Council Members
District 1: Stuart Graham
District 2: Charlene McGriff
District 3: Billy Mosteller, Vice Chair
District 4: Jose Luis
District 5: Steve Harper
District 6: Bryant Neal, Secretary
District 7: Brian Carnes, Chair

Lancaster County
South Carolina

Interim County Administrator
Steve Willis

County Attorney
Ginny L. Merck-Dupont

Clerk to Council
Sherrie Simpson

May 13, 2026
1:00 PM

LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 101 NORTH MAIN STREET, LANCASTER, SC 29720

MINUTES

Council Members Present: Bryant Neal, Brian Carnes, Billy Mosteller, Charlene McGriff, Jose Luis (entered the meeting at approximately 1:48 p.m.), Stuart Graham.

Council Members Absent: Steve Harper.

Staff Members/Others Present: Steve Willis, Interim County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Lauren Hill, Deputy Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Privuznak, Budget Director; Josiah Parke, Budget Analyst; Tim Greene, Project Manager; Brandon Elliot, Fleet Maintenance Director; 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 PowerPoint presentation utilized during the meeting is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.
[IGNORE_INDENT]

<u>Call to Order Special Meeting - Chair Brian Carnes</u>
Chairman Brian Carnes called the Lancaster County Council special meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

<u>Welcome and Recognition - Chair Brian Carnes</u>
Chairman Brian Carnes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

<u>Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Billy Mosteller</u>
Billy Mosteller led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

<u>Approval of the Agenda</u>
Charlene McGriff moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Stuart Graham. There was no

discussion from Council. The motion Passed by a vote of 5-0; Absent: Luis, Harper.

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.

Discussion and Action Items

a. Scaled Down Scope of Work for the Fleet/IT Facility - *Steve Willis/ Tim Greene*

Steve Willis thanked staff for the work on scaling down the cost for the Fleet/Information Technology (IT) Building, and Tim Greene reviewed what was removed and added to the project via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed IT upgrades, the need for an emergency generator, restroom and plumbing upgrades, and HVAC upgrades. Billy Mosteller stated that he appreciated staff's work on the scaled-down estimate, but requested that staff go back and look at where else money could be saved. Bryant Neal requested that staff look into the HVAC and plumbing costs, and Billy Mosteller stated that he would not support the current costs for certain items and that they would need to be brought back to Council for another review. Brian Carnes expressed interest in constructing a pole barn. Steve Willis explained that staff would take Council's comments and bring them back for another review at another date.

b. Discussion of Administrator's Recommended Budget - *Steve Willis / Sabrena Harris / Jamie Privuznak*

Steve Willis explained that staff was still working on the expense side of the budget and did not have firm revenue numbers yet. Mr. Willis also explained that staff had made cuts to the personnel requests and operating requests. Jamie Privuznak reviewed the County's PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted the capital budget at a glance, capital replacement fund, new requests, and major departmental requests. Ms. Privuznak noted that the Legal Department's requested increase for professional services was no longer relevant, and had been removed as a request. Mr. Willis clarified that the Road Maintenance funding requests for paving and stone were to maintain current operations, and the cost of materials had just increased. Ms. Privuznak then reviewed the external agency budget requests. Council and staff discussed the Historical Commission's request regarding marketing and advertising, and also discussed the Solicitor's Office courthouse renovation project.

Jose Luis entered the Council meeting at approximately 1:48 p.m.

Sabrena Harris reviewed the proposed hourly rate pay scale changes via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Charlene McGriff stated that she wanted employee salaries to be at a livable wage. Council requested information regarding what type of jobs fall below the $17 an hour wage, and noted that the focus needed to be on full-time employees. Council and staff discussed potentially conducting a compensation and class study in the next fiscal year, replacement of vehicles in the County's motor pool and new fleet requests. Jamie Privuznak stated, for the record, that the County has a fleet replacement policy that helps determine when a vehicle is to be replaced. Council and staff then discussed the increased budget amount for contract services for the Human Resources Department, driving record checks, fire service equipment, fire brush trucks, the delegation disbursement, Accommodations Tax tourism designation, and digital ad campaigns to promote tourism. Suzette Murphy explained that the mil value was set (uncertified at the time) as $674,604. Ms. Murphy also noted that staff was still working on the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) credit factor and debt service figures. Council and staff briefly discussed a 10-year fire plan.

Executive Session

a. One Item:

1. Discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws 30-4-70(a)(1) relative to the office of the County Administrator.

Brian Carnes stated that he needed a motion to go into Executive Session for the discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws 30-4-70(a)(1) relative to the office of the County Administrator. Charlene McGriff stated that she so moved. Seconded by Jose Luis. The motion to go into Executive Session Passed by a vote of 6-0; Absent: Harper. At approximately 2:53 p.m., Council went into Executive Session.

Items Requiring a Vote Following Executive Session

Council came out of Executive Session and Brian Carnes called the Council meeting back to order at approximately 3:09 p.m. Billy Mosteller moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Bryant Neal. The motion to come out of Executive Session Passed by a vote of 6-0; Absent: Harper.

Upon returning to open session, Ginny Merck-Dupont stated, for the record, that she was not in Executive Session, but that Council met in Executive Session for the discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws 30-4-70(a)(1) relative to the office of the County Administrator. She stated that it was her understanding that during Executive Session, no motions were made, and no votes were taken.

Brian Carnes made a motion to extend an employment contract to Brian Tucker and hire him as the new County Administrator. Seconded by Bryant Neal. There was no discussion from Council. The motion Passed by a vote of 6-0; Absent: Harper.

Adjournment

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the special Council meeting. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. There being no further business to discuss, the special meeting of Council adjourned at approximately 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on June 8, 2026.

Bryant Neal

Bryant Neal, Secretary