

Council Members

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

**County Administrator**

Dennis E. Marstall

County Attorney

Ginny L. Merck-Dupont

Clerk to Council

Sherrie Simpson

May 15, 2024

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 (*who entered the meeting late at approximately 4:20 p.m. during Discussion and Action Item 6.b., Budget Review and Considerations Regarding ARPA funding and the County Administrator's Recommended 2025 Budget*), Terry Graham, Steve Harper (*via Teams*), Jose Luis, Charlene McGriff, Billy Mosteller.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Privuznak, Budget Director; Allison Hardin, Development Services Director; Chief Greg Nicholson, Greater Indian Land Consolidated Fire Protection District; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office; Brian Fulk, Economic Development Director; Chris Clouden, Parks and Recreation Director; Robert Purser, 911 Communications Director; Scott Hernandez, Information Technology Director; Brenda Thompson, Marketing and Communications Director; Lisa Parker, Human Resources Director; Clay Catoe, EMS Director; Karla Deese, Coroner; various elected officials; 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 within 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 - Vice-Chair Brian Carnes

In the absence of Vice-Chair Brian Carnes (*who was late entering the meeting due to traffic issues*) and since Chairman Harper was attending via Teams, Secretary Billy Mosteller called the County Council Committee of the Whole meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Vice-Chair Brian Carnes

In the absence of Vice-Chair Brian Carnes (*who was late entering the meeting due to traffic issues*) and since Chairman Harper was attending via Teams, Secretary Billy Mosteller welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Charlene McGriff

Charlene McGriff led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Jose Luis moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. A roll call vote was taken on the motion to approve the agenda and the agenda was approved by a vote of 6-0.; Absent: Carnes.

Citizens Comments

The following citizens signed up for and spoke during Citizen Comments: None.

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

Discussion and Action Items

Review of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Parks Partner Agreement - Dennis Marstall

Dennis Marstall explained that a Parks Partner Agreement attached in the agenda packet, if Council agreed, would be a template for the Parks and Recreation Department facilities and programs. He further explained that each Agreement would have a specific addendum attached that was unique to that particular project. He noted that any Agreements would be reviewed on a yearly basis. Furthermore, he noted that the primary driver behind using the template was the need for an agreement between the County and the City so that the County could invest American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for repaving the parking lot at the Springdale Recreation Center. He explained that Springdale Park is owned by the City and that they have backed out of transferring that property to the County. Therefore, he noted that an agreement would be needed between the City and County in regards to the City maintaining the parking lot and the County maintaining the fields. Council and staff discussed defining reasonable notice and timely manner in the Parks Partner Agreement by adding in specific time frames.

Budget Review and Considerations Regarding ARPA funding and the County Administrator's Recommended 2025 Budget - Dennis Marstall

Dennis Marstall explained that staff would begin the budget review by providing an update on project funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Stephany Snowden provided this update via a one-page handout entitled "ARPA Funds" and via a separate power point presentation entitled "Fiscal Year 2025 County Administrator's Recommended Budget - Council Review and Deliberation." The handout is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office and the separate power point is attached as Schedule B to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. She provided an update on the completed projects and the pending/in process projects. Brian Carnes entered the meeting at approximately 4:20 p.m. and took over the duties as Chair of the meeting. Stephany Snowden then provided an update on the Coroner's Office upgrades that came in approximately \$770,000 over budget and the steps that had been taken to reduce the costs for the project. Karla Deese explained that getting the Coroner's Office project off the ground had been a long and challenging process. She noted that they had tried to cut costs where they could but that it had been a challenge with the parking lot. Council and staff discussed whether to hold off on the Emergency Management storage facility project until the County could determine the exact overage amount for the Coroner's Office, that the

Coroner's Office project had \$100,000 in contingency, that staff were told that the lot next door could not be purchased with ARPA funds and so that lot had already been sold, the amount of grading required for the project, and whether the County should take money from the Barnett building upfit and reallocate those funds to the Coroner's Office.

