

Minutes
York County Council Workshop
September 13, 2022
1070 Heckle Boulevard, Rock Hill, SC
Large Conference Room
6:00pm

The York County Council met on the above date for a York County Council Workshop at 6:00pm located at 1070 Heckle Boulevard, Large Conference Room, Rock Hill, South Carolina. The following Council members were present: Vice-Chairman Robert Winkler, Council member Tom Audette, Council member Allison Love, Chairwoman Christi Cox, Council member Joel Hamilton, and Council member Brandon Guffey. Also present were County Manager, David Hudspeth, Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore, Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden, and Clerk to Council, Karen Brogdon.

Chairwoman Christi Cox called the meeting to order.

Preliminary discussion regarding Economic Development Strategies

David Swenson, Economic Development Director provided information regarding the Economic Development Board and the next steps.

- Current Ordinances have an Economic Development Board;
- Recommendation from 2021 strategic plan, County Management, and ED Director is to modify structure:
 - Reduce board from 18 to 13 members
 - Public Sector: 8
 - 3 members of the York County ED Committee of Council
 - 5 appointments representing manufacturing(2), service, real estate, financial services industries
 - Private Sector: 3
 - York County Growth Partners recommend three for approval by Council
 - Education / Workforce Development: 2
 - President of Winthrop and President of York Tech (or designee)
 - Ex Officio: County Manager, York County Regional Chamber President (or designee), the Chief of the Catawba Indian Nation or designee, the Clemson Extension Agribusiness Agent
- Other options for consideration:
 - Keep existing ordinance and fill positions
 - Change ordinance based on recommendations and fill positions
 - Remove ED Board from existing ordinance

Economic Development Fund

- County Council created the Economic Development Fund in 2016
- Purpose of the funds are to provide resource money for strategic Economic Development initiatives as approved by County Council

- Current available balance as of May 31, 2022 - \$1,985,387
 - Revenue has increased from \$46,108 (FY18-19) to \$97,202 (FY21-22)
 - Two approved payments have gone to the SC I-77 Alliance for a total of \$76,089.20 for outside marketing support
- Potential Use of Funds
 - Land purchase / Industrial Park Development costs
 - ED closing fund reimbursement grants
 - Utility improvements
 - Site preparedness
 - Roads
 - Grants for Strategic Initiatives
 - Workforce Development
 - Incubator / Small Business Assistance
 - Market Studies
 - Speculative Industrial Buildings

Chairwoman Cox stated that this was just a preliminary discussion and no Council direction will be taken. However, Council would like to dedicate the next Council workshop in October to Economic Development issues.

Discussion Regarding Term Limits for Elected Officials

Chairwoman Cox stated that this topic was discussed at a previous Council meeting and it was determined that County Council does not have a mechanism to control at this level but it warranted an additional discussion.

Council members could not reach a consensus on supporting term limits and no direction was given to staff to proceed with anything additional at this time.

Chairwoman Cox requested a show of hands from members of the audience for those that were in favor or against term limits.

1 audience member was in favor of term limits. All other audience members were not in favor of term limits (approximately 20 people).

Update on Strategic Planning Goals

County Manager, David Hudspeth reviewed management goals from the 2022 Council Strategic Planning Session.

- Administer Recover Funds
 - Expended \$5,526,091.56
 - Obligated \$19,326,527.65
 - All remaining funds are allocated
 - Transparency dashboard on the County website

Council member Tom Audette stated that he would like staff to look into using some of these funds for broadband and Council member William “Bump” Roddey stated the he would like staff to look into using some funds for Blackmon Road water/sewer.

- Implement Grant Management Program

- Hired a Grants Consulting Group
 - Working in partnership with COG (RIA Grant)
- Establish Parks Department
 - Department established FY23 budget
 - Hired Parks and Recreation Director and other staff
 - Actively filling other positions
- Complete Park Master Plans
 - Worth Mountain in process
 - Obtaining proposals for Bethel Lake Wylie Tax District Parks
- Begin Park Design Phases
 - CBP Phase 1 in design
- Begin Pennies Five Project Development
 - Passed Resolution to begin the process
 - Appointments to the Committee under consideration
 - Need to define process
- Upfit Coroner Building
 - Considering new build along with purchase
 - Preliminary design and pricing underway
- Identify surplus county properties for sale
 - Four properties have sold or in the process
- Complete Compensation Plan review
 - Currently in process
- Improve employee recruitment and retainage
 - Hired Deputy HR Director
 - Implementing new hiring process
- Implement Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Implement Recode Ordinance
 - Batch 1 complete; Batch 2 recommended by Planning Commission. Council to consider in October
- Complete Comprehensive Plan update
 - Currently in process

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by council member Robert Winkler and seconded by Council member Tom Audette. Motion carried.