt, Charlene McGriff, and Billy Mosteller

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; John DuBose, County Attorney (*via conference call*), Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; John Bodner, Assistant County Administrator; Rox Burhans, Development Services Director; Veronica Thompson, Finance Director; Brad Carnes, Tax Assessor; Darren Player, Emergency Management/Fire Rescue Director; Stuart Barfield, Chief of Operations, Planning & Implementation/Emergency Management; the press; various Department Heads; various employees and citizens.

A quorum of Lancaster County Council was present for the meeting. The following press were notified of the meeting by e-mail in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: *The Lancaster News*, *Kershaw News Era*, *The Rock Hill Herald*, Cable News 2, Channel 9 and the local government channel. The agenda was posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building and also on the County website the required length of time. The power point presentation utilized during the meeting is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Call to Order - Chairman Steve Harper

Chairman Steve Harper called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Chairman Steve Harper

Chairman Steve Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Billy Mosteller

Billy Mosteller led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Allen Blackmon moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. Motion Passed 7-0.

Citizens Comments

The following citizens signed up for Citizens Comments: None.

The following citizens submitted electronic, written comments for Citizens Comments: None.

Discussion and Action Items

Discussion of Structure for Fire and Rescue Services and Potential Merger of Pleasant Valley and Indian Land Fee District Boards

Dennis Marstall stated that this is a follow-up presentation on Lancaster County fire services. He explained that the presentations would include information about volunteers and the possible merger of Indian Land and Pleasant Valley Fire District Fee Boards. He stated there were three (3) existing fee districts, Pleasant Valley, Indian Land and Van Wyck, with a revenue fee of \$90 for each rooftop.

Stuart Barfield reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the future of the Fire Rescue Service. The presentation is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Stuart explained the call data for the Fire Service during the COVID years.

Darren Player reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the recruitment and retention portion for the volunteers. Darren also reviewed how the career firefighters were stationed throughout the County.

Dennis Marstall reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the Fire Service funding. He stated the volunteer status was holding steady. He also stated the current \$90 rooftop fee was not enough to sustain the fire service. He reviewed the changes of rooftop fees in different increments to show how much revenue would be generated. He continued by reviewing what a millage rate impact fee would generate.

John DuBose reviewed the Attorney General's opinion regarding fire service millage.

There were discussions regarding the time frame to implement a merger, whether these fire fees would be phased in over time, the difference between Title 4 and Title 6, millage being put in place by referendum, that the Capital Improvement Plan has impact fees as part of funding, whether county wide millage would go into General Fund or fire service budget, and lowering square footage for ERU. Billy Mosteller stated he does not believe taxpayers would approve of a millage increase plus a rooftop fee.

Council discussed the current cooperation among fire departments, volunteers versus career firefighters within fire services, and the average age of volunteers. Darren Player stated the focus right now should be the Indian Land and Pleasant Valley merger because they require additional personnel and currently need more funding.

Brian Carnes asked the County Attorney to research how Spartanburg County operates their fire districts and also research other counties to see what they have done.

Dennis Marstall stated information would be brought back in two months. Terry Graham stated it is critical that the County get this addressed before the next cycle.

Follow-up Discussion on Amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regarding Outdoor Shooting Ranges (Section 5.5.12)

Dennis Marstall stated the issue of shooting ranges was discussed in September and what Council would need to do in order to exempt Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP) instructors and what changes would be needed for the Unified Development Ordinance. John DuBose stated Horry County is currently the only county that has exemptions for CWP holders.

There were discussions about what York County requires for CWP classes; CWP exemptions; and how to define incidental use. Allen Blackmon stated he would like to use York County as a model. Council discussed that guidelines would still be needed, that the County would need provisions so they could stop if there were problems; that the County would need to define what zoning districts this would apply to. There were also discussions regarding concerns about noise, safety, and insurance requirements.

Dennis Marstall stated staff would bring forward a text amendment for the Unified Development Ordinance regarding CWP exemptions in certain zoning districts, but that it would not include high powered rifles.

Growth and Development Data

Dennis Marstall stated this item would be looking ahead at the full Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) rewrite since the interim UDO failed. He stated Council has expressed concerns that growth was overburdening infrastructure. He stated Planning staff needed Council feedback regarding what growth Council wanted with developments. He stated staff needed to be able to give direction to developers.

Rox Burhans reviewed the County power point presentation regarding growth management. The presentation is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

There were discussions about stopping rezonings, stopping apartments and townhomes, and eliminating the Mixed Use (MX) districts from our UDO. Council stated they need a more holistic approach regarding growth. Rox stated staff needed to look at the impact fee study and look at the impact of development on schools. They discussed going back to planned development districts (PDD). Mr. Graham stated he was interested in quality growth. Allen Blackmon mentioned that Lancaster could meet with Union County to discuss their views regarding quality growth. There were discussions about traffic counts and road capacity.

Staff needs to meet with each department that provides a service to the community.

Adjournment

Larry Honeycutt moved to adjourn. Seconded by Terry Graham. Motion Passed 7-0.

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 6:39 p.m.