

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 8, 2024

4:00 PM

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

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

WORKSHOP MINUTES

Council Members Present: Allen Blackmon, Brian Carnes, Terry Graham, Steve Harper, 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; Darren Player, Director of Fire/Rescue Services; Chief Greg Nicholson, Greater Indian Land Consolidated Fire Protection District; Battalion Chief Chris Miller, Greater Indian Land Consolidated Fire Protection District; Sheriff Barry Faile, Lancaster County Sheriff's Department; Brian Fulk, Economic Development Director; Chris Clouden, Parks and Recreation Director; Jason McCray, Deputy Director for Parks and Recreation; Robert Purser, 911 Communications Director; Scott Hernandez, Information Technology Director; Brenda Thompson, Marketing and Communications Director; Auditor Suzette Murphy; 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.

Call to Order - Chairman Steve Harper

Chairman Steve Harper called the Budget Workshop 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 Terry Graham

Terry Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Brian Carnes moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. Council took a vote on the motion to approve and the agenda was approved by unanimous vote of 7-0.

Discussion and Action Items

Presentation of Administrator's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 - Dennis Marstall and Sabrena Harris

Council Members received Budget Notebooks at their seats and a copy of that notebook is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Dennis Marstall thanked Council, department directors, the Chief Financial Officer, the Budget Director, and the Deputy County Administrator for their hard work on the budget. He noted that three of the staff were not here last year and have done a great job of getting up to speed on the budget. He reviewed his budget goals and the impact of growth on different departments via the updated County power point presentation and that updated power point is attached as Schedule B to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Jamie Privuznak provided an overview of projected revenues for various funds via the updated County power point. She noted that the value of a mil for 2025 would be \$518,035. She provided an overview of revenue trends for ad-valorem taxes, the local option rollback, vehicle taxes, and building permit collections. Council and staff discussed why vehicle taxes were being projected to go down and Auditor Suzette Murphy explained that their department thought that the collections for vehicle taxes were growing. The Auditor discussed the need for a code enforcement officer. Council asked staff to revisit the projection for vehicle taxes. Jamie Privuznak then continued her overview of revenue trends for ambulance charges. Council questioned why calls for service were going up but collections were going down. Dennis Marstall stated that staff would keep looking at those numbers. Jamie Privuznak then continued her overview of revenue trends for register of deeds fee collections and the road improvement fee collections. Council and staff also discussed the various revenue projections that were given, including that building permits were decreasing which should affect revenue in the register of deeds office. Council asked staff to research the road improvement fee collections and projections.

Next, Jamie Privuznak provided an overview of the proposed fee changes for the fiscal year 2025 budget via the updated County power point. Council and staff discussed why the fees for individual rezonings, which would likely be less than one acre, were going down, but the rezonings for developers, which would likely be greater than 10 acres, was also going down when it should be going up. Council and staff also discussed the fees for the Parks and Recreation Department. Jamie Privuznak explained that the adult team fees used to be "per individual" but were now going to be "per team" so that the fee was actually going down. Council and staff discussed the increase in after school fees. Chris Clouden and Jason McGray explained that the County had been charging fees per day but were now moving to a more inclusive, weekly or monthly fee that included field trips, etc. Council and staff discussed late fees for late pick ups. Council and staff discussed field rental fees for residents versus non-residents. Council requested a detailed list for the proposed fee schedule. Council and staff discussed fees for after school and summer camp.

Jamie Privuznak also provided an overview of the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) via the updated County power point. Council and staff discussed bond debt for capital projects. Council requested to know what projects would be moving forward, from where they originated, and any operating costs associated with the capital request.

Stephany Snowden provided an overview of the requested Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system via the updated County power point. She provided an overview of the County's five year plan regarding the purchase

and implementation of an ERP system. She also reviewed the benefits of an ERP system.

Jamie Privuznak provided an overview of debt service and provided highlights for the proposed replacement fund projects via the updated County power point presentation. She also provided an updated page 33 to the updated power point presentation. The updated page 33 is attached as Schedule C to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. She noted that staff was recommending an increase of two mils for the proposed replacement fund projects, which was being driven by the replacement vehicles for the Sheriff's office. Council and staff discussed possibly using a rolling capital debt with a stable millage.

