

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

October 11, 2023

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, Terry Graham, Jose Luis, and Billy Mosteller.

Absent: Steve Harper, Charlene McGriff.

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Lauren Hill, Deputy Clerk to Council/Administrative Assistant; Allison Hardin, Development Services Director; Ashley Davis, Deputy Planning Director; Jeff Catoe, Public Works Director; Scott Hernandez, Information Technology Director; Sheriff Barry Faile; Chad Catledge; Perception Builders; the press; various Planning Commission members; 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

Since the Chairman was absent, Vice Chairman Brian Carnes called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Chairman Steve Harper

Vice Chairman Brian Carnes welcomed everyone to the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Allen Blackmon

Council Member Allen Blackmon led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Billy Mosteller moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Terry Graham. Motion Passed 5-0.; Absent: Harper, McGriff

Citizens Comments

The following citizens signed up for and spoke during Citizens Comments:

1. John Baker, Heath Springs, SC, spoke regarding traffic and illegally parked vehicles, specifically in front of McDonald Green Fire Department and McDonald Green Elementary School. Mr. Baker provided a handout to each Council member that lists the fire stations in Lancaster County, and a physical copy of the list is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's Office.

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

Discussion and Action Items

Information Technology (IT) Department Update - Scott Hernandez

Scott Hernandez provided an update on the Information Technology (IT) Department for Fiscal Year 2023 via the County's PowerPoint presentation. He touched on the department's successes and newly filled positions. He presented statistics on cybersecurity awareness amongst Lancaster County employees and compared the numbers from Fiscal Year 2023 to Fiscal Year 2022. He presented an outline of the department's goals for the future. Mr. Hernandez and Council discussed the use of a .gov domain and different grant opportunities for the County.

Update on the Comprehensive Plan Rewrite - Ashley Davis

Ashley Davis provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan and gave a brief overview of the different components found within the plan via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council received a copy of the draft Comprehensive Plan at their seat, and a physical copy of the Comprehensive Plan is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's Office. Council and staff discussed the population changes Lancaster County has experienced over the years. Ms. Davis noted that the bulk of the data found within the Comprehensive Plan is from 2019, but will be updated to more recent data before the final plan is adopted. Staff anticipates that the Comprehensive Plan will be presented to the public in January 2024, and once Council approves the final draft, it is expected to be adopted in March 2024.

Roads Plan and Transportation Sales Tax - Dennis Marstall / Jeff Catoe

Jeff Catoe proposed a Transportation Sales Tax to Council and highlighted the County's infrastructure and road needs, and why a dedicated funding source was needed for the rehabilitation and improvement of County roads. Mr. Catoe noted the timeline of the preliminary process, and that with Council's approval, the tax proposal will be added to the November 2024 General Election ballot for voter consideration. Ginny Merck-Dupont reached out to the South Carolina Attorney General's office for an opinion on the implementation of a third locally imposed sales tax and is waiting to hear back. Council spoke in favor of implementing the 1% sales tax, given that County constituents vote in favor of the tax.

Review of Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) for the Kershaw and Heath Springs Municipalities - Allison Hardin

Allison Hardin noted that Lancaster County is still currently providing Stormwater and Building services to the Town of Van Wyck, and proposed that they be included with Kershaw and Heath Springs in the Intergovernmental Agreement for Development Services. Kershaw and Heath Springs reaffirmed that Lancaster County can provide services within their jurisdiction. Dennis Marstall voiced concerns with potential staffing and service levels, and the cost of providing enhanced services to local municipalities. Terry Graham and Jose Luis expressed concerns with Lancaster County Code Enforcement Officers enforcing the local code and additional codes. It was noted that if the Intergovernmental Agreements are adopted, Kershaw and Heath Springs would waive their right to representation on the Planning Commission.

Council took a short recess after Ms. Hardin presented. The break started at approximately 5:34 pm and Vice Chairman Carnes called the meeting back to order at approximately 5:45 pm.

Lancaster County Detention Center Project Update - Dennis Marstall and Chad Catledge, Perception Builders

Dennis Marstall highlighted that the authorization to move forward with the Detention Center project has been received. Chad Catledge provided an update on the construction timeline and financial breakdown of the project via the County's PowerPoint presentation. The new Detention Center is expected to be completed in July 2026.

Funding Assistance for Uniforms - Sheriff Barry Faile

Sheriff Faile requested additional funding to change the Sheriff's Department uniforms to all black so that there is consistency among all department staff uniforms. Dennis Marstall noted that a First Reading of a budget amendment for this request would be added to the October 23, 2023, Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Adjournment

Terry Graham moved to adjourn. Motion Passed 5-0; Absent: Harper, McGriff. There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on November 13, 2023

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

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

Billy Mosteller, Secretary