

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: "Vacant"
District 7: Brian Carnes, Vice-Chair

**County Administrator**

Dennis E. Marstall

County Attorney

Ginny L. Merck-Dupont

Clerk to Council

Sherrie Simpson

July 17, 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: Brian Carnes, Steve Harper, Terry Graham, and Jose Luis.

Council Members Absent: Billy Mosteller, Charlene McGriff.

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Allison Hardin, Development Services Director; April Williams, Planning Director; Jeff Catoe, Public Works Director; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Christopher Baker, Mead and Hunt; the press; 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 - 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 Jose Luis

Jose Luis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Brian Carnes moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jose Luis. The motion Passed by a vote of 4-0;

Absent: Mosteller, McGriff.

Citizens Comments

Since the elevator in the County Administration building was out of service during this meeting, a Citizen Comments sign in sheet was placed in both the lobby of the building and in Council Chambers. A conference call was set up in the lobby of the building in the chance that someone on the main floor of the building signed up to speak.

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

Update on the Carolina Heelsplitter Ordinance and Procedures - Allison Hardin, Development Services Director

Allison Hardin provided Council with an update on the Carolina Heelsplitter Ordinance and procedures via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Hardin explained the desire to move the program in house, and that the structure for the Ordinance had already been created. Ms. Hardin stated that the County had allowed projects to move forward without invoicing the Heelsplitter fees, but that the developers would be invoiced before the project received the Certificate of Occupancy. Ms. Hardin explained that this process was created so that development was not put on hold until all fees were paid. Council and staff discussed the program requirements and the area that is included within the Heelsplitter program.

Review of the Administrative and Definition Sections on the Re-write of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) - Allison Hardin

Allison Hardin reviewed examples of proposed definitions that had been added to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), including the definition of airports, bars/taverns/brew pubs, and signs, via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Hardin also provided Council with examples of definition amendments that had been added to the UDO, and also reviewed the administrative additions and amendments. Jose Luis requested a red-lined copy of the proposed UDO amendments.

Overview of the Sign Code Section on the Re-write of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) - Allison Hardin

Allison Hardin reviewed the sign code via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed different types of signage including mobile signs and banners. Ms. Hardin stated that the Planning Department planned to hold a meeting with sign companies, Planning staff and members of the Planning Commission to discuss the sign code section of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

County Code Amendments to Correct Conflict with State Building Codes - Allison Hardin

Allison Hardin reviewed the proposed County code amendments that would correct conflict with the State building code via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Examples of the code amendments included permit administration, manufactured home terminology, and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. Ms. Hardin noted that additional updates would be provided to Council at one of the regular scheduled Council meetings in August 2024.

Nuisance Abatement Program Update - Allison Hardin

Steve Harper stated that when constituents in his district reach out to Council for updates on the nuisance abatement program, he wanted the Councilmembers to be able to explain the process, so he requested that Allison Hardin provide Council with a refresher on the process. Allison Hardin reviewed the nuisance abatement program via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Hardin explained the different processes and timelines for voluntary, semi-voluntary and involuntary compliance once a violation is identified.

Discussion of Speed Limit Changes for Niven Road and Regent Parkway - Jeff Catoe

Jeff Catoe introduced Christopher Baker with Mead and Hunt and stated that he was joining the meeting to discuss the proposed speed limit changes for Regent Parkway. Mr. Catoe explained that the current speed limit on Niven Road was 35 miles per hour, but the request was to lower it to 25 miles per hour. Mr. Catoe further explained that traffic calming measures had already been put in place on Niven Road, but lowering the speed limit would help as well. Mr. Catoe noted that the residents on Niven Road requested that a third speed table be added to the road, but staff did not recommend it at this time.

Mr. Catoe provided Council with a brief history of the issues with Regent Parkway and explained the need to reduce the current speed limit from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, which would also reduce the advanced curb warning speed from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. Christopher Baker explained that the proposed speed limit would match the speed limit on the York County side of Regent Parkway and the proposed speed limit would also align with the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) guidelines. Mr. Baker stated that a lower speed limit would likely reduce the number of car accidents on Regent Parkway.

Steve Harper questioned the funding source on the Regent Parkway improvements, and Mr. Catoe explained that Regent Parkway was included in the Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) 3, and the proviso funding was used to resurface Regent Parkway. Mr. Catoe stated that the road improvements would be staggered using funding from the CPST 3. Council and staff discussed the number of safety issues that occur on Regent Parkway.

Adjournment

Dennis Marstall praised Allison Hardin and Jeff Catoe for their work, along with members of their staff, in addressing new emerging issues around the County.

Terry Graham moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Seconded by Jose Luis. The motion to adjourn Passed by a vote of 4-0; Absent: Mosteller, McGriff.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 5:34 p.m.