

Council Members

District 1: Stuart Graham
District 2: Charlene McGriff
District 3: Billy Mosteller, Vice Chair
District 4: Jose Luis
District 5: Steve Harper
District 6: Bryant Neal, Secretary
District 7: Brian Carnes, Chair



County Administrator
Dennis E. Marstall

County Attorney
Ginny L. Merck-Dupont

Clerk to Council
Sherrie Simpson

April 16, 2025
1:00 PM

LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, 101 NORTH MAIN STREET, LANCASTER, SC 29720

MINUTES

Council Members Present: Steve Harper, Bryant Neal, Brian Carnes (who entered the meeting at approximately 1:23 p.m.), Billy Mosteller, Charlene McGriff, Jose Luis, Stuart Graham.

Staff Members/Others Present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Ginny Merck-Dupont, County Attorney; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Lauren Hill, Deputy Clerk to Council; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Jamie Privuznak, Budget Director; various Department Directors that rotated in and out of the meeting; various elected officials that rotated in and out of the meeting; 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 Budget Workshop - Chairman Brian Carnes

Since Chairman Brian Carnes was late to the meeting, Vice Chairman Billy Mosteller called the Lancaster County Budget Workshop meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - Chairman Brian Carnes

Vice Chairman Billy Mosteller welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - Council Member Steve Harper

Steve Harper 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 Steve Harper. The motion Passed by a vote of 6-0; Absent: Carnes.

Departmental Presentations and Discussion Items

a. Opening Budget Remarks - *Dennis Marstall*

Dennis Marstall explained that the Lancaster County Water and Sewer District (LCWSD) was leading an effort for Counties bordering the Catawba River and Lake Wateree that were affected by an algae issue and stated that they were exploring the use of community funds to implement a treatment solution. Mr. Marstall stated that the LCWSD was requesting \$30,000 per year for the next five years.

b. Departmental Presentations:

1. 1:15 p.m. - Assessor - *Brad Carnes*
2. 1:23 p.m. - Delinquent Tax - *Jennifer Page*
3. 1:31 p.m. - Procurement - *Tracy Rabon*
4. 1:39 p.m. - Probate Court - *Judge Mary Rathel*
5. 1:47 p.m. - Human Resources - *Stephany Snowden*
6. 1:55 p.m. - Library - *Dr. April Williams*
7. 2:03 p.m. - Communications and Marketing - *Stephany Snowden*
8. 2:11 p.m. - Veterans Affairs - *Robin Ghent*
9. BREAK
10. 2:43 p.m. - Van Wyck Fire Fee District - *Chief Craig Roof*
11. 2:51 p.m. - Greater Indian Land Fire Fee District - *Chief Greg Nicholson*
12. 2:59 p.m. - Fire Service / Emergency Management - *Darren Player*
13. 3:07 p.m. - E-911 / Public Safety Communications - *Robert Purser*
14. 3:15 p.m. - Magistrate - *Judge Curtisha Ingram*
15. 3:23 p.m. - Circuit Court, Clerk of Court - *Mike Watkins*
16. 3:31 p.m. - Family Court - *Mike Watkins*
17. 3:39 p.m. - Public Defender - *William Frick, Esquire*
18. 3:47 p.m. - Legal - *Ginny Merck-Dupont, Esquire*
19. 3:55 p.m. - Solicitor - *Randy Newman, Esquire*
20. 4:03 p.m. - Risk Management - *Ryan Whitaker*
21. 4:11 p.m. - Registration and Elections - *Mary Ann Hudson*
22. 4:27 p.m. - Soil & Water Conservation - *Amanda Roberts*
23. BREAK
24. 5:00 p.m. - Parks & Recreation - *Chris Clouden*
25. 5:08 p.m. - Road Maintenance / County Transportation Committee (CTC) / Capital Project Sales Tax 3 (CPST3) - *Jeff Catoe*
26. 5:16 p.m. - Building Maintenance - *Jeff Catoe*
27. - Solid Waste Collections / Landfill - *Jeff Catoe*
28. - Airport - *Jeff Catoe*
29. 5:32 p.m. - Information Technology (IT) - *Scott Hernandez*
30. BREAK

Brad Carnes presented the budget requests for the Assessor's Office via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed maintenance service agreements and the transfer clerk position reclassification.

Jennifer Page presented the budget requests for the Delinquent Tax Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Page explained that there were three separate entities covered under the Delinquent Tax Department budget: Delinquent Tax Collection, Passports,

and Records Management. Council and staff discussed a potential bidder registration fee for the delinquent tax sales.

Tracy Rabon presented the budget requests for the Procurement Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Rabon stated that she was enjoying her new role as the Procurement Director. There was no discussion from Council regarding the presentation.

Chairman Brian Carnes entered the Council meeting at approximately 1:23 p.m.

Judge Mary Rathel presented the budget requests for Probate Court via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Judge Rathel thanked her staff's work towards reducing case loads. There was no discussion from Council regarding the presentation.

Stephany Snowden presented the budget requests for the Human Resources Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed employee engagement surveys, software realignments with the Information Technology (IT) Department, employee turnover metrics, and formalized exit interviews.

Dr. April Williams presented the budget requests for the Library via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the services that the Library provides to the community.

Stephany Snowden presented the budget requests for the Communications and Marketing Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the National Association of Counties (NACo) awards the team received, IT realignment, and commended the former Department Director, Brenda Thompson, for leading the Department.

