

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

March 29, 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: Allen Blackmon, Brian Carnes, Steve Harper, Jose Luis, Charlene McGriff, and Billy Mosteller.

Absent: Terry Graham

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; John Bodner, Assistant County Administrator; Donna Greene, Deputy Clerk to Council; Leah Clevenger, IT Project Manager; Kim Belk, Budget Director; Veronica Thompson, Financial Services Director; Graham Shuford, Budget Analyst; Sheriff Barry Faile; Major Matt Shaw; Darren Player, Fire Rescue/Emergency Management Director; Clay Catoe, EMS Director; Karla Deese, Coroner; Robert Purser; 911 Public Safety Communications Director; Curtisha Ingram; Chief Magistrate; Mary Rathel; Jennifer Page; Delinquent Tax Collector; Brad Carnes, Tax Assessor; Brittany Grant, Register of Deeds Director; Cathy McDaniel, Procurement Director; Carrie Helms, Treasurer; Suzette Murphy, Auditor; Robin Ghent, Veterans Affairs Director; Dr. April Williams, Library Director; Brian Fulk, Economic Development Director; Mary Ann Hudson, Voter Registration Director; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; the press; 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 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 Charlene McGriff

Councilmember Charlene McGriff 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 Allen Blackmon. Motion to approve the agenda Passed 6-0. Absent: Terry Graham.

Discussion and Action Items

Dennis Marstall opened the Budget Workshop meeting and stated this workshop would be the first of three workshops. He stated half of the departments would present their budget requests today and the other half would present their budgets on April 12. He continued that the Capital Budget and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding would also be included today. He stated that staff is interested in Council feedback during these presentations.

Departmental Presentations for Public Safety

Sheriff Barry Faile provided a handout which is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. Major Matt Shaw reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the Sheriff's Office budget requests. Council and staff discussed the employment turnover of trained officers and costs associated with training a new officer. There were also discussions regarding vehicle rotations within the Sheriff's Office. Major Shaw then reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the Detention Center's budget requests.

Darren Player reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the Emergency Management budget requests. He stated they are building this budget to separate from Fire Rescue and the Fire Commission budget. Darren also reviewed the Fire Commission budget requests which primarily supports the volunteer fire service community. Darren reviewed the Fire Rescue budget requests which supports the paid firefighters. He continued that the firefighters pay was below where they need to be. Council requested a pay study comparison for beginning firefighters for surrounding areas.

Clay Catoe reviewed the County power point presentation regarding EMS' budget requests. Allen Blackmon asked about the lack of an ambulance in the Heath Springs area. Clay stated a QRV could provide the same care as an ambulance and that if transport was needed, an ambulance would respond to the scene. Council requested a pay study comparison for paramedics/EMTs for surrounding areas.

Coroner Karla Deese reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the Coroner's budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Robert Purser reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the 911 Public Safety Communications' budget requests. Council and staff discussed the employee turnover rate in this department.

Departmental Presentations for Judicial Services

Circuit Court/Clerk of Court/Family Court will present at the April 12 Budget Workshop.

Curtisha Ingram reviewed the County power point presentation on the Magistrate's budget requests. She explained the two salary increases were to make equal salaries for all of the associate judges, which should help keep up the morale. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Mary Rathel reviewed the County power point presentation on the Probate Court's budget requests. She stated she was not requesting any increases. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Departmental Presentations for Financial Services

Jennifer Page reviewed the County power point presentation on the Delinquent Tax budget requests. She stated the number of passports issued has increased so she needs a new position. Council and staff discussed the passport issue that was brought to their attention during the last budget year.

Brad Carnes reviewed the County power point presentation on the Assessor's budget requests. He stated his request involves new software, which would be better for storage and more professional. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Brittany Grant reviewed the County power point presentation on the Register of Deeds' budget requests. She is requesting an additional microfilm reader because the machine they have now will be obsolete after this year.

Cathy McDaniel reviewed the County power point presentation on the Procurement budget requests. She stated she was not requesting any increases. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Carrie Helms reviewed the County power point presentation on the Treasurer's budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Suzette Murphy reviewed the County power point presentation on the Auditor's budget requests. She reviewed the Homestead numbers and asked for pay increases for her employees. Jose Luis requested a pay study comparison from surrounding areas.

Veronica Thompson reviewed the County power point presentation of the Finance budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Departmental Presentations for Departments without an Assigned Division

Robin Ghent reviewed the County power point presentation on the Veteran's Affairs' budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Dr. April Williams reviewed the County power point presentation on the Library's budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Brian Fulk reviewed the County power point presentation on Economic Development's budget requests. Jose Luis asked about attracting small business to Lancaster County. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Mary Ann Hudson reviewed the County power point presentation on the Registration and Elections' budget requests. She stated they were requesting an increase in pay for poll workers. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Ginny Merck-Dupont reviewed the County power point presentation on the Legal budget requests. There was no discussion or any questions from Council regarding this department.

Council took a break in the meeting starting at approximately 3:57 p.m. The break ended at approximately 4:11 p.m. Steve Harper called the meeting back to order and the meeting resumed.

Discussion of Capital Budget and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Kim Belk reviewed the County power point presentation regarding the Capital Budget and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding. She requested feedback from Council as she reviewed her presentation. Council and staff discussed different funding sources available for Capital Projects. She reminded Council that the ARPA funds must be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026.

Frannie Heizer with Burr & Forman joined via telephone conference call at approximately 4:31 p.m. regarding the ballot question on the referendum that the voters passed for the cost of the detention center that would not exceed \$30 million. Ms. Heizer stated Council cannot spend more than \$30 million of Capital Sales Tax 3 on the new detention center because that's what the voters passed. She continued that there would be nothing to prevent Council from creating a new ordinance for a \$90 million detention center and Magistrate Court. Steve Harper stated Council would be requesting a new ordinance to come before Council for the new detention center and Magistrate Court. Frannie Heizer was released from the telephone conference call at approximately 4:59 p.m.

Adjournment

Jose Luis left the meeting at approximately 5:10 p.m. and joined via telephone conference call.

Brian Carnes moved to adjourn. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. Jose Luis voted to adjourn via telephone; Motion Passed 6-0. Absent: Terry Graham.

There being no further business, the Budget Workshop meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on April 24, 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