



**York County
Justice & Public Safety Committee
Minutes
April 30, 2025**

Regular Meeting

**Training Room, 3rd Floor
Government Center
6 South Congress Street
York, South Carolina 29745**

6:00 PM

Call to Order

Chairman Tommy Adkins

Order of Business

1. Committee to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025 Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Passed **Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0**

MOVANT: Tom Audette

SECOND: Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr

AYES: Tommy Adkins, Tom Audette, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

RECUSED: None

2. Sheriff Breeden to discuss Sheriff Department ordinances that need to be amended and/or created.

Extended stays in hotels;
Camping on public/private property;
Authority to address derelict structures

Sheriff Tony Breeden presented information to the committee members regarding ordinances that he would like to amend.

Extended stays in hotels: Sheriff Breeden reported that typically individuals that occupy hotels long-term typically result in crimes. Sheriff Breeden proposed that stays not exceed 30 consecutive days in unincorporated areas, with exceptions for work, disasters, homes burned down, etc. Occupants may check out for 72 hours and then return.

A motion was made to refer the proposal to the full Council regarding extended stays in hotels.

Passed **Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0**

MOVANT: Tom Audette

SECOND:	Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
AYES:	Tommy Adkins, Tom Audette, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	
RECUSED:	None

Camping on public/private property: Sheriff Breeden reported that property owners allow individuals to camp on their property for extended periods of time, but the property does not have adequate facilities. Which is leading to environmental concerns and excessive trash. The Sheriff stated that additional work needs to be done on the proposed ordinance modifications. He will come back to the committee with a complete recommendation.

Authority to address derelict structures: Sheriff Breeden stated that his office needs authority to deem a structure a nuisance. Currently, only building and codes can deem a structure a nuisance. Sheriff Breeden is willing to work with code enforcement, but his office needs to be able to address high crime and problem houses. The sheriff will come back to the committee with a complete recommendation.

3. Fire Department issues related to disbandment of fire board.

David Garner, Assistant County Manager, addressed the Committee regarding issues related to the disbandment of the fire board. Mr. Garner reported that key governance and funding gaps have emerged due to unclear roles, outdated processes, and insufficient statutory authority.

Updating the fire ordinance would assist with the following:

Role Clarity - Fire Director needs statutory authority; FAC should advise Director and County Management

Funding Equity - Allocation formulas must be codified to ensure fairness and transparency.

Reorganization - Aligns with best practice: Department-led, Management-reviewed, Council-approved

Multiple Taxing Entities - there exist 8 different districts/taxing entities (including York County) administering fire protection and services. Future efforts should be geared towards modernizing the level of service and eliminating jurisdictional disparities created by multiple funding sources.

Mr. Garner stated that the 2018 shift fundamentally centralized authority under York County Council while preserving day-to-day operations at the fire department level. It introduced greater standardization, oversight and accountability but neglected distinct role clarification, particularly with regard to policy processes and county staff.

The Policies Manual of the York County Fire Service needs updating to align with County Council's directives and begin moving towards a unified fire service. Without these updates, there would be conflicts between policy language and the current legal framework.

Mr. Garner stated that staff would like to come back to the committee with a proposal.

4. Discussion regarding Boards & Commissions Ordinance/Policy.

County Attorney, Michael Kendree, reported that staff was tasked with reviewing the Boards and Commissions ordinance to evaluate how board members are appointed, when they are appointed, and how terms should be set out. It was proposed that terms run the same as council members' terms.

A motion was made to have a blackout period from July 1 to December 31 and allow any new council member to continue with the current appointment or reappoint a new member.

Passed	Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0
MOVANT:	Tom Audette
SECOND:	Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
AYES:	Tommy Adkins, Tom Audette, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	
RECUSED:	None

Executive Session

Matters for consideration following Executive Session

Adjourn

Passed	Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0
MOVANT:	Tom Audette
SECOND:	Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
AYES:	Tommy Adkins, Tom Audette, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	
RECUSED:	None