Dennis Marstall noted that the Veterans Affairs presentation was further along in the agenda packet due to the need to realign department presentations. Robin Ghent presented the budget requests for the Veterans Affairs Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed federal and state funding.

Council took a ten-minute meeting break at approximately 2:10 p.m.

The meeting resumed at approximately 2:20 p.m., and Chief Craig Roof presented the budget requests for the Van Wyck Fire Fee District via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Chief Roof stated that the department was requesting a \$90 rooftop fee increase, and Dennis Marstall explained that staff would need to review the enabling Ordinance for the fire fees for the District.

Chief Greg Nicholson presented the budget requests for the Greater Indian Land Fire Fee District via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed a math discrepancy on the budget summary and also discussed rooftop fees. Council and staff then discussed differences in the County's PowerPoint presentation and the budget notebooks that were given to Council. A copy of the notebook referenced is attached as Schedule A to the minutes.

Darren Player presented the budget requests for the Emergency Management Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council. Mr. Player then presented the budget requests for the Fire Service/Fire Commission via the County's

PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed fire apparatus, equipment funding for each station, and impact fees. Jose Luis requested that the impact fee revision that was discussed be on the next Council meeting agenda, so Council could discuss amending the current Ordinance to allow for existing developments to pay impact fees on lots that do not have dwellings on them yet. Council and staff discussed how the County assisted with funding and fire apparatus for the City of Lancaster Fire Department. Council and staff discussed how budget changes were communicated to department heads, and Jose Luis suggested that more time be built into the budget process for the next fiscal year to avoid discrepancies and to allow for more transparency on what was being requested. Next, Mr. Player presented the budget requests for Fire Rescue (Lancaster County Firefighters) via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed a math discrepancy on the salary amounts, salary contributions for the City of Lancaster Fire Department, 24/7 staffing models at County-owned fire stations. Mr. Player presented the budget requests for the Town of Kershaw Fire Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council regarding the Town of Kershaw Fire Department presentation.

Robert Purser presented the budget requests for E-911 and Public Safety Communications via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council regarding either department presentation.

Chief Magistrate Curtisha Ingram presented the budget requests for the Magistrate's Court via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Chief Magistrate Ingram thanked her staff for their work and highlighted their accomplishments. There was no discussion from Council regarding the presentation.

Mike Watkins presented the budget requests for the Circuit Court via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council regarding the Circuit Court presentation. Next, Mr. Watkins presented the budget requests for the Clerk of Court via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed fees for certified copies of documents. Mr. Watkins then presented the budget requests for Family Court via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council regarding the Family Court presentation.

William Frick presented the budget requests for the Public Defender's Office via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed potential law clerk positions.

Ginny Merck-Dupont presented the budget requests for the Legal Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the Planning Department's budget request for legal counsel, the number of Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) cases that had gone to the Circuit Court, the responsibility of the County Attorney in relation to the BZA, outside legal counsel data, and who the County Attorney represents.

Randy Newman presented the budget requests for the Solicitor's Office via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Newman expressed appreciation for his staff. There was no discussion from Council regarding the presentation.

Ryan Whitaker presented the budget requests for the Risk Management Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. There was no discussion from Council regarding the presentation.

Mary Ann Hudson presented the budget requests for the Voter Registration and Elections

Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed the department's space needs and how a potential bond referendum would affect the department's budget.

Amanda Roberts presented the budget requests for the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and Ms. Roberts discussed the County Attorney's ability to provide legal guidance.

Council took a fifteen-minute meeting break at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The meeting resumed at approximately 4:45 p.m. Chris Clouden presented the budget requests for the Parks and Recreation Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed access gates for various County parks, needed repairs at the Springdale Recreation Center, revenue-generation opportunities, and potential events.

Jeff Catoe presented the budget requests for the Road Maintenance Department, the County Transportation Committee (CTC), the Capital Project Sales Tax 3 (CPST3), Building Maintenance, Solid Waste Collection, and the Airport via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Council and staff discussed potentially expanding service hours at convenience sites, convenience sites in need of upgrades, and tire waste disposal.

Scott Hernandez presented the budget requests for the Information Technology Department via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Jose Luis commended Mr. Hernandez and his Department for their hard work. There was no discussion from Council regarding the presentation.

c. Discussion of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) - *Dennis Marstall / Jamie Privuznak / Stephany Snowden*

Council took a 10-minute meeting break at approximately 5:56 p.m.

The meeting resumed at approximately 6:06 p.m. Jamie Privuznak reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) via the County's PowerPoint presentation, and highlighted the Fiscal Year 26 (FY26) scheduled projects as well as the new CIP requests. Ms. Privuznak stated that the Lancaster County Planning Commission received, ranked, and voted on the unfunded, approved and new project requests. Council and staff discussed the proposed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Combo Station project.

Ms. Privuznak reviewed the Capital Replacement Fund (Fund 11) via the County's PowerPoint presentation, and highlighted the FY26 Fund 11 requests. Council and staff discussed millage rates and funding scenarios.

Stephany Snowden reviewed the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system via the County's PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted the replacement opportunities, system integration opportunities, elimination opportunities, and the estimated budget impact of a new system. Council and staff both agreed that a new system was needed to increase efficiency.

Adjournment

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the Budget Workshop. There being no further business to discuss, the Budget Workshop adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

Approved by Council on May 12, 2025.

Bryant Neal

Bryant Neal, Secretary