

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1846

ESTABLISHING A POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR NAMING COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTIES OR STRUCTURES.

WHEREAS, naming opportunities for County-owned properties or structures are expected to reflect the history, tradition and values of Lancaster County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power and authority granted to the Lancaster County Council by the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and the powers granted to the County by the General Assembly of the State, it is ordained and enacted that:

Lancaster County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add a section entitled “Naming of County-Owned Properties or Structures or Portions Thereof” as follows:

To set the policy and guidelines for official naming of County owned properties or structures or portions thereof, which is defined as a meeting room or conference room or other public space owned by the County. This policy shall not apply to any privately owned properties or structures or portions thereof in the County.

Council may receive recommendations as to the naming of County-owned properties or structures or portions thereof from the public, staff and related advisory bodies. All final decisions on naming or renaming of any County owned property or structures or portions thereof will be made by County Council in its sole and complete discretion and shall require a unanimous vote of County Council.

C. Guidelines for Naming of County Owned Properties or Structures or Portions Thereof.

(1) Initial naming of County owned properties or structures or portions thereof shall be handled as follows:

- a. Properties or structures or portions thereof owned by the County may be named for an elected or appointed public official or public employee. The elected or appointed official must be deceased for a minimum of three (3) years and the complete name of the individual must be used. The last name of the individual so honored may be used in referring informally to the property or structure of portion thereof.
- b. Properties or structures or portions thereof owned by the County may be named for areas of geographic interest located within Lancaster County.
- c. Properties or structures or portions thereof owned by the County may be named for persons or events of historical or patriotic significance in the United States provided they are related to Lancaster County. Any persons of historical or patriotic significance must be deceased for a minimum of three (3) years and the complete name of the individual must be used. The last name of the individual so honored may be used in referring informally to the property or structure or portion thereof.
- d. Properties or structures or portions thereof owned by the County may be named for nature or wildlife which are indigenous to Lancaster County.
- e. Properties or structures, or a portion of a property or structure, such as a meeting or conference room or other public space owned by the County may be named for individuals who, in the opinion of Council, have made exceptional contributions to the community by having met one or more of the following:
 1. Contribution which resulted in the long-term health and/or well being of the people of Lancaster County.
 2. Must not have any other property or structures named for them in the County.
 3. Nominated individuals must be supported by five letters of recommendation from groups, individuals or communities within the County.
 4. Individual must have been actively involved in Lancaster County community affairs for no less than 10 years.
 5. Contribution of individual must be of an exceptional quality and/or significance.

6. Efforts of individual must have made a lasting, significant contribution to the County's goals and objectives.

In addition to the requirement to have met one or more of the factors outlined above in (C)(1)(e)(1-6), the individual must be deceased for a minimum of three (3) years and the complete name of the individual must be used. The last name of the individual so honored may be used in referring informally to the property or structure.

- f. Properties or structures, or a portion of a property or structure, such as a meeting or conference room or other public space owned by the County may be named for individuals, groups or businesses who have made significant donations of land, money or facilities to the County pursuant to the following criteria:
 1. Any individual, group or business that donates a significant amount of money, land or facilities may be eligible for naming rights to said property or a portion of the property or structure as outlined above.
 2. When the proposed naming of a property or structure or portion thereof is in honor of an individual, the complete name of the individual must be used. The last name of the individual so honored may be used in referring informally to the facility.

(2) Renaming of County Owned Properties or Structures of Portions thereof:

- a) Renaming of a property or structure or portion thereof may occur when a property or structure or portion thereof that has been named in accordance with Section (C)(1) of this ordinance has reached the end of its useful life, deemed to be the length of time the structure or portion thereof is reasonably used for the benefit of the citizens of Lancaster County, and will be replaced or substantially renovated. The replaced or renovated property or structure or portion thereof may be renamed in recognition of another honoree per the criteria set forth herein.
- b) Renaming of a property or structure or portion thereof may occur when a property or structure or portion thereof that has been named in accordance with Section (C)(1) of this ordinance has been designated for another use by the County and may be named in recognition of a different honoree pursuant to the guidelines outlined in Section (C)(1) of this ordinance.
- c) In the event of a renaming of a property of structure or portion thereof pursuant to subsection (C)(2)(a) and (b) of this ordinance, appropriate recognition of earlier honorees shall be included in or adjacent to the newly renovated property or structure of portion thereof as well as on any redeveloped property or structure of portion thereof.

- d) County Council may rename a property or structure or portion thereof at anytime for any reason with or without cause at its sole discretion and beyond the requirements of subsection (C)(2)(a) and (b) of this ordinance. The renaming of a property by Council will cancel all agreements and Lancaster County shall not be required to issue refunds on prior monetary collections. The return of any refunds or portion of refunds on prior monetary collections shall be at the discretion and direction of Council.
- (3) Nominations for Naming of County Owned Properties or Structures or Portions thereof:
- a) Nominations for naming of County owned properties or structures or portions thereof may be submitted to the Clerk to County Council in writing, accompanied by a justification for the recommended honoree.
 - b) Requests will be reviewed by the County Administrator and other appropriate staff before being submitted to County Council.
- (4) Proposed name(s) for County owned properties or structures or portions thereof must be in good taste per local community standards and must not be insulting or derogatory.

SECTION II. **Severability**

If any section, subsection or clause of this Ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other sections, subsections and clauses shall not be affected.

SECTION III. **Conflicting Provisions**

To the extent this Ordinance contains provisions that conflict with provisions contained elsewhere in the Lancaster County Code or other County Ordinances, the provisions contained in this Ordinance supersedes all other provisions and this Ordinance is controlling.

SECTION IV. **Effective Date of Ordinance**

This Ordinance is effective upon passage of Third Reading.

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

LANCASTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Steve Harper, Chair, County Council

Billy Mosteller, Secretary, County Council

ATTEST:

Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council

First Reading: August 14, 2023
Second Reading: August 28, 2023
Third Reading: September 11, 2023
Public Hearing: September 11, 2023

Approved as to form:

Virginia Merck-Dupont, County Attorney