

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

April 3, 2012

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, April 3, 2012, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

Members present

Dean Campbell, Chair

Genia Blackwell, Vice Chair

Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman

Willie Bright, Councilman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Others present

Lynn Strom, County Administrator

Crystal Coleman, Finance Director

Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council

Michael Medlock, County Attorney

and others as per list attached

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Chairman Campbell. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

Approval of the April 3, 2012 Council Agenda

Motion for approval of the April 3, 2012 Council agenda was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the March 8, 2012 County Council minutes (regular meeting) was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the March 13, 2012 County Council minutes (special called Listening Tour Trenton Town Hall meeting) was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the March 13, 2012 County Council minutes (special called Listening Tour Johnston Town Hall meeting) was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the public

1. Mike Rosier with The Citizen News

Mr. Rosier informed Council that the last issue of The Citizen News would be published on April 18, 2012. He thanked Council for all of their help with news dealing with Edgefield County.

2. Jacqueline Price

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She stated that she was a member of the Concerned Citizens of the Northside and wanted to know if anyone had gone forward with applying for a CDGB grant to help run water lines to the Northside of the County. Lynn Strom responded by saying that she and LaKeisha Bryant the grant writer are working on this but the grant is not due to be turned in until early next year.

Reports

No comments.

Old Business

1. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 11-12-649, "An Ordinance Amending Sections 8-49, 8-50 and 8-51 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to provide for certain fees to be collected pursuant to Chapter 8 thereof, and to provide that such fees shall be set by Resolution of the County Council rather than being set forth by Ordinance; providing the initial fess to be set; and for other related matters."

Councilman Dorn wanted to know which "certain fees" would be changing. County Attorney Michael Medlock responded by saying that all of the fees that would be changing are listed in the Ordinance. He went on to say that some of them are building permits, moving permits, electrical permits, plan review fees, etc. Councilman Dorn then asked if this included plan review fees. Mrs. Strom responded by saying yes and Chairman Campbell added that this only pertained to commercial buildings and not residential. Councilman Dorn then spoke briefly about road maintenance fees, garbage fees and taxes in general.

Motion to approve second reading of Ordinance Number 11-12-649 was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Dorn voting against.

Public Hearing

1. This public hearing is being held to receive written and/or oral comments on Ordinance No. 11-12- 649. "An Ordinance Amending Sections 8-49, 8-50 and 8-51 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to provide for certain fees to be collected pursuant to Chapter 8 thereof, and to provide that such fees shall be set by Resolution of the County Council rather than being set forth by Ordinance; providing the initial fess to be set; and for other related matters."

There were no comments made by the public.

New Business

1. Appointments to Economic Development Committee.

Lynn Strom Appointment
Roger LeDuc.....Re-appointment
Richard Shaffer.....Re-appointment
Will Williams.....Re-appointment

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Ken Durham.....Re-appointment
Andy Livingston.....Re-appointment
Helen SummersRe-appointment
Todd ScogginsRe-appointment
Scott NeelyRe-appointment

All of these appointments will serve two year terms to expire in March 2014.

Motion for appointment of everyone listed above to the Economic Development Committee was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

2. First Reading of Ordinance Number 11-12-650, “An Ordinance to Amend an Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park of Aiken and Edgefield Counties so as to enlarge the Park.” This ordinance is to amend Ordinance No. 95-96-335 in order to include the Bridgestone addition in the multi-county industrial park agreement that Edgefield County has with Aiken County. Edgefield County receives 1% of the tax revenues received by Aiken County on the industries located inside the park. Edgefield County is currently receiving approximately \$24,000 per year due to this agreement.

Councilman Dorn asked if this would affect the millage rate and property taxes. Mrs. Strom responded by saying that since we would be receiving money from Aiken County it would in essence keep the millage rate lower because we would not need to make up the monies by charging more property taxes. She also added that this money is added into the general operating fund.

Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance Number 11-12-650 was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

3. First Reading of Ordinance Number 11-12-651, “An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2012-2013 General Operating Budget and Establishing Ancillary Budgets for Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Solid Waste Disposal, Victims’ Bill of Rights, Emergency Medical Services, Countywide Recreation and Road Maintenance.”

Chairman Campbell explained that a motion to and a second would lead us into the discussion section of reading the budget and that we needed to get there before any amendments if any were going to be suggested. Motion to give first reading to Ordinance Number 11-12-651 was given by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. At this time Chairman Campbell explained that we were in the discussion section of the first reading and he also reminded Council that at the Budget Work Session it was agreed upon that there would be no reason to go over all of the details of the budget again. He went on to say that any specific items that needed to be gone over would be discussed. Mrs. Strom stated that she had additional information about the budget that she wanted to share with Council before they made any amendments. The first item she brought to Council’s attention was the Council’s Contingency Account; she said that it was budgeted for \$50,000 again in this budget. She also stated that there would be no cost of living raises for employees this year, but there would be some salary adjustments based on the surveys done. She said that the Coroner’s budget had an increase in rent this budget. It would be going up

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\$1,200 this year. She also stated that \$5,000 went into the Risk Management account this budget. She said that since we now have a safety committee and they are making adjustments around the County to make things safer, they are in need of funding to fix the safety hazards.

Chairman Campbell stated that he had a few things he would like to suggest amending. The first was regarding the Recreation budget. He stated that as of right now Edgefield County pays 75% of the utilities for the use of the facilities in the Towns, but since most all of the events are for Edgefield County Recreation Program, he would like to pay the requested 100% of utilities for the Towns. There was brief discussion from Councilman Bright about if we would be paying for the utilities when the buildings are sometimes rented out to non-Recreation related functions. Chairman Campbell stated that there would have to be an agreement written and that in the agreement, we could state that we would pay 100% of Edgefield County's use of utilities and not include utilities if the building was rented to another organization. He added that he believed this should be a year to year decision for Council to approve. Chairman Campbell made a motion to amend the budget to include 100% of the utilities, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Campbell stated that his next suggested amendment would be to reinstate the funding for the Senior Citizen Center. He explained that last year we gave \$3,000 and due to our funding the SCDOT gave the Senior Citizen Center grant money as well; however if we were to cut our funding the SCDOT would also cut their funding making it near impossible for the Senior Citizen Center to continue serving the public with transportation. Chairman Campbell stated that he feared that EMS would start receiving a much larger volume of calls for things such as doctor appointments and it could be more costly in the long run to provide EMS service to citizens who don't necessarily need emergency care than to give the \$3,000 to the Senior Citizens Center. Councilman Ashcraft stated that a few years ago, Council looked into this and they decided then that it did not make sense to cut that particular budget. He stated that he felt like Edgefield County needed to provide them with the \$3,000 again this year. Councilwoman Blackwell stated that she believed it was the right thing to do as well. Councilman Ashcraft made a motion to amend the budget to include \$3,000 for the Senior Citizen Center, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

No one else stated that they had any amendments they would like to discuss. Chairman Campbell asked if there was a motion to give first reading to the amended ordinance 11-12-651. Councilwoman Blackwell made a motion to approve the amended budget ordinance 11-12-651, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of guests

Chairman Campbell recognized Sheriff Dobej for being at the meeting tonight.

