

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

August 2, 2016

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

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The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, August 2, 2016, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC. Notice of this meeting was provided to Edgefielddaily.com, The Edgefield Advertiser and others as requested.

Members present

- Dean Campbell, Chairman
- Genia Blackwell, Vice Chairwoman
- Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman
- Betty Butler, Councilwoman
- Albert Talbert, Councilman

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CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT
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Others present

- Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
- Bruce Cooley, Assistant Administrator/Finance Director
- Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council
- Andrew Marine, County Attorney
- and others as per list attached

Councilman Campbell called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Pastor Bruce Cooley. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the August 2, 2016 agenda was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Butler. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the July 5, 2016 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the July 12, 2016 County Council minutes (Called Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers

None

Comments from the public

None

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 15-16-705, "An Ordinance modifying an Infrastructure Agreement between County of Edgefield and LL of SC, LLC, Dated May 5, 2015 and Establishing a Program to complete construction of certain roads in Mount Vintage Subdivision and other related actions."

There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

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2. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 16-17-706, "An Ordinance amending Chapter 8, Section 154 of the Edgefield Code of Ordinances to update requirements of the International Building Code." There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

Old Business

1. Consideration of approval of Third Reading of Ordinance Number 15-16-705, "An Ordinance modifying an Infrastructure Agreement between County of Edgefield and LL of SC, LLC, Dated May 5, 2015 and Establishing a Program to complete construction of certain roads in Mount Vintage Subdivision and other related actions."
Mr. Paradise stated there were no changes to this ordinance from last reading. There was no discussion.
Motion to approve third reading of ordinance number 15-16-705 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Consideration of approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-706, "An Ordinance amending Chapter 8, Section 154 of the Edgefield Code of Ordinances to update requirements of the International Building Code."
Mr. Paradise stated there were no changes to this ordinance from last reading. There was no discussion.
Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 16-17-706 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-707, "Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee agreement by and between Edgefield County, South Carolina and Project 007 providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes and other matters related thereto."
Mr. Paradise stated there were no changes to this ordinance from last reading. He went on to say the agreement has been presented to Council. This project agrees to invest \$11,500,000 and create 17 new full time jobs in Edgefield County. In return the County will enter into an agreement providing the lowest possible millage rate and a 6% assessment ratio for the project for a term of 20 years.
Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 16-17-707 was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilwoman Butler. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-708, "An Ordinance to develop a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park in conjunction with Aiken County, such Industrial Business Park to be geographically located in Edgefield County and established pursuant to Sec. 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; to provide for the expenses of the park, the percentage of revenue application, and the distribution of Fees in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; and other matters related thereto."
Mr. Paradise stated there were no changes to this ordinance from last reading. There was no discussion.
Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 16-17-708 was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.

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New Business

- 1. Consideration of appointment to Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board.

Cherie Martin..... Appointment

Councilwoman Butler stated that she would like to take this as information and invite Ann Skinner with Upper Savannah Council of Governments to attend the September meeting. She explained that she has a few questions regarding the board and the Workforce Innovation Act.

Council agreed this would be taken as information and brought back at the September meeting.

- 2. Consideration of Approval of Resolution Number 16-17-743, "A Resolution Honoring the Edgefield County Amateur Radio Club."

Chairman Campbell read the following resolution:

A Resolution Honoring the Edgefield County Amateur Radio Club

Whereas: *The Edgefield County Amateur Radio Club supports Edgefield County Emergency Management as a source of backup communication, and*

Whereas: *The club provides training classes for FCC amateur radio licensing, and*

Whereas: *On February 27, 2016 eight members set up a station at the Edgefield County Hospital, and*

Whereas: *This event was used as a training opportunity for amateur radio operators and exchanged messages with other station around the world using a shortwave radio, and*

Whereas: *At this "South Carolina QSO Party" event, this team won the South Carolina award for single transmitter with multi-operators; which means they exchanged the highest number of messages for their category.*

Now, Therefore, Be it resolved this 2nd day of August 2016, that Edgefield County honors and congratulates the Edgefield County Amateur Radio Club for this award and their time, sacrifice and dedication in serving our County and citizens.

Councilwoman Butler stated that she is impressed by this club and their successful participation in these competitions. Councilwoman Blackwell thanked the members of the club for their participation and involvement with Edgefield County.

Motion to approve resolution number 16-17-743 was made by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Consideration of approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-709, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance by sale of approximately 15.8 acres of certain real property owned by

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Edgefield County to Tri-County Solid Waste Authority along Weaver Road and other documents related to the Conveyance.”

Mr. Paradise stated Tri-County Solid Waste Authority currently operates their transfer station on property owned by Edgefield County. Tri-County Solid Waste Authority would like to purchase this property which is approximately 15.8 acres from Edgefield County for \$2,500 per acre. They will also give Edgefield County first right of refusal if the property is ever sold as well as deed .43 acres of property to Edgefield County that is adjacent to the county garage.

Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 16-17-709 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Butler. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-710, “An Ordinance Establishing a Cable Television Franchise Fee for Comcast Cablevision of Georgia/South Carolina, Inc.”

Mr. Paradise explained the current Franchise Agreement with Comcast Cable will expire on October 2, 2016. Currently, the agreement calls for a franchise fee of 3%. He told Council staff is suggesting to adjust the fee to 5% which will be consistent with the fee charged to the other cable provider in Edgefield County. It is also comparable to the municipalities in Edgefield County.

Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 16-17-710 was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Butler. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

None

Comments from public

1. Art Biggs

Mr. Biggs told Council that he was requesting a Resolution of Amendment. He gave a handout with his comments and proposal. Read below:

Resolution of Amendment

Request of County Council to consider a resolution causing an amendment to the present law or appropriate section(s) of said law governing Annexation.

The amendment should include required review by the governing body of the affected County and a majority vote of said governing body agreeing or disagreeing with the proposed annexation. In addition, the amendment should include an appeal process to an appropriate body to ensure integrity of the process and validity of the objection.

My request is based on the following concerns:

- Existing zoning in annexed portion(s) of the governing County are null and void.
- Probably conflict with established long range plans of annexed county.
- Impact on the school system.
- Voters have no resource, at present, to a local governing body or elected officials that can be held accountable for the annexation of property within their County.

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It is problematic that under existing law an autonomous governmental body can have areas within their jurisdiction taken over by a neighboring governmental entity without prior notification, review, or approval by the duly elected governmental officials of the proposed annexed property. It seems that unless interaction between affected governments is mandated no discourse takes place giving rise to rumors, incorrect assumptions and anxiety amongst the area residents.

I, therefore, respectfully request Council consideration for a Resolution of Amendment to the appropriate section(s) of the Annexation Law.

Chairman Campbell explained that at this time State Law does not require an entity to disclose proposals of annexation. He stated that he believes Mr. Biggs is asking Council to pass a resolution to show their support of having the State Law changed so that disclosure is mandatory. Mr. Biggs agreed with Chairman Campbell's understanding of his presentation. Councilman Ashcraft stated that he believed other counties would need to pass similar resolutions to see results. Councilwoman Blackwell stated that she believes this is a great idea and would like to see Council move forward with this request. It was the consensus of Council to have a resolution drafted and then once passed staff would send the resolution to State Legislature. This would let them know that Edgefield County is requesting the laws be amended and staff would also try to persuade other counties in South Carolina to pass similar resolutions in support of these changes.

2. Linda Anderson

Mrs. Anderson told Council that she would like to see Edgefield County take planning of Edgefield County more serious. She stated that she doesn't believe the citizens in Edgefield County would want unplanned growth.

County Administrator's report

Mr. Paradise stated staff is looking at possible projects for the PARD Grant and any suggestions from Council would be appreciated. There is approximately \$8,000 appropriated for this year.

Staff has completed maintenance work on the walking track at Bettis Park. He explained several spots along the track were washed out and are causing the cracks to form on the track. There are some ditches along the northern side of the park that have been marked with orange fencing. Some of these will be filled and others that are needed for drainage will have permanent fencing placed around them. This should be completed by the end of the month but the County won't have another inmate to help with labor until August 15th.

Mr. Paradise was pleased to announce that irrigation has been installed and grass has been planted at the Sweetwater Community Center. He went on to say the handrails have also been installed.

Staff met with the architect for the Kneece building and the plans are still on schedule. Staff anticipates having the bid package complete before the end of August.

Staff has been in discussions with the project engineer for the Animal Shelter and are reviewing his scope of work and cost estimates. Staff is looking for a total cost for the design services.

Mr. Paradise told Council that Councilman Talbert, Councilwoman Blackwell, Ms. Gilley, Dr. Matthew Clark, and himself met and discussed the Sweetwater Community Center rental policy. It was the consensus of the group that this is something that should be looked into further after January 1st when

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the County has newly elected council members take office. He went on to explain that would be the time when budgetary items are discussed and planned for if necessary.

Mr. Paradise then told Council the Auditors were here July 21st & 22nd doing preliminary work. The County appears to be in good shape for the audit and they will be returning in October to perform the full audit.

Suzy Spurgeon, the EMA Director, is still working in partnership with SCDOT on a grant for the Brighthop Road area storm water issues. This is a very competitive grant and Edgefield County may not be awarded this grant. Staff is looking at possibly applying for a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority as another possible funding source for this project.

Mr. Paradise closed his comments by stating Edgefield County partnered with Aiken County and the City of Aiken to apply for a DHEC grant to develop a watershed based plan for the upper and middle Shaw's Creek basin. The grant has been approved and any additional expenses are covered by the City of Aiken. Rodney Ingle and he attended an orientation meeting on July 13th. Mr. Ingle will be working on the project going forward. There should not be any cost to the County and any recommendations should be about providing educational material for voluntary implementation.

Comments by County Council Chair

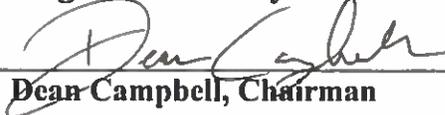
Chairman Campbell stated the July 12th meeting regarding annexation was a success. He thanked the staff and officials that were involved. He also announced that Tommy Paradise had been with Edgefield County for 6 months and appreciates his accomplishments.

Mr. Paradise thanked Council for the opportunity to come and work for Edgefield County. He said it is a great place.

Adjourn

Councilwoman Blackwell made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Butler. Motion passed unanimously.

Edgefield County Council



Dean Campbell, Chairman

ATTEST



Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council