



**York County
County Council
Minutes
January 13, 2026**

Regular Meeting

**York County Heckle Complex
1070 Heckle Boulevard
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732**

6:00 PM

Call to Order

Christi Cox, Chairwoman

Chairwoman Cox called the meeting to order. Members in attendance are:

Council member Tom Audette
Council member Andy Litten
Council member Tommy Adkins
Council member Watts Huckabee
Council member Debi Cloninger

Council member William Bump Roddey was absent.

Assistant County Manager, Josh Edwards, Assistant County Manager, Tom Couch, Assistant County Manager, David Garner and Assistant County Manager Kevin Madden were also in attendance. County Attorney Michael Kendree also attended.

New Business

1. Update on the Legislative Agenda

County Manager, Josh Edwards presented information on the Legislative Priorities, an overview of York County's legislative priorities for 2026, including project funding requests and policy recommendations.

Project Funding Requests:

Renovations and improvements to Moss Justice Center — redesigned booking/intake for safety and workflow, dedicated medical/mental health wing and infrastructure modernization and compliance upgrades; formal ask \$14 million

Eastern York County Utility Upgrades — funding assistance to complete water line replacement in specific areas rather than continuously repairing the next weakest part of the water line; formal ask \$20 million.

Parks Assistance — Catawba Bend Preserve and Worth Mountain — funding assistance to support the design and construct one mile of paved greenway trail along the Catawba River, which will also be part of the Carolina Thread Trail master plan and establish a restroom facility, picnic shelter and 4–6 additional miles of shared-use trails at Worth Mountain; formal ask

\$2,750,000.

Council members believe that these projects are in line with what has been discussed and support staff proceeding with these initiatives.

Council members would also like to be involved in the meetings with staff and the Legislators.

Mr. Edwards stated that he would keep Council members aware of all meeting requests.

Mr. Edwards reviewed policy requests that will be presented to the Legislators as well:

Roads/Transportation

Holding Contractors Accountable

Mandates

Annexation

Impact Fees

Chairwoman Cox would also like staff to prepare a recommendation on event venues as well.

Chairwoman Cox also requested that in the future, we provide this information to the Delegation members in September.

2. Fire and EMS Strategic Plan Update

Assistant County Manager, David Garner provided information on the 10-year vision and framework for York County Fire.

Countywide Fire Protection District

Standard Level of Service

Training Department — volunteer and paid standards

Community Risk Reduction and Public Education

Fire Services Director, Matt Davis, presented information on the 3–5 year plan on the current focus and actions:

Goal 1 - Standardized, Reliable Emergency Response

Goal 2 — Sustainable Staffing and Deployment

Goal 3 — Training, Readiness, and Professional Development

Goal 4 — Communication, Transparency, and Coordination

Goal 5 — Governance, Policy, and Shared Services

Goal 6 — Community Risk Reduction and Engagement

Assistant County Manager, David Garner reviewed the Next Steps/Future Activities.

- Recommend to the Advisory Committee and County Council response time standards for rural and urban service areas.
- Benchmark York County Fire with NFPA and industry best practice standards to identify gaps.
- Create a unified recruitment campaign for firefighters for volunteer and career staff.
- Assess squad program pilot and implement recommendations on a permanent basis.
- Develop a process for bringing Tax District employees into County Fire and bring recommendation to County Council as part of the FY 27 budget process.

- Hire a full-time Training Officer and implement a 3-year training plan by July 1, 2026.
- Conduct a facility needs assessment to identify areas of focus for York County to consider building fire stations.
- Recommend and create a countywide budget/finance model that creates greater accountability and supports all fire districts by need.
- Analyze incident type and demographic data to target Community Risk Reduction efforts.

Council members would like to make sure that the Fire Chief/Departments are involved in the process and made aware of modifications.

David Garner also presented information on the EMS Strategic Plan:

1. Response Equity and System Efficiency — Modernizing Dispatch and Deployment, GIS-based modeling, rural and high-growth coverage equity and fire service integration.
2. Governance, Oversight, and Continuous Improvement — Franchise accountability, Prehospital management committee, unified protocols, root-cause review/quality review and assurance, enhanced medical control role (County Medical Control)
3. Fire Service Integration and Interagency Coordination — unified response framework, medical and simulation training, and regional training coordination
4. System Capacity, Workforce, and Hospital Partnerships — technical college pipeline, preceptorships, strengthening ALS capabilities, shared offload metrics, reduce hospital delays, improve interfacility (non-emergency) transport management
5. Long-term Planning and System Sustainability - hybrid/county-led model evaluation, annual performance benchmarking, funding sustainability, telehealth and triaging, mobile integrated healthcare long-term technology investment and annual EMS planning forum.

First-year priorities (2026)

CAD/EMD/MARVLIS update and deployment
 Franchise oversight system (Medical Director YoCo)
 EMS-Fire response framework
 Workforce pipeline
 Annual Planning Program

Key Policy Intersections

EMS Ordinance Development
 Fire Service Strategic Plan
 CAD/EMD upgrades
 Hospital partnerships
 Data transparency

Council members are in support of this plan and agreed with staff's plan moving forward.

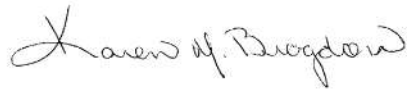
Executive Session

Matters for consideration following Executive Session

Adjourn

(7:13pm) Motion to adjourn

Passed	Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0
MOVANT:	Tom Audette
SECOND:	Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
AYES:	Tom Audette, Andy Litten, Tommy Adkins, Christi Cox, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr, Debi Cloninger
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	William Bump Roddey
RECUSED:	None



Karen M. Brogdon, Clerk to Council