Sabrena Harris provided an overview of the proposed operating budget via the updated County power point presentation. She explained the considerations the County used in developing the budget, such as streamlining services and processes. Council and staff discussed the possibility of using technology to streamline services, such as using Artificial Intelligence. Scott Hernandez spoke in regards to possible programs that the County could use. Sabrena Harris noted that the County also addressed multiyear funding issues as part of developing the budget, such as considering supply chain issues and inflation. She also explained that all departments were asked to go back and reduce their fiscal year (FY) 2024 operating budgets by five percent in order to help fund new operating costs in FY 2025. Council requested an itemized list of the reductions that were turned in from each department. Dennis Marstall and Sabrena Harris then reviewed the departmental reductions that had been accepted and the impact that they would have on the budget. Sabrena Harris reviewed the proposed, major budget requests, last fiscal years' final fund balance, and proposed one time investments for fiscal year 2025.

Sabrena Harris reviewed the proposed items that could be included in the budget if there were no millage increase via the updated County power point presentation. Council and staff discussed the Parks Master Plan. Sabrena Harris provided and reviewed a handout entitled "Admin Approved per" that is attached as Schedule D to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. This handout provided an explanation of the items included in the new non-personnel expenditures for the proposed "No Operating Millage Increase." She then reviewed the proposed items that could be included in the budget if there were up to a five mil increase, including a merit pool, position adjustments and new positions. Council and staff discussed the requests for technology. Council and staff discussed which new positions Council members supported or did not support. Council and staff discussed the possible budget options of either a no millage increase or an up to five mil increase. Some Council members explained that they did not want to see a millage increase this year.

Sabrena Harris then reviewed the external budget requests that the County had received via the updated County power point presentation. She then provided a summary for the FY 2025 budget. Council and staff discussed cutting the proposed merit pay increase. However, some members of Council indicated they may be in favor of increasing/adjusting some department directors' salaries.

Next, Sabrena Harris provided an overview of millage history and examples of the monthly impacts for a household for various millage increases via the updated County power point presentation. Council asked to see the yearly impacts of millage and not monthly impacts.

Jamie Privuznak provided an overview of "Other Funds" and the variances between their FY 2024 budget and the proposed, recommended FY 2025 budget via the updated County power point presentation. Council and staff discussed the Capital Improvement fund. Council requested a list of updated positions requested by department heads before next week.

Council took a break in the meeting that began at approximately 6:07 p.m. and they resumed the meeting at approximately 6:19 p.m.

Stephany Snowden presented the fire service multi-year funding plan via the updated County power point presentation. She provided a history of fire services in Lancaster County, including their milestones. She noted the increase in calls for fire service and specifically the increase in calls for service in the Indian Land area. Council and staff discussed the impact of growth on the increase in calls. Council and staff discussed the increase in fire calls and how many were actually calls for fire services. Battalion Chief Chris Miller explained that lift assist calls were implemented two weeks ago. He also explained that some of the fire calls were for assisting

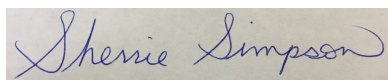
with smoke detectors, fire alarms, or home safety checks for citizens. Staff also noted that car wreck/rescue calls had increased. Council requested that the fire calls be broken out into call types. Darren Player discussed lift assist calls and Council noted that EMS could potentially be reimbursed for those calls whereas Fire Services could not get reimbursement. Next, Stephany Snowden provided an overview of fire services and of the multi-year fire plan for stations, apparatus, staffing, and operations. Lastly, she presented a county-wide recommended fire millage proposal and summary updates for the Van Wyck and Greater Indian Land Consolidated Fire District. Council and staff discussed whether the proposed plan took growth into account as far as developments that have not yet been built out. Council requested that staff find out how much Fort Lawn was spending on their new fire department building, including the separated costs for land acquisition versus vertical up costs and construction costs. Council and staff discussed the County Administrator's recommended county-wide nine mil proposed plan. Council requested a breakdown in proposed millage increases for the school bonds and proposed County millage increases. Billy Mosteller explained that the volunteer firefighters did not like the proposed fire service plans. Council and staff discussed funding fire trucks by other methods, such as bonding. Council and staff discussed the current and a possible proposed small increase in roof top fees for Van Wyck and Indian Land. Dennis Marstall explained that once the County created a fire millage, then that fire millage was locked in for three years and that the County could not increase that millage for three years. Jose Luis requested excel spreadsheets for the proposed budget options by the end of the week.

Sabrena Harris provided an overview of the next steps for the budget via the updated County power point presentation.

Adjournment

Terry Graham moved to adjourn the Budget Workshop. Seconded by Jose Luis. The motion to adjourn the meeting Passed by unanimous vote of 7-0. There being no further business, the Budget Workshop adjourned at approximately 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sherrie Simpson
Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on May 28, 2024



Billy Mosteller, Secretary