

Minutes
Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024
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, Assistant County Manager Kevin Madden, and County Attorney, Michael Kendree.

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

Council member Tommy Adkins called meeting to order

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

County Manager, David Hudspeth provided an update and stated that several meetings have been held with the Justice & Public Safety Committee along with the fire chiefs individually to discuss the AUP that was presented in September 2022 and below are the 4 topics that have been addressed and still need to be resolved:

1. Fire Tax Districts following FOIA requirements by publishing agendas, minutes, having a quorum, etc. – Fire Chiefs are in agreeance with this requirement
2. BBQ/Fundraiser Money – Accounting should be provided for this information and volunteer departments should provide documentation to the County if asked. However, Mr. Hudspeth reported that there is no way to compel the volunteer departments to provide an accounting.
3. Accounts Payable – July 1st is a target date to work on bringing over the accounts payable from each Tax District, by submitting invoices to the County.
4. Tax District Employees – Anyone that is employed and paid with Tax District money should be county employees. However, the County's Attorneys are still researching this issue and will provide a legal opinion on the matter.

Mr. Hudspeth reported that all other concerns have been resolved to his knowledge.

Chairman Tommy Adkins reported on behalf of the Fire Chiefs the following:

1. Fire Chiefs have no issues with following the FOIA statute.
2. Fire Chiefs report their BBQ/Fundraiser money to the Secretary of State annually. Mr. Adkins asked if this would satisfy the County's request for an annual reporting.

3. Fire Chiefs have concerns with how the accounts payable process is going to work. Is this going to slow them down when purchasing items?
4. Fire Chiefs also have concerns with how the Tax District employees will become County Employees. Whom would they report to? Would like additional information on this matter.

Council members Tommy Adkins, Allison Love and Debi Cloninger stated that they have questions regarding the tax district employees becoming County employees and would like to see the Attorney's opinion before moving forward on this issue.

The Committee will meet again in approximately 30 days to hold a follow up discussion regarding the matters that have not been resolved.

Motion was made by Council member Allison Love and seconded by Council member Debi Cloninger to approve the minutes from the October 25, 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.