

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

February 14, 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, Steve Harper, Billy Mosteller, Charlene McGriff, Terry Graham, and Jose Luis.

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; Scott Hernandez, Information Technology Director; Jeff Catoe, Public Works Director; Clay Catoe, Emergency Medical Services Director; Henry Lewis, South Carolina EMS Association Executive Director; Mark Shumpert, KCI Technologies; 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 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

Brian Carnes moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. The motion Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Citizens Comments

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

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

Special Presentations

a. Recognition of the Information Technology Employees

Scott Hernandez recognized three Information Technology Department staff members; Tim Nunnery, Allen Patterson, and Triston Carter, for their recent work on a server and switch upgrade for 911 and Administration Building servers that involved patching in over 400 data ports over a span of 15 hours.

Executive Session

There were no items to discuss for Executive Session during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Discussion and Action Items

EMS update on Medicaid payment support, cost increases for new ambulances, and staffing recruitment strategies - Clay Catoe, EMS Director

Clay Catoe introduced South Carolina's EMS Association's Executive Director, Henry Lewis. Mr. Lewis presented a possible new revenue opportunity for the County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department that would address the lack of reimbursed funds received from Medicaid for medical services that are rendered by the County's EMS department. The proposed program would be implemented at no cost to the County, and the funds would be provided through the State's Medicaid office. Currently, the County is reimbursed about 25% of funds from Medicaid. The proposed program would allow the County to be reimbursed an estimated 76.9% of the funds left, which would be put into the General Fund.

Although the purchase of two ambulances had been approved in Fiscal Year 2023, Clay Catoe stated that due to supply chain issues, the price of the ambulances had increased, and they were \$157,000 over the previously approved budget. Mr. Catoe stated that the EMS staff had eliminated some of the equipment on the ambulances in an attempt to reduce the costs, but the cost of the two ambulances would still be over budget by about \$110,000. Since the delivery date of the two ambulances would be before the next fiscal year, staff would need to determine which County budget the funding would come from, and a budget amendment would be required for the overage.

Mr. Catoe noted that the number of staff vacancies went from 15 to 7 over the last year, but the EMS Department was struggling with the recruitment and retention from other agencies. The State has worked with the Hospital Association and has recently begun recruiting Paramedics to work in hospitals due to their own staffing shortages. Mr. Catoe voiced his concerns that the EMS Department would be facing staffing shortages in the near future due to surrounding competition.

Update on the Solid Waste Study Phase II - Presented by Jeff Catoe, Director of Public Works, and Mark Shumpert, PE, KCI Technologies

Jeff Catoe provided Council with an update on the ongoing Solid Waste study that the County has been involved in for the last two fiscal years. Mark Shumpert with KCI Technologies reviewed the County PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Shumpert outlined the current layout of the Erwin Farm and Rich Hill convenience centers and discussed what potential changes could be made to better serve the residents of Lancaster County. Mr. Shumpert highlighted a possible convenience center at the County's closed landfill that would take the place of the currently functioning convenience site on Lynwood Drive. Mr. Harper voiced concerns with the infrastructure in the surrounding area and stated that the public might be opposed to the site reopening, and Mr. Shumpert stated that those concerns would be kept in mind. Mr. Catoe reviewed future study plans with Council and noted that the goal is to have the Solid Waste study completed by 2025.

Adjournment

Terry Graham moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Seconded by Brian Carnes. The motion to adjourn Passed by a vote of 7-0.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on March 11, 2024

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B Mosteller", is written over a horizontal line.

Billy Mosteller, Secretary