

Minutes
York County Council Workshop
August 13, 2024
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: Council member Tommy Adkins, Council member William “Bump” Roddey, Council member Allison Love, Chairwoman Christi Cox, Council member Watts Huckabee, and Council member Debi Cloninger. Also present were County Manager, Josh Edwards, Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden, County Attorney, Michael Kendree, and Clerk to Council, Karen Brogdon.

Also present was Trish Startup, Director of Budget and Administrative Services.

Chairwoman Christi Cox called the meeting to order.

Council held a follow up discussion regarding York County’s Strategic Plan

County Manager, Josh Edwards provided an overview of the strategic planning process.

Goals: Broad statements of measurable outcomes to be achieved on behalf of customers

Strategies: Statements of what you must do well or barriers that you must overcome to achieve a specific goal.

Initiatives: Specific programs, strategies and activities that will help you meet your performance targets.

Trish Startup reviewed the Economic Opportunities

Develop economic opportunities that improve resident’s quality of life and support the community’s vision for economic development by providing a favorable business climate that values local businesses, promotes economic vibrancy, and prioritizes partnerships to create a more diverse and balances economy.

Strategies	Council’s Feedback
Promote economic vibrancy to create a robust economic landscape	Vision and Focus
Invest in quality of life opportunities to enhance experiences for residents	Become More Community Focuses
Support and promote initiatives that strengthen small businesses	Small Business Initiatives
Engage stakeholders to prioritize and support	Private and Public Partnerships

our community's vision for economic development	
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Council Comments Collectively, in addition to the plan proposed by Management

- Not in agreeance with hiring a consultant to identify top industrial sites. Should be done in house.
- Would like to work proactively to promote economic vibrancy to create a robust economic landscape.
- Update the County's ordinance regarding the economic development funds in a way that achieves the community's vision and the County's long-term vision for economic development.
- Research and implement best practices and initiatives that support the county's ag-economy
- Define small business initiatives and explore funding strategies that the County could implement to support small business owners. Create a small business council and partners with stakeholders to aid small businesses.
- Create a stakeholder engagement plan that will align economic development partnerships and initiatives focused on the community's vision for economic development; including the creation of an Economic Development Advisory Board.
- Develop internal communication procedures between Council and staff to ensure effective information sharing and consistent feedback loops.
- Create an engagement campaign that educates the community about the benefits of economic development

Josh Edwards reviewed High Performing Organization

Create a high-performing culture that empowers employees to become collaborative leaders and problem-solvers focused on building trust with the community through exceptional service delivery and transparent engagement.

Strategies	Council's Feedback
Create a date-driven culture that ensures accountability	Build trust and transparency
Prioritize engagement efforts to improve public trust	Communications and Marketing
Become an organization known for exceptional service by empowering employees to be problem solvers and leaders at all levels of the organization	Customer Service
Enhance efficiency and collaboration through streamlined processes, procedures, and cross-functional teamwork.	Technology & Internal Communications

Council Comments Collectively, in addition to the plan proposed by Management

- Council agreed with the proposed plan
- Create corresponding action plans; including customer service surveys and community surveys

Trish Startup reviewed Premier Parks

Develop and offer premier parks and recreation opportunities that enhance residents' and visitors' quality of life through facility and service expansion, land preservation, and engaging regional partners.

Strategies	Council's Feedback
Establish York County as a premier recreational destination that offers a wide variety of recreational experiences.	Economic Driver
Preserve and protect the County's natural resources to ensure sustainability.	Preservation
Collaborate with stakeholders to support and enhance parks and recreation experiences throughout the county.	Partnerships
Expand parks and recreation facilities and services to enhance the quality of life.	Identify Citizens Needs/Wants

Council Comments Collectively, in addition to the plan proposed by Management

- Develop and offer premier parks and recreation opportunities that enhance our quality of life by providing a wide variety of safe, unique, and highly desired recreational experiences, while also protecting the County's natural assets and heritage.
- Develop a county parks identity that encompasses the mission and services of the York County parks system. Invest in the development and improvement of current recreational infrastructure; including upgrading existing facilities to meet modern standards.
- Protect the County's natural resources to ensure sustainability
- Prioritize partnerships with stakeholders to utilize land protection strategies throughout the county and to educate the community about land protection strategies
- Proactively engage and educate large property owners on options to protect their land for future generations
- Research and implement and protection initiatives to promote sustainability and resiliency throughout the community
- Use park metrics, current community demographics, and future growth areas to identify potential lands to protect.
- Explore partnerships to create a shared county-wide recreational vision that will offer a wide range of experiences.
- Develop a Parks and Recreation maintenance plan to achieve the long-term sustainability of our recreational facilities
- Ensure park and recreation facilities are sufficiently staffed to meet the needs of a safe and well-organized experience.

Josh Edwards reviewed Grow Responsibly

Provide well-balances planning & development services that empower economic development and manage growth in a sustainable manner that reflects and protects York County's unique communities and heritage.

Strategies	Council's Feedback
Provide responsive services to stakeholders that proactively identify and communicate land development issues and solutions	Ordinances
Collaborate with public and private partners to ensure affordable and attainable housing	Affordable/Attainable Housing
Develop solutions that create attractive residential communities and destination commercial developments	Attract Quality Development
Align public facility expansion with the pace of growth to efficiently manage and finance growth	Developers pay towers infrastructure needs

Council Comments Collectively, in addition to the plan proposed by Management

- Concerns with collaborating with public and private partners to ensure affordable and attainable housing
- Develop solutions that create attractive, attainable residential communities and destination commercial development
- Partner with stakeholders to conduct a Comprehensive Housing Assessment to analyze housing affordability and factors impacting affordability and access.

Trish Startup reviewed Safe Community

Protect all residents and visitors by ensuring their safety and security through responsive, professional, and accountable emergency services.

Strategies	Council's Feedback
Improve response times to ensure reliable and effective emergency services.	Responsiveness
Increase emergency services engagement in the community.	Safe Community
Develop and retain professional staff and standards so as to deliver quality services.	Hiring and Retaining Staff
Align public safety entities to improve coordination efforts of emergency services.	Align Among Public Safety Entities

Council Comments Collectively, in addition to the plan proposed by Management

- Council had no additional comments to add. They agreed with the plan proposed. However, they would like for Management to include the incoming Sheriff, Tony Breeden in the plan.

Josh Edwards reviewed Quality Infrastructure

Build and maintain quality, safe, and reliable infrastructure including: transportation, water/sewer utilities, storm water utilities and facilities.

Strategies	Council's Feedback
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Assess current infrastructure to determine and prioritize maintenance needs and future capital projects.	Assess Current Infrastructure
Build quality infrastructure to ensure sustainable levels of service.	Build Quality Infrastructure
Preserve and maintain current infrastructure to proactively ensure safe and reliable roads, utilities, and facilities.	Preserve & Maintain Infrastructure
Plan for future infrastructure investments to ensure economic stability.	Plan for Future Infrastructure

Council Comments Collectively, in addition to the plan proposed by Management

- Study potential funding options for maintaining stormwater infrastructure.

Staff will incorporate the modifications proposed by Council and present the final plan to Council for approval in September.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned.