

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 15, 2023

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, Brian Carnes, Terry Graham, Steve Harper (*via telephone conference call*), Jose Luis, Charlene McGriff, and Billy Mosteller

Staff Members/Others present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; John Bodner, Assistant County Administrator; Kim Belk, Budget Director; Veronica Thompson; Finance Director; Darren Player, Fire Rescue/Emergency Management Director; Greg Nicholson, Pleasant Valley Fire Chief; Chris Miller, Indian Land Fire Chief; Stuart Barfield; Chief of Operations, Planning & Implementation/Emergency Management; Frannie Heizer, Burr Forman; Brian Nurick, Municipal Advisors; the press; various Department Heads; various Elected Officials; 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 - Vice-Chair Brian Carnes

Vice Chair Brian Carnes called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Vice-Chair Brian Carnes

Vice Chair Brian Carnes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Jose Luis

Jose Luis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Allen Blackmon moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to approve the agenda Passed 7-0. Ayes: Blackmon, Carnes, Graham, Harper, Luis, McGriff, Mosteller; Nays: None.

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

Bonding Capacity and Overview regarding Funding for the Detention Center and Regional Park Projects - Brian Nurick, Municipal Advisors, and Frannie Heizer, Bond Counsel with Burr Forman

Brian Nurick, with Compass Municipal Advisors, provided and reviewed a handout on the Capital Funding Program Report for Lancaster County. That handout is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

The following items were discussed by Council and the consultant: cash flow; that Lancaster built up eight (8) million in hospitality funds from 2017 to the present; and that the costs for the regional park project is projected to be \$44 million and would include a small recreation center; Council discussed their concerns about a possible recession; that the County should compare projections from the first capital sales tax to actual revenues; the possibility of segregating projects into different bonding projects; the possibility of delaying projects for one year; other potential funding sources; and the benefits of bonding both projects simultaneously instead of bonding them individually. Dennis Marstall explained that staff needed direction from Council regarding the final price for the new detention center.

Frannie Heizer, Bond Counsel with Burr Forman, provided a handout on the legal structure of installment purchase revenue bonds (IPRBs). That handout is attached as Schedule B to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Vice-Chair Brian Carnes called for a break at approximately 5:20 p.m. At the end of the break, he called the meeting back to order at approximately 5:27 p.m.

Discussion of Potential Merger of the Pleasant Valley and Indian Land Fire Fee Boards and Potential Increase of Fire Fee - Dennis Marstall, Darren Player, Greg Nicholson, Chief of Pleasant Valley Fire Department, and Chris Miller, Chief of the Indian Land Fire Department

Dennis Marstall reviewed the history of discussions with Council regarding fire services.

Greg Nicholson, Chief of Pleasant Valley Fire Department, gave a brief history of the fire department. He reviewed the County power point presentation on proposed staffing needs for the potential merger of the Pleasant Valley and Indian Land Fire Departments.

Chris Miller, Chief of Indian Land Fire Department, reviewed the County power point presentation on proposed budget needs for the potential merger of the Pleasant Valley and Indian Land Fire Departments.

Darren Player, Fire Rescue Director, reviewed the County power point presentation on a career development plan for the potential merger of the Pleasant Valley and Indian Land Fire Departments.

There were discussions regarding the possible elimination of the fee boards once the merger takes place and that the fire fees would, instead, be paid directly to the County and administered by the County. They discussed how the current volunteers view the merger. Darren Player stated the volunteers realize the merger is necessary and more career firefighters are needed. Council and staff discussed making Pleasant Valley and Indian Land an administrative arm of the county structure. Jose Luis requested a pro and con chart for these departments being an administrative arm versus a fee board. Darren stated the budget process would be more efficient as an administrative arm. Brian Carnes stated this process needed to have happened years ago and asked what would it take to move the entire county to this model. Darren Player stated the Fire Commission was in the process of discussing moving the entire County to this model.

Adjournment

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Charlene McGriff. A roll call vote was taken and the motion to adjourn the meeting Passed 7-0. Ayes: Blackmon, Carnes, Graham, Harper, Luis, McGriff, Mosteller; Nays: None.

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at approximately 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on April 11, 2023

Donna Greene

Donna Greene
Deputy Clerk to Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Mosteller", written over a horizontal line.

Billy Mosteller, Secretary