

# Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda\*

Friday, February 9, 2024

Lancaster County Historic Courthouse  
100 North Main Street  
Lancaster, SC 29720

1. **Call to Order – Brian Carnes, Vice-Chair, Lancaster County Council** 12:00 p.m.
2. **Welcome and Recognition – Brian Carnes, Vice-Chair, Lancaster County Council**
3. **Invocation – Honorable Charlene McGriff, Lancaster County Council**
4. **Approval of the Minutes from the November 3, 2023, Intergovernmental Luncheon Meeting – pgs. 3-8**
5. **Discussion / Action Items**
  - a. Overview of Possible Transportation Tax – *Jeff Catoe, Public Services Director*
  - b. Update from Parks and Recreation and Possible Partnerships – *Chris Clouden, Director, Lancaster County Parks and Recreation*
  - c. Legislative Update – *Honorable Brandon Newton, South Carolina State House Representative, District 45, and Delegation Chair; Honorable Cody T. Mitchell, South Carolina State House Representative, District 65; Honorable James M. “Mike” Neese, South Carolina State House Representative, District 44; Honorable Richard L. “Richie” Yow, South Carolina House District 53; Honorable Penry Gustafson, South Carolina State Senator, District 27; and Honorable Michael Johnson, South Carolina State Senator, District 16.*
  - d. Community Roundtable/Jurisdictional Update – *Chair or Administrator/Superintendent - 2-minute update for each Governing Body*
  - e. Announcement of Finalized Intergovernmental Meeting Dates for 2024: (1) May 3, 2024; (2) August 9, 2024; and (3) November 1, 2024. – *Brian Carnes, Vice-Chair, Lancaster County Council*
6. **Adjournment**

\*The Government Agencies being represented at the Intergovernmental Luncheon will be Lancaster County Council, Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees, Lancaster City Council, Heath Springs Town Council, Kershaw Town Council and Van Wyck Town Council

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***[www.mylanastersc.org](http://www.mylanastersc.org)***



Governmental Agencies Represented

*Lancaster County Council*

*Lancaster County School District  
Board of Trustees*

*Lancaster City Council*

*Heath Springs Town Council*

*Kershaw Town Council*

*Van Wyck Town Council*

## **Minutes of the Intergovernmental Luncheon Meeting**

Lancaster County Historic Courthouse  
100 North Main Street  
Lancaster, SC 29720

Friday, November 3, 2023

Lancaster County Council Members present were Allen Blackmon, Terry Graham, Steve Harper, and Jose Luis. Council Members Brian Carnes, Charlene McGriff, and Billy Mosteller were absent. Lancaster County government staff also present at the meeting were Dennis Marstall, Lancaster County Administrator; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Ashley Davis, Deputy Planning Director; Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council; and Lauren Hill, Deputy Clerk to Council. A quorum of Lancaster County Council was present for the meeting.

Lancaster County School District Board of Trustee Members Melvin Stroble and Brad Small were present for the meeting. Board of Trustee Members Eddie Boykin, Casey Catoe, Tyrom Faulkner, Margaret Gamble, and Courtney Green were all absent from the meeting. Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Phipps was also present at the meeting. The Lancaster County School District Board of Trustee Members *did not* have a quorum in attendance at the meeting.

Lancaster City Council Members Tomonica Marsh, Ronnie Sowell, and Mayor T. Alston DeVenny were present for the meeting. City Council Members (Mayor Pro-Tempore) Jackie Harris, Kenny Hood, Octavia Jones, and Hazel Taylor were absent. Lancaster City Administrator Steven "Flip" Hutfles was also present at the meeting. The City of Lancaster *did not* have a quorum in attendance at the meeting.

Heath Springs Town Council Member Vincent Webb was present for the meeting. Town Council Members Peggy Bowers Hopkins, Mayor Pro-Tempore Iva Lee Drakeford, Deborah Truesdale and Town Mayor Eddie Moore were absent. There were no Heath Springs staff present at the meeting. The Heath Springs Town Council *did not* have a quorum in attendance at the meeting.

There were not any Kershaw Town Council Members present for the meeting. Town Council Members John Connell, III, Michael Cook, Bobbie Faulkenberry, Harvey Truesdale, Danny Williams, and Mayor Mark Dorman were absent. Kershaw Town staff present at the meeting was John Douglas, Town Administrator. The Kershaw Town Council *did not* have a quorum in attendance at the meeting.

Van Wyck Town Mayor Sean Corcoran was present for the meeting. Van Wyck Council Members Bob Doster, Stuart Graham, Xavier Kee, and Cassandra Watkins were absent. There were no Van Wyck staff members present at the meeting. The Van Wyck Town Council *did not* have a quorum in attendance at the meeting.

The following members of the Lancaster Delegation were present for the meeting: Honorable Brandon Newton, South Carolina State House Representative, District 45 (Delegation Chair); Honorable James M. "Mike" Neese, South Carolina State House Representative, District 44; and Honorable Penry Gustafson, South Carolina State Senator, District 27.

Others present for the meeting were Ayana Crawford from the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood; and Melissa Jones-Horton from the Lancaster Chapter of the NAACP.

The following press were notified of the meeting by e-mail in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: *The Lancaster News*, *Kershaw News Era*, *The Rock Hill Herald*, Cable News 2, Channel 9, and the local Government Channel. The agenda was posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building, on the county website, and at the Historic Courthouse the required length of time.

## **Call to Order**

Steve Harper, Chair of the Lancaster County Council, called the Intergovernmental Luncheon meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

## **Welcome And Recognition**

Steve Harper, Chair of the Lancaster County Council, welcomed everyone to the Intergovernmental Luncheon meeting. County Administrator Dennis Marstall introduced Lauren Hill, the new Deputy Clerk to Council and Administrative Assistant, and Stephany Snowden, the new Deputy County Administrator.

## **Invocation**

Kershaw Town Administrator John Douglas led the Invocation.

## **Approval of the Minutes from the August 11, 2023, Intergovernmental Luncheon Meeting**

Melvin Stroble moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mayor T. Alston DeVenny. The minutes from the August 11, 2023, Intergovernmental Luncheon meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

## **Discussion / Action Items**

### **Comprehensive Plan Update**

Ashley Davis, Deputy Planning Director, provided an update on the Lancaster 2040 Comprehensive Plan via a power point that is attached as Schedule A to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office. She noted that the Plan was nearing the completion stage.

### **Legislative Wish List**

Dennis Marstall, Lancaster County Administrator, explained that the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has drafted the legislative wish list for counties for the upcoming legislative session. He gave some examples of issues from that list, such as raising pay for poll workers, standardizing municipal elections in odd years, funding consistency for libraries, municipal annexations, public records inspections, workers compensation for first responders, short term rental policies, road dedication processes, using local accommodations taxes for affordable housing, providing Counties the same rules as municipalities have for lot cleanup and dilapidated buildings, transfer of roads to counties from South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), classifying 911 operators as first responders for retirement purposes, billing for cost of care for seized animals, raising the juvenile age from 17 to 18 for detention centers, extending the Capital Project Sales Tax initiatives to an eleven year sunset, providing notices and/or advertisement of public hearings on line, establishing rules for on line delinquent tax sales, increasing the homestead exemption, collection of on line sales taxes, and fully funding the local government fund. He explained that SCAC would be finalizing their position statement soon. He asked if this group would like to establish a common wish list for the local Delegation, like some other jurisdictions do.

## **Legislative Update**

Honorable Brandon Newton explained that the State was trying to address the pay for poll workers as it was a problem across the entire State. He also noted that the State was trying to standardize all municipal election dates. He further explained that the delegation would be working to get the local government fund fully funded again this year. He explained that, as far as short-term rentals are concerned, the State was considering a compromise bill so that short-term rentals cannot be banned but that they would have to collect local accommodations taxes.

Honorable Mike Neese noted that he was serving on the Agricultural Natural Resources Committee. He explained that he would be working on the new State Park in Lancaster County and that they would be busy working on the development of that Park in the next two years.

Honorable Penry Gustafson explained that the State needed more poll workers and so poll worker pay needed to be addressed. She noted that the municipal election dates needed to be standardized for odd years. She further explained that she sponsored first responder legislation so that workers compensation would be required to pay for medically diagnosed post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). She discussed the need for detention centers to separate juveniles and adults. She noted that she was thankful for a delegation that worked together. She also encouraged mayors or government entities to contact the delegation directly if they have a direct or specific need. Lastly, she noted that the delegation needed agencies' budget requests so that they could advocate for them at the State level.

Honorable Brandon Newton wrapped up the legislative update by noting that the State would most likely have a surplus again for the upcoming year but that it would not be as big as in the past two years. He discussed Lancaster County's need for a Master of Equity Court once the County reached a certain size. However, he explained that if the County wanted to go ahead and appoint that Judge's position, then the State would go ahead and fund it. He explained that the County, at least, needed to think about this upcoming expenditure.

