



**York County
County Council
Minutes
March 10, 2026**

Council Workshop

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

6:00 PM

Call to Order

Christi Cox, Chairwoman

Council members Tom Audette, Andy Litten, Tommy Adkins, William "Bump" Roddey, Christi Cox, and Watts Huckabee were present.

Also, present were County Manager, Josh Edwards, Assistant County Manager Tom Couch, Assistant County Manager, David Garner, Interim Assistant County Manager, Eric Rekitt, Human Resources Director, Lisa Davidson and Budget Director, Trish Startup.

Chairwoman Cox called the meeting to order and recognized Sheriff Tony Breeden, who will be unable to attend the Council meeting on Monday, March 16th. Sheriff Breeden thanked Council for their support in salary increases for the Sheriff's Department in the past. Sheriff Breeden also explained that he is requesting an additional 10% increase for deputies and detention center staff to get his employees at a comparable salary with other agencies. Sheriff Breeden explained that this would not create a millage increase, and he would be the only sworn officer that would not receive the increase.

New Business

1. FY27 Budget Development:

- Budget Retreat Follow-Up
- Revenue Update
- Planning for the Future
- Compensation and Benefits
- Other Budget Items

County Manager, Josh Edwards recognized the new Interim Assistant County Manager, Eric Rekitt, who will be over Public Works, Engineering and Utilities.

Trish Startup, Budget Director, provided an overview of the budget retreat. Strategies and plans to move the County forward.

Ms. Startup reviewed the Council's Retreat Priorities:

Economic Development Strategy
Address Planned Growth
Future of Utilities
Roads
Infrastructure
Partnership with Parks
Committee/Council Communication
Legislative Partnerships
Fire Stations and Vehicles

Council added:
Legal Support
Workforce Housing
Key Staff Positions that plan for visionary plans and challenges for the future
Federal Level and State Level Grant Funding and other funding opportunities

County Manager, Josh Edwards provided an update on the Watercraft Taxation Bill that will have a negative revenue impact on the County for the next 3 years.

Assistant County Manager, Tom Couch presented information on the FY2027 initiatives:
Stormwater Inventory
Newport Small Area Corridor Plan
I-77 South Corridor Plan
Parks Long Range Master Plan
Comprehensive Plan Update

Lisa Davidson, Human Resources Director, reviewed the vacancy averages, compensation history, and the proposed 3-3.5% pay for performance merit increase and a 1% increase in the salary ranges. Ms. Davidson also reviewed the full-time employee benefits and additional benefits to consider: adjusting the immediate family member list for bereavement leave and use of sick leave so that they match. This would increase the list for bereavement leave and reduce the list for sick leave usage to the following family members: spouse, legal child, parent, parents-in-law, siblings, grandparent and grandchildren. Ms. Davidson suggested that Council revisit the current on-call policy that provides 4 hours of regular straight pay for each week assigned as on-call or 4 hours of work time if called out. Explore the potential of a new policy that provides 2 hours of stipend equal to the employees' hourly rate per on-call shift. This policy would only apply to departments that meet critical needs of the organization and are approved by the County Manager to utilize.

County Manager, Josh Edwards explained that he would like this topic referred to a Committee for future discussions.

Ms. Davidson also reviewed the South Carolina State retirement benefits and retiree insurance benefits eligibility rules.

Mr. Edwards reviewed the SC Employee Per Capita Benchmarking.

Council members made the following comments and suggestions:

Council member Tom Audette requested that staff provide a copy of the agency requests;
Council member Christi Cox requested that staff provide a list of the reclassifications that are being proposed; and requested that management provide the delegation with the impact that the revenue decreases will have on the County;

Council member William "Bump" Roddey requested staff to provide the history back 15 years ago of what taxes the County was getting on a \$300,000 house, for example.

Council member Tommy Adkins asked if York County could provide funding assistance to York Place.

Council member Watts Huckabee requested that staff prepare for an increase in insurance in the future.

Executive Session

Matters for consideration/actions following Executive Session

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn.

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