

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 31, 2023

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 (*arrived at 4:03 after the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation*), Terry Graham, Steve Harper, Jose Luis, Charlene McGriff, and Billy Mosteller.

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Donna Greene, Deputy Clerk to Council; Kim Belk, Budget Director; Graham Shuford, Budget Analyst; Sheriff Barry Faile; Clay Catoe, EMS Director; Darren Player, Fire Rescue/Emergency Management Director; Karla Knight, Coroner; Robert Purser, Public Safety Communications Director; Lisa Robinson Parker, Human Resources Director; Brenda Thompson, Communications & Marketing Director; Suzette Murphy, Auditor; Greg Nicholson, Pleasant Valley Fire Chief; Chris Miller, Indian Land Fire Chief; 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 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 Brian Carnes

Councilmember Billy Mosteller led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Charlene McGriff moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Terry Graham. Motion Passed 7-0.

Citizens Comments

There were no Citizen Comments.

Discussion and Action Items

Budget Considerations Regarding Compensation for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget and Other Related Matters - Dennis Marstall / Kim Belk

Dennis Marstall stated that staff had provided budget compensation numbers as requested and now were looking forward to Council feedback.

Kim Belk reviewed the County power point presentation with the requested and updated budget information. She stated the 1st reading was presented on May 22 with a 2.3 mil increase; however, she noted that the updated budget would require a 4.1 mil increase but would provide the compensation increases for Public Safety employees that Council previously discussed.

Council and staff discussed the fire fees and equivalent residential units (ERU). Council asked about commercial versus residential and suggested that the cost associated with the special tax district should shift to commercial rather than residential. Dennis Marstall stated the County would need to balance the ERUs and fees to get Indian Land and Pleasant Valley up to their \$4.2 million budget.

Council requested to hear from the Public Safety department heads to see if they were satisfied with the proposed increases being discussed. Sheriff Faile stated he would be fine with a 10% increase for sworn deputies and detention center officers; Darren Player stated he would be happy with the base salaries that were shown on the presentation; Clay Catoe stated the 8% increase for his paramedics would make him competitive, as 71% of his staff does not make the minimum of \$12.25 to \$12.98 per hour. Council continued the discussion on salary studies, pay scales, and the personnel policy. Jose Luis asked Auditor Suzette Murphy if she would be satisfied with the 6.5% increase and she replied "yes, a 6.5% increase and bring her employees to their minimum".

There was discussion regarding the fees associated with Parks and Recreation field rentals. Jose Luis asked about the return on investment (ROI) for the Parks and Recreation fields. Steve Harper stated anything for Parks and Recreation would be justified because of the kids, parents and grandparents and the joy it would bring when you see their faces. He continued that he does not believe the County funds enough to Parks and Recreation. Jose Luis clarified that he wanted to know the County's expectations regarding Recreation and asked if the Department was meeting those expectations.

Allen Blackmon questioned several line items in the budget and several Council members encouraged Mr. Blackmon to submit his questions in writing and copy all of Council and the County Administrator. Jose Luis also stated his interest in the answers to Mr. Blackmon's questions. Jose Luis asked about the reasoning for a 6.5% increase and he asked about performance salary increases. Dennis Marstall stated that his goal for the future would be to implement a performance evaluation program.

Allen Blackmon also reminded Council that he would like an organizational chart for Lancaster County that he still has not received. Dennis Marstall stated an organizational chart would be provided to Council.

Adjournment

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

There being no further business, the County Council Budget Workshop adjourned at approximately 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on June 12, 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