Jamie Privuznak provided an update on revenue projections, based on questions from the last budget workshop, via the separate power point presentation. She provided an update on revenue projections for ad-valorem taxes, vehicle taxes, and road improvement fees. Then she provided an update on the additional revenue received based on the revised revenue projections and the proposed uses for that additional revenue. Council and staff discussed using projection numbers versus actual numbers, whether the new proposed uses were inadvertently left out of the original budget, the need for an excel spreadsheet with additions and subtractions, the exact amount of requests for technology replacements, and the rezoning fees in the fiscal year 25 (FY25) proposed fee schedule. Council received a handout entitled "Administrator's Recommended Budget Responses (May 8, 2024) and that handout is attached as Schedule C to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Allison Hardin explained that the rezoning fees were split into 3 categories and that those categories were based on the Richland County fee schedule. Council and staff discussed that the largest fees should be for developers and should be increased but that fees should be reduced for individual property owners.

Sabrena Harris provided an update on the fund balance appropriations that are one-time expenditures via the separate power point presentation. Council requested a breakdown of everything in the budget that has been paid for three years in a row but that were not classified as reoccurring expenses. Council and staff discussed funding the Parks master plan. Sabrena Harris then provided an update on budget options for either a no millage increase or a 3.5 millage increase. Steve Harper left the meeting at approximately 5:15 p.m. Council and staff discussed possible employee salary adjustments, possible new positions, merit increases, whether to a fund Grant Coordinator position, whether to fund the Grant Writer position, whether to fund the Benefits Coordinator, whether to fund the Director of Fire Service, how many new Correction Officer positions are needed, the amount of the pay increase for current employees, whether to increase the budget millage, millage impact on constituents, the need for a revenue generation projection for a grant writer, and the need to upgrade existing positions to deputy director positions due to growth. Council requested to look at salaries for department heads and deputy directors. Sabrena Harris reviewed the annual impact of a one mil increase versus a 3.5 mil increase on various property values.

Jamie Privuznak provided an update on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) via the separate power point presentation. She explained the funding sources for CIP projects. She noted that the County was proposing a bond package to fund projects. Council and staff discussed the number of vehicles needed per year by the Sheriff's Office for replacement vehicles, debt service millage, whether to use a stabilized debt service fund, and the impact of increasing the budget millage.

Stephany Snowden provided an update on fire services, including fire capital, fire millage and the Indian Land Consolidated Fire needs via the separate power point presentation. She reviewed the Countywide calls for service. Council received a handout regarding brush related fires from 1-1-2019 to 12-31-2023 and that handout is attached as Schedule D to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Stephany Snowden reviewed the ten-year fire capital CIP, the revised budget for the Indian Land Consolidated Fire District FY 25 budget, and various scenarios for funding their budget by using either fire millage, increased rooftop fees, or a hybrid model that would use both millage and rooftop fees. Council and staff discussed commercial impacts, fee-in-lieu of tax (FILOT) impacts, whether to change the equivalent residential unit (ERU), and the possible hybrid option of both a millage and rooftop fee. Council requested a breakout of fee-in-lieu collections, commercial collections, and residential collections for the various scenarios. Dennis Marstall explained that the County had a three-year lock on fire millage once it was implemented and that a county-wide district would have to be created via Ordinance for fire millage and for which municipalities would have to opt in. He also noted that next year would be a reassessment year, which would affect millage changes.

Council and staff discussed rooftop fees, the budget for the Indian Land Consolidated Fire District, whether reassessment affects fire millage and debt service millage, employee compensation, holding millage down, budgets for fire departments, and the fire truck replacement schedule and funding for that replacement schedule. Council

requested to receive the agenda packet on the Thursday before the Council meeting for the 1st Reading of the Budget.

Adjournment

Terry Graham moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. The motion to adjourn Passed by a vote of 6-0.; Absent: Harper. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:22 p.m.

DRAFT