

Minutes
York County Council Workshop
May 14, 2024
6 South Congress Street, York, SC
Council Chambers
6:00pm

The York County Council met on the above date for a York County Council Workshop at 6:00pm located at 6 South Congress Street, York, South Carolina. The following Council members were present: Council member Tommy Adkins, Council member Allison Love, Chairwoman Christi Cox, Council member Tom Audette, Council member Watts Huckabee, Council member William “Bump” Roddey, and Council member Debi Cloninger. Also present were County Manager, Josh Edwards, Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore, Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden, and Clerk to Council, Karen Brogdon.

Chairwoman Christi Cox called the meeting to order.

Agency/Non-Profit Requests

Adrienne Woods, Executive Director of Safe Passage addressed Council regarding the proposed budget. Ms. Woods explained that over the past several years the VOCA grant funding has decreased for Safe Passage. Ms. Woods stated that this year they are requesting \$100,000 from York County and that the money will be restricted to York County residents.

Julie Ward, Executive Director of the York County Library addressed Council regarding the proposed budget. Finance Manager, Lee Smith also appeared and presented information regarding the Library’s budget. Ms. Smith explained that they are not requesting an increase in mills but would like to utilize the new value of a mill. Ms. Smith also stated that there are many increases across the entire Library budget.

Andy Clinton, Executive Director of Visit York County addressed Council regarding the proposed budget. Mr. Clinton stated that they are requesting an increase in Accommodations Tax from \$387,500 to \$450,000. Mr. Clinton explained that the expenses would be used for sales, marketing, visitor services and research.

Coroner, Sabrina Gast addressed Council regarding the proposed budget and the requested 2 new investigator positions that were not recommended by Management. Ms. Gast explained that deaths, overdoses, autopsies and transports have all increased over the last few years. Currently the Coroner’s Office does not have enough staff to keep her current staff from being burned out. Ms. Gast is requesting that Council consider approving her request of two additional investigators.

Council requested that staff research and put together information regarding the impact to the budget of the additional staff recommended

Kerri McGuire, Executive Director of Keystone Substance Abuse Services addressed Council regarding the proposed budget. Ms. McGuire explained that the Duke Endowment Grant is ending on June 30, 2024 and additional funding is needed to continue to support 4 Clinical

Counselors (salary & benefits) for schools, cost of assessment/treatment services, travel expenses to and within school districts. Ms. McGuire requested \$40,000 from York County. \$35,000 for assessment/treatment services and \$5,000 for travel expenses.

Management explained that there is opioid funding available for Keystone and they would like to work with Ms. McGuire to draw down that money to offset their loss of funding.

Discussion regarding Park Fee Amendments

Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore explained that staff is recommending the following park fee amendments:

- Ebenezer Park – RV/Tent camping fees to align with Allison Creek Park.
- Establish a primitive camp sight fee at Ebenezer Park also to align with Allison Creek Park
- Increase daily/holiday/weekend shelter fees at all parks
- Adjust out of county day use fees, night access cards and dumping fees
- Establish a kayak rental and tour fee
- Establish a golf cart permit fee at Ebenezer Park and Allison Creek Park
- Establish Pickleball membership and league fees at Field Day Park
- Increase in the Community Center rental rates at Field Day Park
- Establish rates at Catawba Bend Preserve so they are in place when the park opens

Discussion regarding Water/Sewer Rate Amendments

Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore presented information regarding the adjusted rates for water/sewer:

- Increasing the consumption rates for water – 5%
- Increasing the consumption rates for sewer – 10%

Mr. Moore explained that part of this increase is the pass along from the City of Rock Hill.

Discussion regarding Solid Waste Tipping Fee Amendments

Assistant County Manager, Mike Moore presented information regarding the Solid Waste Tipping fee increases:

- Municipal solid waste \$46 to \$49
- Construction demolition \$40 to \$42

Mr. Moore explained that these rates are still reasonable in comparison with other areas.

FY24/25 General Budget Discussion

County Manager, Josh Edwards explained that this was an opportunity for Council to ask staff any questions they may have regarding the budget.

Mr. Edwards reported that updated budget calendar would be on the next Council agenda for approval.

Council members asked several questions on the following topics:

- \$209,000 decrease to the Economic Development Fund
 - County Manager, Josh Edwards explained that a more comprehensive discussion should be held and Council should provide direction on how to use the funds. For now, staff will review and determine a better strategy to use the funds.
- Two positions requested by the Coroner's Office
 - County Manager, Josh Edwards stated that Council should make recommended changes to the budget at the 1st reading and staff can provide details on how the changes can be made to the budget prior to 1st reading.
- Agency requests and possible over budgeting and still requesting an increase in funds
 - Trish Startup, Budget Director explained the process for reviewing the proposed budgets and how recommendations are made.
- Special Fire Tax Districts millage rates and increases
 - Auditor, Aaron Seigler explained the value of a mill and how it is distributed to the fire tax districts.
 - Staff will provide an explanation on the value of a mill for the special fire tax districts.
- Increasing the Public Information Office staff
 - Staff will provide a memo on the costs to fund additional staff
- Whole County Flood Study
 - Management explained that there might be potential options to explore in the next budget. Planning and Development can provide a report on what the next steps may be.
- Strategic Planning Session project funding
 - Management explained that there might be a possibility to set aside funds from the capital improvement funds if a project/initiative is needed and approved.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Council member William "Bump" Roddey and seconded by Council member Allison Love to adjourn. Motion Carried.