

Minutes
York County Council Strategic Planning Session
February 19, 2021 12:00pm
February 20, 2021 8:00am
6 South Congress Street, York, SC 29745
Conference Room #3801

The York County Council met on the above dates for a York County Council Strategic Planning Session. The following Council members were present: Council member Brandon Guffey, Vice-Chairman Robert Winkler, Council member Joel Hamilton, Council member Allison Love, Chairwoman Christi Cox, Council member William “Bump” Roddey (Saturday only) and Council member Tom Audette. Also present were County Manager, David Hudspeth, Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director, Kevin Madden, County Attorney Michael Kendree and Clerk to Council, Karen Brogdon. Lawrence Flynn from Pope Flynn Group in Columbia, SC presided as the moderator for the planning session.

Friday, February 19, 2021 – 12:00pm

Mr. Flynn began the planning session by reviewing the following information:

- History and overview of County Government and York County (a copy of the entire powerpoint presentation is attached and incorporated herein within these minutes.
- York County Code of Ordinances
- Department structure and functions
 - County Organizational Chart
 - County Manager, David Hudspeth – Emergency Management, Public Safety Communications, Auditor, Economic Development, Fire Safety, Planning
 - Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden – Finance, Treasurer, Human Resources, Procurement, Assessor, Information Technology
 - Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore – Engineering, Public Works, Parks and Recreation
 - Review of Manager, Clerk and County Attorney
 - County Legal Department – Role, Responsibility and Assignment of Work
- Flow of information to and from departments
 - Main point of contact should be the County Management
 - Secondary point of contact is Department Head
 - Additional contact should be referred to by Department Heads or Management
 - Exceptions
 - Pennies for Progress, C-Funds (Patrick Hamilton)
 - Rezoning (Jonathan Buono and/or Diane Dil)
- Function/role of Council

- Interaction with staff, boards and commissions
 - Boards and commissions are able to best serve their community and county council when there is a clearly defined set of expectations.
 - Gather citizen input
 - Members must understand their roles, responsibilities and limitations
 - Excepting quasi-judicial bodies, council is not bound by recommendations of the Board.
 - Recruitment is a continual process
 - There are 3 expectations for all appointed bodies:
 - Member will make informed recommendations and decisions
 - Source of communication for the community and the Council members
 - Provide leadership in its area of oversight
- Codified ordinances/rules
- Legislative policies
 - Procedural – Robert’s Rules
 - Ethics
 - Council Handbook v. General HR
 - Zoning
 - Economic Development
- Committee functions
 - Duties expressed in Code of Ordinances – 6 standing committees (Finance & Operations, Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, Justice and Public Safety, Health and Environmental Protection and Zoning)
 - Detailed for each committee
 - Provides process for referral of items
 - Committee may not take action on items unless referred by Council
- Freedom of Information Act.
 - Records – FOIA governs the disclosure of public records
 - Meetings – convening of a quorum of the constituent membership of a public body, whether corporal or by means of electronic equipment (emails or text messages), to discuss or act upon a matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.
 - Process

County Manager, David Hudspeth presented the following Management Initiatives:

- Staffing/Expansion of Human Resources Functions
 - FY22 staffing needs
 - Understaffed department
- Human Resources – Generally
 - Recruitment
 - Screening of candidates
 - Interview assistance
- Expansion of Procurement Functions
 - Dealing in a decentralized world

- RFP/RFQ/RFI
 - Contract Administration
- Public Information Office
 - Changes
 - New position with production skills
 - Creation of new position – project manager
- Creation of Parks Department
 - Department Director – oversight of all parks, including Riverbend
 - Anticipated start-date
 - Funding the position
- Animal Control
- Evaluation of Economic Development Incentives
 - Philosophical approach to development
 - Reset of Fee In Lieu
 - Priorities in recruitment
 - Quality over quantity

Saturday, February 20, 2021 – 8:00am

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden and Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore reviewed the Capital Projects Priorities and funding options. The projects listed below are preliminary projections based on anticipated needs and space requirements. At this time, projects, amounts and timing are subject to Council appropriation and may be modified.

- Attorney Office Renovations - \$285,000 (existing Capital Projects fund balance)
- EC Black Demo/Parking/Park - \$400,000 (existing Capital Projects fund balance)
- Animal Control Expansion – York - \$2,500,000 (General Fund surplus)
- Animal Control adoption center building - \$1,500,000 (General Fund surplus)
- Eastern Convenience Center - \$3,000,000 (Convenience Center FB & CP fund balance)
- Allison Creek Park - \$4,420,000 (GF surplus and water/sewer)
- Riverbend Park - \$19,350,000 (H-Tax/millage for passive recreation)
- Worth Mountain - \$2,400,000 (H-tax)
- Nanny’s Mountain - \$2,400,000
- Veterans Park - \$100,000
- Future Sheriff’s Capacity - \$22,800,000
- New Coroner’s Office - \$3,675,000
- Emergency Management Storage - \$1,500,000

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council member Tom Audette would like staff to look into the homeless population in the county by possibly partnering with Pathways to assist with transportation, training, shelter, etc. Mr. Audette also suggested that the County create an ordinance to prohibit panhandling in the County. Finally, Council member Audette requested that the County look into Comporium Internet services and the monopoly they have on the County.

Council member Brandon Guffey requested that staff determine if we can use some of the C-Funds designated for Economic Development and put back in each Council district to use.

Council member Joel Hamilton requested that staff look into water/sewer service aggressively as he would like to see infrastructure expanded.

Council member Allison Love requested that staff continue to research the Blue Granite water concerns. Ms. Love also requested additional funding for York County Forever to assist with conservation easements in District 2.

Council member William “Bump” Roddey requested that staff research stormwater utility fees again.

Vice Chairman Robert Winkler requested that the excessive litter in the County be addressed by staff. Mr. Winkler also requested that staff focus on minimal surplus in budget so as to not overtax the citizens.

Chairwoman Christi Cox seemed to be pleased with the suggestions that were made by the Council members and feels that Management has a good list of initiatives to move forward with.

There being no further discussion, the Council Workshop was adjourned.