Comments from public

1. Councilman Bright asked Lynn Strom if she knew about the CDBG grant since she would be applying for it next year. Mrs. Strom stated that she has looked the grant over with LaKeisha

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Bryant the Grant Writer, but stated that she was not very familiar with this particular grant. Mrs. Strom stated that she would be attending a meeting on April 10th to find out what Edgefield County's possibilities are for obtaining this grant money. Councilman Bright stated that it would be difficult to obtain grant money for that particular location (Northside) because typically you would need about 6 houses per mile. He stated that you cannot have 6 houses and then jump 2 miles before you get to the next house. He stated that this has to compete with other counties too, and that it wasn't just about how many houses per mile. Things like income level would affect the grant as well. Councilman Dorn asked if Council could set aside one mill for the Northside that could be placed in escrow so that if we were awarded the grant then Council could also provide the money from the one mill to help with that project. Chairman Campbell stated that he wasn't sure of the answer to Councilman Dorn's question but that he would be happy to take any information that Councilman Dorn could provide. Councilman Bright added that this is not only a problem in Northside but also in Westside. Mrs. Price asked what else County Council could look into if the grant was not obtainable. Chairman Campbell stated that there isn't much Council could do and that if they got involved there would be an impact fee to cover the costs of the water and sewer in that area of the County. He stated that the fee may be too high for residents to tap into the water if it were provided in that area. Mrs. Price asked that if the grant was not awarded to Edgefield County would Council find out how much that tap on fee would cost the residents and let them decide if it would be too high or not. Chairman Campbell said that he saw no problem in doing this.

2. Gloria Bynum came up and stated that she went to the Building and Planning Office and spoke with Roger LeDuc. She went on to say that County Council did vote to maintain Highland Avenue Extension. Chairman Campbell stated that she was correct and pointed out that Council has seen the document she had with her showing that Council did vote to maintain Highland Avenue Extension.

County Administrator report

Mrs. Strom started by saying that we have been discussing the narrow banding of the radios for several months now and she wanted to let Council know that the process is about to get started but they held it off for a few weeks because Mike Casey and Sandy Backensto were able to apply for some grant money that was un-used by other Counties. She stated that it is 100% funding and Edgefield County was awarded \$43,750. This money will cover the majority of the project and possibly the entire project. She stated that Edgefield County will be applying for a "Rails to Trails" grant on April 17, 2012. She stated that even if Edgefield County does not win the grant this year, it is available every year and we would like to go ahead and get our name out there so that they know we are interested in starting a "Rails to Trails" system. She stated that the Janitorial Bid would be coming up on the May agenda. This was a 2 year contract and it expires in June. She stated that we will also be bidding the HVAC maintenance. She stated that this hasn't been done in several years. The E-911 project is underway and everything has been ordered with the exception of 2 items. Installation is expected to start in July of this year. She closed her comments by saying that she has been in contact with Force Protection. She has also spoken with the State Fire Marshall and he stated that they have been monitoring Force Protection. He said that according to all of the logs that they have received from Force Protection they are in compliance with the State and Federal Regulations. Mrs. Strom said that she shared the concerns of the citizens of Northside and the State Fire Marshall said that he understood and they would work with us to find a

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third party to do outside party monitoring to be sure that the Force Protection logs are correct and to be sure that everything is safe.

Comments by County Council Members

Councilman Dorn had a question about whether or not the Finance Director position was advertised before Crystal Coleman was hired. Mrs. Strom stated yes it was advertised in the papers. He also asked if the tape recorder by Mr. Michael Medlock and Ms. Jennifer Gilley was the official minutes of County Council. Mrs. Strom stated yes. Councilman Dorn wanted to know why they would let someone in the news record the meetings and then possibly make changes to what is recorded. He also stated that he had proof that the minutes sent to the DOJ for the redistricting submission varied from what was actually recorded. (A transcript was submitted to the DOJ. It was word for word of what was recorded on the cassette tape.)

Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Campbell thanked the staff and Council for working on this Budget. He also stated that there are two called meetings that he wanted to remind everyone of; the first one is on April 25, 2012 6:00 PM it will be a Planning Commission Action Agenda meeting held in the County Council Chambers, the second one is the last Listening Tour meeting. It will be held on April 30, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the McKendree Life Center.

Adjourn

Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.

Notice of this meeting was provided to Edgefielddaily.com, The Citizen News, and The Edgefield Advertiser.

Edgefield County Council

Dean Campbell, Chair

ATTEST

Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council