

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
September 6, 2016
6:00 PM
County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, September 6, 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
Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman
Betty Butler, Councilwoman
Albert Talbert, Councilman

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Others present

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

Members absent

Genia Blackwell, Vice Chairwoman

Others absent

Andrew Marine, County Attorney

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

Chairman Campbell noted for the minutes that Councilwoman Blackwell was absent leaving a quorum of four.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the September 6, 2016 agenda was made by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the August 2, 2016 County Council minutes (Regular Meeting of Council) was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers

1. Danny Bishop

Mr. Bishop stated he used to serve on County Council and that he would like to convey to Council that he wants to see the Council members put the County as a whole first and then work on their individual districts. He stated that he believes if County Council works together the County will benefit more than if they work separately. He went on to say that he would like to see some investments made in the Merriwether area. He told Council that Merriwether is a "jewel in the rough" and there isn't enough investment in that area of Edgefield County. He stated that he believes if

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Council will invest in the Merriwether area it will prevent unmanaged growth. He gave some examples of unmanaged growth and then stated that the investment would also improve the tax base. He went on to say that an improved tax base would allow Council to further improve their districts. Mr. Bishop stated that he would like to see a recreation facility in the Merriwether area and that he believed that would help the growth of that area as well. He finished by saying that if Council were to invest in Merriwether and increase the managed growth in that area he thought Council would be very proud to have played a part in the outcome.

Councilwoman Butler thanked Mr. Bishop for his diligent work for Edgefield County.

Comments from the public

1. Scott Cooper

Mr. Cooper thanked Council and staff for their hard work putting together the meeting held on July 12th regarding annexation. He also took a minute to thank Councilwoman Butler for inviting Danny Bishop to come and share his thoughts and ideas regarding Edgefield County.

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 15-16-707, "Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee agreement by and between Edgefield County, South Carolina and Bondex Inc providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes and other matters related thereto."

There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

2. Public Hearing 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."

There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

3. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 16-17-709, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance by sale of approximately 15.8 acres of certain real property owned by Edgefield County to Tri-County Solid Waste Authority along Weaver Road and other documents related to the Conveyance."

There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

4. Public Hearing of Ordinance Number 16-17-710, "An Ordinance Establishing a Cable Television Franchise Fee for Comcast Cablevision of Georgia/South Carolina, Inc."

There were no comments regarding this public hearing.

Old Business

1. Consideration of approval of Third 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."

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Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Paradise if there were any changes to this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said there were no changes. Council had no discussion.

Motion to approve third reading of ordinance number 16-17-706 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Consideration of Third 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 Bondex, Inc. providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes and other matters related thereto."

Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Paradise if there were any changes to this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said there were no changes. Council had no discussion.

Motion to approve third reading of ordinance number 16-17-707 was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Butler. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Consideration of Third 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."

Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Paradise if there were any changes to this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said there were no changes. Council had no discussion.

Motion to approve third reading of ordinance number 16-17-708 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilwoman Butler. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Consideration of approval of Second 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 Edgefield County to Tri-County Solid Waste Authority along Weaver Road and other documents related to the Conveyance."

Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Paradise if there were any changes to this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said there were no changes. Council had no discussion.

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

- 5. Consideration of approval of Second Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-710, "An Ordinance Establishing a Cable Television Franchise Fee for Comcast Cablevision of Georgia/South Carolina, Inc."

Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Paradise if there were any changes to this ordinance. Mr. Paradise said there were no changes. Council had no discussion.

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

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

Cherie Martin Appointment

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Ann Skinner, Director of Workforce Development at Upper Savannah Council of Governments, told Council about the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board. She explained there are 20 volunteers that serve on this board. Mrs. Skinner stated they meet about 4 times a year to discuss policies and set priorities for the Workforce Development at Upper Savannah Council of Governments. Edgefield County has two representatives and one of those representatives must be from a private industry according to the by-laws. Mrs. Skinner told Council that Mrs. Cherie Martin from Milliken has agreed to serve if Council agrees to appoint her to the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board.

Motion to appoint Cherie Martin to the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board was made by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Consideration of approval of the 4 Year Work Force Plan.

