

Council Members

District 1: Terry Graham
District 2: Charlene McGriff
District 3: Billy Mosteller, Secretary
District 4: Larry Honeycutt
District 5: Steve Harper, Chair
District 6: Allen Blackmon
District 7: Brian Carnes, Vice-Chair

**County Administrator**

Dennis Marstall

County Attorney

John K. DuBose III

Clerk to Council

Sherrie Simpson

May 11, 2022

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 (*arrived at 4:05*), Brian Carnes (*arrived at 4:20*), Steve Harper, Charlene McGriff, Billy Mosteller and Terry Graham.

Absent: Larry Honeycutt

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Veronica Thompson, Financial Services Director; Kim Belk, Budget Director; Clay Catoe, EMS Director; Jeff Catoe, Public Services Director; Darren Player, Fire Rescue/Emergency Management Director; Britt Blackmon, Training Officer/Fire Rescue; Stuart Barfield, Chief of Operations, Planning & Implementation/Emergency Management; Rox Burhans, Development Services Director; Ashley Davis, Senior Planner; various Department Heads who entered and exited Chambers throughout the meeting, various Elected Officials who entered and exited Chambers throughout the meeting; 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 County Council 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.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Larry Honeycutt

Charlene McGriff led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Charlene McGriff moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Billy Mosteller. Motion Passed 4-0.; Ayes: Graham, Harper, McGriff, Mosteller; Absent: Blackmon, Carnes, Honeycutt

Citizens Comments

The following citizens signed up for Citizens Comments: None.

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

Discussion and Action Items

Comprehensive Plan Presentation - Ashley Davis

Ashley Davis stated the Comprehensive Plan Presentation would be presented by staff from Benchmark Planning, Jason Epley and Bridget Callea. The power point presentation they utilized is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's Office.

Jason Epley stated that the Lancaster County population has grown by approximately 34,000 since the year 2000, which makes the population of Lancaster County approximately 100,000. He noted there are two (2) upcoming meetings on Thursday, June 9th and Tuesday, June 14th where they will engage the public.

Bridget Callea reviewed the Community Survey results where approximately 2,000 individuals completed the survey at Lancaster2040.com. Ashley Davis stated there is more information on the baseline data if Council would like to see the information. Charlene McGriff requested the information.

Homeless Support Proposal with Authorized ARPA funds - Dennis Marstall

Dennis Marstall stated County Council previously authorized the allocation of \$334,213 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the Lancaster Area Coalition for the Homeless which was located at the Carriage Inn. He explained that the Carriage Inn has now closed.

Holly Furr, United Way Director, gave an update to Council on the current situation. The power point presentation she utilized is attached as Schedule B to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's Office.

She stated there were currently 14 families and 52 school children identified as homeless. She continued that there were two (2) options for County Council to consider: option one would be scattered placement; and option two would be a permanent location for a shelter. There was discussion regarding the two options. Council discussed that the Carriage Inn was a band-aid and option 2 had the potential to be a long term solution. Dennis Marstall stated the funds were already allocated and based on Council comments, he would execute the subrecipient agreement in the manner requested.

Evaluation of Fire Fee District Requests and Fire Services provided throughout the County - Dennis Marstall

Dennis Marstall stated that Lancaster County is looking at fire districts over the next 10 to 15 years. He continued

that the volunteer based model needs to be reviewed to support future growth in Lancaster County.

Britt Blackmon, Training Officer for Fire Rescue, Stuart Barfield, Chief of Operations, Planning & Implementation for Emergency Management, and Darren Player, Emergency Management and Fire Rescue Director reviewed the status of Fire Rescue operations via a power point presentation, which is attached as Schedule C to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's Office.

Britt Blackmon reviewed the current fire service operations model and the current fire fee districts. He explained that the Pleasant Valley Fire District was created in 2006, Indian Land Fire District in 2011 and Van Wyck Fire District in 2021. He further explained that each fire district collected a \$90 rooftop fee for all properties within their respective district.

Stuart Barfield reviewed the fire departments requesting to establish fee districts during the November 2022 election: Buford, Gooches, Riverside, Shiloh Zion, Tradesville and Unity. He continued that three other departments have expressed interest in establishing a fee district pending further planning and research: Elgin, Heath Springs and Rich Hill. He stated that the \$90 rooftop fees are not sustainable for future growth. He reviewed fire call data from the last three years, which included missed calls with time of day for the missed calls. He reviewed the Fitch Study from 2019 with their findings and a proposal for future staffing, fire stations and equipment needs.

Darren Player reviewed the two (2) options for funding the Fitch Study: (1) South Carolina Code of Laws Title 4 - Counties, Chapter 19: Fire Protection Services; and (2) South Carolina Code of Laws Title 6 - Local Government - Provisions Applicable to Special Purpose Districts.

There was discussion between Council and staff regarding the current status of our volunteers and the need for a short term, mid-term and long term solution. Darren Player reminded Council that all fire departments were individually owned and that the County owned the equipment and apparatus. Mr. Marstall stated the fee district requests would be discussed in the next 9 to 12 months.

Discussion about Deteriorating Private Roads - Dennis Marstall/Jeff Catoe

Dennis Marstall stated there are several residential developments with deteriorating roads which would be considered private roads since the County was restricted from adding roads. He stated that Council needed to think ahead about how to deal with the road maintenance requests. He stated the neighborhoods affected would be unable to generate the funds needed to fix or repave their roads from a bond and that this could become an issue for the County.

Jeff Catoe, Public Services Director, stated County Council adopted Ordinance 2014-1299 that restricted the County from adding new roads to the road system and stated that roads within a residential subdivision after January 1, 2015, would be private and maintained by the landowners in those developments. Mr. Catoe reminded Council that in 2010 they created a special tax district for Brookchase subdivision that authorized bonds to provide road maintenance which levied annual tax assessments to pay off the bonds. He also reminded Council that in 2019 they created a special tax district for the Reid Pointe neighborhood to repair and upgrade the roads within the neighborhood. He stated the repairs were completed with tax millage.

Mr. Marstall informed Council that if they were asked questions about roads, they should know the Bond Council recommended the County not bond them out and that the County use reserve funds. Billy Mosteller discussed Cimmeron Place, which has approximately 21 homes and no Home Owner's Association and that they now have crumbling roads. Council and staff discussed options for smaller neighborhoods who cannot pay for road maintenance and what their options might be with bonding. Mr. Catoe stated the County inspects the roads but the roads are not added to the road system.

After discussion, County Council stated they are okay with the current status of roads and the County is not accepting any additional roads.

Citizen Comments

All citizens were heard during Citizens Comments held at the beginning of the Council meeting.

Adjournment

Brian Carnes moved to adjourn. Seconded by Billy Mosteller. Motion Passed 6-0.; Absent: Honeycutt

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on June 13, 2022

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