## **Community Roundtable/Jurisdictional Update**

Flip Hutfles, City Administrator, provided a jurisdictional update for the City of Lancaster. He noted that the City was, like the County, working on a Comprehensive Plan. He explained that their Planning Commission was reviewing a draft document that the City would look to adopt in the first quarter of 2024. He further explained that the City's Plan should work in conjunction with the County's updated Plan.

Sean Corcoran, Mayor for the Town of Van Wyck, provided a jurisdictional update for the Town of Van Wyck. He noted that the Town had a developer looking to possibly build an 800-unit development, but that the request was in the preliminary stages. He explained that the developer would be holding a public meeting on that request at the end of November.

Brad Small, Chair of the Lancaster County School Board of Trustees, provided a jurisdictional update for the School Board. He noted that the new Superintendent would be starting on January 1, 2024. He explained that the District would be closing on one hundred acres of land in the Indian Land area before the end of the year. He also noted that the Board would be holding a workshop next Thursday to discuss bonds and to determine the proposed date for the referendum and the amount needed.

John Douglas, Town Administrator, provided a jurisdictional update for the Town of Kershaw. He noted that the Council approved a new Town logo and enhanced seal. He explained that the tennis court refurbishment project had been completed. He further noted that the Town had printed new Town brochures. He also noted that the new Town website would be going live on the 8th. He noted the Town was applying for six generators through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. He further noted that the Town annexation initiative was going well. He explained that the Town had completed their rate study for water and sewer. Lastly, he noted that the Town was looking to have a comprehensive transportation needs assessment.

Dennis Marstall, Lancaster County Administrator, provided a jurisdictional update for the County. He explained that the County had completed the merger of the Pleasant Valley and Indian Land Fire Districts. He explained that the County would be having a larger discussion about fire service needs across the County in the coming year and how the County will fund those needs. He noted that the County had started a Civics 101 class this year and that it was successful. He also noted that the County would hold another class in the Spring. He explained that the County was rolling out the strategic plan implementation. He further noted that the County was moving forward with bonding the Detention Center and Regional Park. Lastly, he explained that the County would be discussing a separate transportation tax for roads, which would potentially be on the November 2024 ballot.

T. Alston DeVenny, Mayor for the City of Lancaster, provided another jurisdictional update for the City. He noted that the City was experiencing high growth and that annexations were increasing. He explained that the City was heavily investing in infrastructure and had obtained grants for waste water treatment upgrades. He noted that the City was happy to hear that the County was upgrading their fire services and hoped to continue the cooperative work with the County on fire services. Lastly, he did note that the City needed funds to address the homelessness issue.

Vincent Webb, Council Member for the Town of Heath Springs, provided a jurisdictional update for the Town. He explained that the Town administration was still working on obtaining grants for water and sewer infrastructure upgrades. He further explained that the Town was trying to provide beautification upgrades and asked for help with grants for that from the Legislative Delegation.

Melvin Stroble, Board Member for the Lancaster County Board of Trustees, noted that the Indian Land Middle School won another football Conference Championship, and that this Championship would be the third for the School. He also provided information about the Indian Land Christmas parade and noted that there would be no charge for elected officials to be in the parade.

Steve Harper, Lancaster County Council Chairman, explained that if the County passed a transportation tax, then it would be the County's third one cent sales tax. He noted that if the voters passed a transportation tax, then that would be an opportunity for the County to obtain grants for matching funds for road work. He noted that these types of funding mechanisms help keep property taxes down.

Honorable Brandon Newton explained that the transportation tax would be good for 25 years once passed. He also noted that the municipal roads needed to get on the County Transportation Committee's (CTC) list of recommended roads to be paved.

### **Announcement of Tentative Intergovernmental Meeting Dates for 2024**

Steve Harper, Chair of the Lancaster County Council, thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and he reviewed the tentative meeting dates for the 2024 Intergovernmental Luncheon meetings.

The Honorable Penry Gustafson explained that she had been honored, along with four other female Senators from South Carolina, with the Profiles in Courage Award for 2023.

### **Adjournment**

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Melvin Stroble. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. There being no further business, the Intergovernmental Luncheon meeting adjourned at approximately 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sherrie Simpson  
Clerk to Council,  
Lancaster County