

Minutes
Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 31, 2021
3:00pm

The Committee met on the above date for a Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting at 3:00pm in the large conference room at the Heckle Complex, 1070 Heckle Boulevard, Rock Hill, SC. The following members were present: Council member Brandon Guffey, Council member William “Bump” Roddey and Council member Robert Winkler. Also present were Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore, Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden, and County Attorney, Michael Kendree. Fire Services Director, Morris Russell and Emergency Management Director, Chuck Haynes were also present. Bonnie Marsiglia attended in place of the Clerk to County to take minutes.

Meeting was called to order by Council member Brandon Guffey

Summary and Actions:

A discussion was held regarding the Oakdale Fire Station located on Highway 72 in Rock Hill and Oakdale’s request for the County to construct a new fire station due to the road widening project on Highway 72.

Oakdale Chief, Bill Dunlap provided a history of the Pennies for Project road widening project for Highway 72. Mr. Dunlap explained that the road widening will take place within the right of way in front of the fire station and will not allow current fire apparatus to properly fit in the parking area of the fire station. Oakdale is proposing construction of a new fire station on the property across the street from the current station on Highway 72. Mr. Dunlap suggested that the County use general funds or funds from the American Rescue Plan for construction of the project.

Staff explained that using general funds is outside of the normal protocol for funding fire stations and would bring numerous requests for funding other fire stations in the County. Funds made available to the County through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Act are not currently eligible for this expense.

Staff suggested that County Management and Fire Services staff continue working with Oakdale to reallocate equipment to the other stations and consider additional new equipment for the stations that would continue to address the fire needs of the district. This would have minimal to no impact on fire service in the district and no impact on the Department’s ISO rating.

Several ideas were discussed with the Committee for possible funding for the fire station. However, a consensus was not be reached on those discussions. Oakdale suggested a bond referendum for the citizens of the area that are served by Oakdale Fire Department. The Committee members felt that Council would be on board with this proposal.

Staff will continue to work with Oakdale Fire Department to determine if the bond referendum can be met for the November 2022 election.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Council member Robert Winkler and seconded by Council member William “Bump” Roddey. Motion Carried.