

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 12, 2023

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: Terry Graham, Steve Harper, Jose Luis (*who attended via Teams*), Charlene McGriff and Billy Mosteller.

Council Members absent: Allen Blackmon and Brian Carnes

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; John Bodner, Assistant County Administrator; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Kim Belk, Budget Director; Jeff Catoe, Public Services Director; Lisa Robinson, Human Resources Director; Veronica Thompson, Chief Financial Officer; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Brenda Thompson, Communications and Marketing Director; Paul Moses; Airport Manager; Alan Williams, Animal Shelter Director; Brandon Elliott, Director of Fleet Maintenance; Daniel Hammond, Building Maintenance Director; Scott Edgar, Stormwater Director; Darin Robinson, Building Department Director; Allison Hardin, Interim Planning Director; Chris Clouden, Parks and Recreation Director; Scott Hernandez, Information Technology Director; Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager; Jeff Hammond, Clerk of Court; various Department Heads; and various staff.

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 updated County 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 Departmental Presentations and Budget Workshop meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Chairman Steve Harper

Chairman Steve Harper welcomed everyone to the Budget Workshop.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Allen Blackmon

Due to Allen Blackmon's absence, 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. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the agenda Passed 5-0.; Ayes: Graham, McGriff, Mosteller, Luis, Harper; Nays: None; Absent: Blackmon, Carnes

Discussion and Action Items

Departmental Presentations for Public Services

Paul Moses reviewed the County power point regarding the Airport's budget requests. Council and staff discussed the possible growth at the Airport.

Alan Williams reviewed the County power point regarding the Animal Shelter's budget requests. Council and staff discussed the possible need for additional kennels, potential growth implications, overcrowding at the Shelter, the requested cost of the Shelter versus the actual cost, the save rate at the Shelter and that the Shelter does not house the County's service dogs.

Brandon Elliott reviewed the County power point regarding Fleet's budget requests. Council and staff discussed that there are no vehicles available for replacement, including ambulance purchases. They also discussed the rising costs of vehicles, the rotation of Sheriff's vehicles and County vehicles, and the new telematics software request for Fleet that is actually in the Information Technology (IT) budget and how it could possibly help offset the department being short staffed.

Daniel Hammond reviewed the County power point regarding Building Maintenance's budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Jeff Catoe reviewed the County power point regarding Road Maintenance's (Department 202) budget requests. Council and staff discussed the variance in operating costs and the traffic calming program. Jose Luis asked for details on the carry over on the fee.

Jeff Catoe reviewed the County power point regarding Solid Waste/Recycling's (Department 312) budget requests. Council and staff discussed planning for a landfill, the use of the Lee County landfill, and variances in personnel costs, which Jeff Catoe indicated may be due to an error in math.

Departmental Presentations for Development Services

Scott Edgar reviewed the County power point regarding Stormwater's budget requests. He also provided Council with a two-page handout of pictures of soil erosion and that handout is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. He used the pictures to explain why the County needed a soil scientist. Council and staff discussed the liability associated with hiring a soil scientist. Jose Luis asked Stormwater staff to set up an appointment with him for a ride along.

Darin Robinson reviewed the County power point regarding the Building Department's budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Allison Hardin reviewed the County power point regarding Planning and Zoning's budget requests. Dennis

Marstall provided an update on the recruitment for a permanent Planning Director. Dennis Marstall and Allison Hardin explained that the Planning Department currently has many projects underway and that they need feedback from Council regarding what they want to see as priority projects for the Department. Council asked to have the Cluster and Overlay Ordinances come back to them in June.

Departmental Presentations for General Services

Lisa Robinson reviewed the County power point regarding Human Resources' budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Chris Clouden reviewed the County power point regarding Parks and Recreation's budget requests. Council and staff discussed the possibility of increasing wages for staff that make under \$12.50 per hour. Council asked budget staff to provide information on whether revenue collected through Parks and Recreation increased last year. Council asked about the possibility of automating rentals; however, Chris Clouden explained that the rental coordinator needed to provide in person services in order to be effective and efficient. Dennis Marstall introduced the new Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Jason McCray.

