

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

August 16, 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, Steve Harper, Jose Luis, Charlene McGriff, and Billy Mosteller.

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Allison Hardin, Development Services Division Director; Veronica Thompson, Financial Services Division Director; Jeff Catoe, Public Services Division Director; Brenda Thompson, Communications and Marketing Director; Carrie Helms, Treasurer; Wanda Kilpatrick, Town of Heath Springs Administrator; Deborah Truesdale, Town of Heath Springs Council Member; 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. He recognized Town of Heath Springs Councilmember Deborah Truesdale and Town Administrator Wanda Kilpatrick.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Jose Luis

Council Member 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 Charlene McGriff. Motion Passed 7-0.

Citizens Comments

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

1. Deborah Truesdale, Heath Springs, SC, waited to speak until Item 6b, Reeves Park: Town of Heath Springs Request to convey ownership, was called.

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

Discussion and Action Items

Draft Investment Policies - Veronica Thompson

Dennis Marstall began the discussion by stating that the State statute limits how funds can be invested. Carrie Helms provided Council with an update on current and proposed investment policies via the County power point presentation. Veronica Thompson reviewed the best practices from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for investment policies.

There was discussion regarding the current policy being too general; the process of changing banks, if needed; operational funds versus investment funds; the Treasurer's role versus the Chief Financial Officer's role; and discussion on how the Treasurer conducts the annual review. Veronica also stated that the County was exploring other payment methods for the future and exploring software packages to assist with cashflow statements. She stated the Enterprise Resource Program (ERP) system assessment would help with integration. She stated that Council could see the annual report on investment returns.

Dennis Marstall explained that the next step would be to put these proposed policies into ordinance form for a future meeting. Allen Blackmon and Terry Graham requested a paper copy and everyone else requested an electronic version of the meeting's power point presentation.

Reeves Park: Town of Heath Springs' Request to Convey Ownership - Dennis Marstall

Dennis Marstall stated that the Town of Heath Springs sent a letter and would like to convey ownership of Reeves Park to Lancaster County. He stated Council would need to decide if they want to take ownership of the Park. He noted that no information was provided in regards to possible maintenance costs for the Park. Mr. Marstall stated that Lancaster County would not have resources to maintain this park for approximately three (3) years.

Charlene McGriff stated Council had already passed the new budget and there were no funds for this project. She expressed her concerns that excepting the park would set a precedent for the County taking responsibility for other municipal parks.

Deborah Truesdale, Town of Heath Springs Council member, came forward and stated this Park was a diamond in the rough and was still being used by the children within the community. There was discussion about applying for a State Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) grant; however the timeline to apply for these grants has passed for this year. Council discussed that the Town of Heath Springs could possibly plan to have fundraising events and bring this project back to Council for the next budget year for consideration.

Planning for the Future - Infrastructure Funding Strategies Dennis Marstall

Dennis Marstall stated that this item was discussed in January. He noted that he wanted Council to discuss the item again since the County needed to consider how to plan for the future in regards to growth.

Jeff Catoe reviewed the County power point presentation regarding development of a transportation sales tax proposal. Council and staff discussed that the County could possibly impose a penny sales program along with a transportation penny sales tax program on a referendum to let the voters decide in 2024. He stated the projects could be more broad, but prioritization would be the wisest way to move forward. He also informed Council that the County could also use the transportation tax as matching funds for projects; however, in order to do that, the County would need to have the funds already established.

Dennis Marstall stated that Council would need a greenlight resolution to move forward and would need pricing for projects across the County. He stated Council could create an ADHOC Committee, although it was not absolutely necessary. He stated Council would need to determine whether they wanted a long term strategy versus a short term strategy, and whether the County wanted this item on the November 2024 ballot. There was discussion regarding an ADHOC committee and whether it would present to the Committee of the Whole or during Council meeting. Chairman Harper stated he would like to see this item moved forward.

Dennis Marstall reviewed the County power point presentation on the development of an infrastructure investment fund that developers could contribute to in order to help fund future needed projects in the County.

Amending Model Rules of Procedure for County Council

Dennis Marstall stated that our County Council adopted a new set of Rules of Procedure in 2020 to address the COVID-19 crisis that would allow for public meetings while dealing with the COVID crisis. He stated that now a number of those rules need to be amended to address the way County Council currently does business and conducts meetings. He stated items such as rules for abstaining and what defined a quorum were removed. Mr. Marstall provided a handout titled Potential Council Rules of Procedure Amendments with 13 areas that should be reviewed. The handout is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's Office.

Adjournment

Terry Graham moved to adjourn. Seconded by Jose Luis. Motion Passed 7-0.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on September 11, 2023

Donna Greene

Donna Greene
Deputy Clerk to Council

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

Billy Mosteller, Secretary