

Minutes
Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 2023
6:00pm

The Committee met on the above date for a Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting at 6:00pm in the large conference room at the Heckle Complex, 1070 Heckle Boulevard, Rock Hill, SC. The following members were present: Council member Allison Love, Council member Debi Cloninger and Council member Tommy Adkins. Also present were County Manager, David Hudspeth and County Attorney, Michael Kendree.

Aaron Seigler, Auditor/Internal Auditor and Morris Russell, Director of Fire Services also attended.

Council member Tommy Adkins called meeting to order

Discussion regarding Council members attending Committee meetings and Council Workshops virtually.

County Manager, David Hudspeth explained that this matter was referred to Committee by the full Council after a discussion among council members. Mr. Hudspeth also explained that it was suggest that Council could attend up to 2 meetings a year for Committee meetings and up to 2 meetings a year for Workshops.

Dave Mathis and Allison Shepherd with the IT Department explained that it would cost approximately \$65,000 to upfit the Heckle Complex and approximately \$333,000 to upfit Council Chambers with the proper equipment to allow for virtual attendance by Council members. The equipment would allow the County to be ADA compliant, record the person attending virtually and allow the person attending virtually to be seen on the screen in Council Chambers.

Motion was made by Council member Allison Love and seconded by Council member Debi Cloning to not allow Council members to attend Council Workshops or committee meetings virtually. Motion Carried.

Discussion regarding appearances before Council

County Manager, David Hudspeth provided an overview of the County's current speaking sections on the Council agenda.

Motion was made by Council member Allison Love and seconded by Council member Debi Cloninger to amend the ordinance as follows:

- Citizen Concerns Section – limit number of times a speaker can address Council, no funding requests can be made, limit to 6 minutes per speaker, and not allow litigation discussions.
- Appearance Section – County/Public Agencies or at the request of York County, require a 10 day advance notice and presentations, if any, are due at the time of request. Motion Carried.

Follow up discussion regarding the Special Fire Tax Districts AUP (Agreed Upon Procedures)

Motion was made by Council member Allison Love and seconded by Council member Debi Cloninger to go into Executive Session for receipt of legal advice regarding the Special Fire Tax Districts AUP. Motion Carried.

Matters for Consideration Following Executive Session

County Auditor/Internal Auditor, Aaron Seigler reviewed the internal audit recommendations that was presented at a previous meeting and the non-profit policy.

County Manager, David Hudspeth explained that there was no timeframe for how quickly this would be implemented, as there are still processes that need to be worked out. Mr. Hudspeth and Mr. Seigler also explained that this recommendation is only for the tax districts and will not apply to the fire departments that are not tax districts. The tax districts will not be told what purchases to buy, but all purchases will have to follow County guidelines and go through County Procurement.

At this time Chairman, Tommy Adkins allowed individuals to address the Committee.

Bob Davenport, Bethesda Fire Department stated that he did not understand why the County has to have controls over the BBQ/donation money for the tax districts only.

Carl Faulk, Newport Fire Department stated that he did not feel that the County should be in control of the BBQ/donation money as it is private money.

David Jennings, Flint Hill Fire Department stated that he is also concerned with the County having controls over the BBQ/donation money. Mr. Jennings stated that he would like to get an Attorney General's opinion on the matter.

Brown Simpson, Oakdale Fire Department stated that he disagrees with the County having control over the BBQ/donation money.

David Hord, Riverview Fire Department stated that he does not agree with having to turn over BBQ/donation funds.

Joe Simpson, Bethesda Fire Department stated that he feels like the County is trying to take over fire services.

Billy Haire, Bethesda Fire Department stated that he has concerns with the County monitoring the BBQ/donation funds.

Tommy White, Lesslie Fire Department stated that he would like to see the pay scale for the firefighters. Mr. White would also like to see changes to threshold amounts for what they are allowed to spend without going through procurement.

Bill Dunlap, Oakdale Fire Department stated that he does not have any problems with the County monitoring the tax district money but he does have concerns with the County monitoring the BBQ/donation funds. Mr. Dunlap stated that he would like to get his own legal opinion and meet again to discuss after that is received.

Committee members would like to have a follow up meeting with the Chiefs in 4-6 weeks and possibly monthly meetings with them to create a better relationship between the Fire Chiefs and the County.

Motion was made by Council member Allison Love and seconded by Council member Debi Cloninger to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2023 Justice and Public Safety Committee meeting. Motion Carried.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council member Allison Love and seconded by Council member Debi Cloninger. Motion Carried.