

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

April 24, 2024

1:00 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 (*who came in late after the vote on the Approval of the Agenda*), Brian Carnes, Steve Harper, Jose Luis, Charlene McGriff, Billy Mosteller.

Council Members Absent: Terry Graham.

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Privuznak, Budget Director; Darren Player, Director of Fire/Rescue Services; Chief Greg Nicholson, Greater Indian Land Consolidated Fire Protection District; 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 within 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 1:00 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

Brian Carnes 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 Jose Luis. The motion to approve the agenda Passed by a vote of 5-0.; Absent: Blackmon, Graham.

Discussion and Action Items

Discussion of Personnel Budget

Dennis Marstall provided and reviewed a five page handout entitled "Budget Workshop Responses (April 17, 2024)" that addressed Council's questions from the last Budget Workshop and that handout is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Council and staff discussed whether any of the fire department's were tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations and Darren Player explained that Fire Departments were Internal Revenue Service (IRS) exempt. Council and staff also discussed whether the current homeless shelter was actually a private residence.

Sabrena Harris led a discussion regarding the personnel budget via the County power point presentation. She discussed the budget goals, provided an overview of the current workforce, provided an overview of the County's current compensation for employees, provided an overview of the current compensation requests from all Department Heads and Elected Officials, provided an overview of the County's current hourly rate pay scale, provided an overview of all Department Head and Elected Official salary adjustment requests, provided an overview of the all Department Head and Elected Official new position requests, provided an overview of mandated payroll adjustments from the State, and provided an update on other potential budget enhancements. Council and staff discussed the need for new employee positions versus the need for current employee raises. Council and staff further discussed County revenue projections. Sabrena Harris also provided and reviewed a two page handout entitled "FY25 Budget - New Positions Requested" and that handout is attached as Schedule B to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Council and staff also discussed merit increases versus across the board pay increases, using merit increases as a bonus rather than a yearly pay increase, and the possible need for a Special meeting regarding the budget ordinance readings. Jose Luis requested the budget in an excel spreadsheet with variances between the Fiscal Year (FY) 24 and FY 25 budgets.

Discussion of Fire Millage - Dennis Marstall

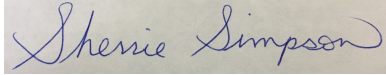
Dennis Marstall led a discussion regarding Fire Millage via an updated County power point presentation and that Fire Millage power point is attached as Schedule C to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Council and staff discussed the need for a fire services five year budget plan for capital and operating, that citizens will already have a tax increase if the school bond passes, the need for a new fire study since the last one done was the Fitch study, where fire services are needed in the County based on growth, the amount of millage that fire services currently receives from the budget, the needs per district for fire services, and revenue projections for the current fire protection districts. Allen Blackmon and other Council members requested a breakdown of calls for fire services and for what services the calls were received. Council and staff emphasized the need for a five year plan for fire services. Chief Greg Nicholson explained that the Greater Indian Land Consolidated Fire Protection District received about one third of the calls in the County. He noted that their Department could change how they respond to medical calls if the County wanted to change their policy. Council and staff discussed the number of brush fire calls that fire services receives and the need for brush trucks in every department.

Adjournment

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the Budget Workshop. Seconded by Allen Blackmon. The motion to adjourn the

meeting Passed by a vote of 6-0.; Absent: Graham. There being no further business, the Budget Workshop adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrie Simpson".

Sherrie Simpson
Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on May 13, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Mosteller".

Billy Mosteller, Secretary