Scott Hernandez reviewed the County power point regarding Information Technology's (IT) budget requests. He explained that technology was key to the delivery of services for all other departments and that his budget reflected technology requests for other departments. Council and staff discussed the telematics software system for Fleet maintenance. Dennis Marstall explained that the County was continuing to move away from the outside contractor/vendor and moving towards full in house IT services.

Brenda Thompson reviewed the County power point regarding the Communications and Marketing's budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Ryan Whitaker reviewed the County power point regarding Risk Management's budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Department Presentations for Others

Jeff Hammond reviewed the County power point regarding the Circuit Court/Family Court's and the Clerk of Court's budget requests. He also provided Council with a handout entitled "Projects by Department," and that handout is attached as Schedule B to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Council and staff discussed the possibility of using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to replace the boilers.

Council took a break in the meeting starting at approximately 3:17 p.m. The break ended at approximately 3:26 p.m. Steve Harper called the meeting back to order and the meeting resumed.

Discussion of Operating Budget

Dennis Marstall and Kim Belk led a discussion regarding the Operating Budget. During the discussion, they used and reviewed the updated County power point presentation, which is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Dennis Marstall reviewed the budget goals. Next, Kim Belk provided a comparative revenue update for the budgets since 2019, a current revenue update, current revenue information, historic millage rates, operating budget update, and explained the budget evaluation matrix.

Dennis Marstall provided an overview of the proposal to consolidate the grounds crew. He noted that the proposed Director of Facilities and Grounds would be responsible for managing cleaning and maintenance contracts countywide. Next, Mr. Marstall led a discussion regarding the regional park. He explained that the park was being recommended to be completed in two phases. He noted that the first phase would include everything except the recreation center. He explained that the size of the recreation center could be either 50,000 square feet or 25,000 square feet, with the capability to expand at a later date. He further explained that the projected costs

for phase one would be approximately \$33,980,000 and that the projected costs for phase two would be approximately \$38,820,000. Council and staff discussed the fact that the hospitality tax brings in around two million dollars per year. Jose Luis asked for a breakdown of amenities and costs. Next, Dennis Marstall led a discussion regarding a possible new fleet operations facility. He provided Council with potential options for building sites and construction. He also provided Council with estimated costs for the facility. Council and staff discussed the dimensions of the building, using local vendors for building projects to hold down costs, and design of the facility. Finally, Mr. Marstall led a discussion about a potential transportation tax for the County. He provided the next steps for the budget: (1) a workshop on April 19, 2023, for a personnel budget discussion; (2) a workshop on May 3, 2023, to present the Administrator's recommended budget; and (3) the first reading of the budget ordinance presented to Council on May 22, 2023.

Executive Session

One Item:

1. Receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding pending or threatened litigation.

Charlene McGriff moved to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Billy Mosteller. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to go into Executive Session Passed 5-0.; Ayes: Graham, McGriff, Mosteller, Luis, Harper; Nays: None; Absent: Blackmon, Carnes. At approximately 4:26 p.m., Council went into Executive Session to discuss the item listed above.

Council came out of Executive Session and Steve Harper called the Budget Workshop meeting back to order at approximately 4:58 p.m. Terry Graham moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to come out of Executive Session Passed 5-0.; Ayes: Graham, McGriff, Mosteller, Luis, Harper; Nays: None; Absent: Blackmon, Carnes.

Items Requiring a Vote Following Executive Session

Upon returning to open session, Ginny Merck-Dupont noted, for the record, that during Executive Session, Council discussed one item: receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege regarding pending or threatened litigation. She stated that, during Executive Session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

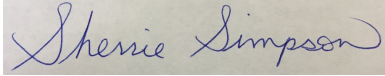
Adjournment

Terry Graham moved to adjourn the Workshop. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to adjourn the Workshop Passed 5-0.; Ayes: Graham, McGriff, Mosteller, Luis, Harper; Nays: None; Absent: Blackmon, Carnes.

There being no further business, the Budget Workshop meeting adjourned at approximately 4:59 p.m.

<Signatures Appear on Next Page>

Respectfully Submitted:



Sherrie Simpson
Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on April 24, 2023



Billy Mosteller, Secretary