Mrs. Skinner started by saying this 4 Year Work Force Plan will be effective from November 1, 2016 to November 1, 2020. She explained staff has been looking at the specific work force needs at this time. She stated this plan will accommodate 2 customers; businesses and job seekers. Mrs. Skinner explained this plan would help ensure that businesses receive skilled work force laborers and that job seekers are able to find the best jobs to meet their needs. She stated this will help job seekers learn to interview for jobs and how to advance in their job. She told Council that their goal is to reach 12% of the work force each year. They are committed to providing work force centers in each County. Edgefield County currently has a local work force center. She explained local work force centers will make it much easier for citizens to attend. Mrs. Skinner told Council they also have about 1.5 million dollars to provide training to job seekers that need to learn skills to obtain a job. She went on to say this plan will need to be signed by Council prior to November 1st of this year.

Chairman Campbell stated this plan is updated every 5 years and that there is no cost to the County. Councilman Ashcraft asked the success rate of the Work Force Board. Mrs. Skinner told him about 85% of people get placed at a target wage of \$15 per hour. There is about a 90% retention rate on percentage of people that are placed.

Council took Mrs. Skinner's presentation as information and gave Chairman Campbell the authority to sign the 4 Year Work Force Plan once it is complete.

2. Consideration of approval of Resolution Number 16-17-745, "A Resolution requesting the State of South Carolina General Assembly amend the Annexing Authority of Municipal Governments under South Carolina Law."

Mr. Paradise stated staff heard constituent concerns during a Called Council Meeting about the loss of land use control and development oversight when an annexation occurs. He went on to explain that at the August 2016 Council meeting Art Biggs presented concerns and suggestions to Council concerning this issue. He stated this resolution is in response to those concerns and is requesting the South Carolina General Assembly to amend current annexation and planning laws so that County governments will be involved in the approval process.

Motion to approve resolution number 16-17-745 was made by Councilman Talbert, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion passed unanimously.

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3. Consideration of approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-711, "An Ordinance to amend Chapter 24 Section 288 of the Edgefield County Land Ordinance."

Mr. Paradise explained this ordinance is a request to amend the definition of "Manufactured home park" found in Section 24-288 to require two manufactured homes instead of 3 to be considered a Manufactured home park. He went on to say this section currently defines a manufactured home park "as a lot or parcel with space, improvements and utilities for the long-term parking of three or more manufactured homes, which may include services, and facilities for the residents." Mr. Paradise stated that since Section 24-288 conflicts with Section 18-132 which defines a "Manufactured home park or subdivision means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale" the Planning Commission has considered the issue and recommends the revision of Section 24-288 in order to resolve this conflict in the Code.

Motion to approve first reading of ordinance number 16-17-711 was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of approval of First Reading of Ordinance Number 16-17-712, "An Ordinance to amend Chapter 24-166, Chapter 24 Section 167 and Chapter 24 Section 169 of the Edgefield County Land Ordinance and also to remove Chapter 29, Road Ordinance."

Mr. Paradise stated the Planning Commission has reviewed the standards for roads and they are recommending the consolidation of all of the road requirements in the Land Development Regulation portion of the County Code with revisions as presented. He explained this change is to clean up the code rather than change it.

Motion to approve second reading of ordinance number 16-17-712 was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed 3-1 with Councilwoman Butler against and Councilwoman Blackwell absent.

5. Consideration of approval of Resolution Number 16-17-746, "A Resolution recognizing the Accomplishments and Works of Ann McCain Cook."

Chairman Campbell read the following resolution:

A Resolution Recognizing the Accomplishments and Works of Ann McCain Cook

WHEREAS, Edgefield County Council wishes to recognize those persons who have developed businesses and educated the children of Edgefield County;

WHEREAS, Ann McCain Cook operated a Little Folks Daycare for over 30 years where generations of children received care and educational experiences in a nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, Ann McCain Cook was a small business owner for over 30 years and provided employment opportunities for the citizens of Edgefield County

WHEREAS, through Ann McCain Cook's leadership, work ethic, and encouragement she serves as an inspirational role model for generations;

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Edgefield County Council in session duly assembled this 6th day of September 2016, that ANN McCAIN COOK be honored for her services to the citizens of Edgefield County.

Motion to approve resolution number 16-17-746 was made by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Talbert. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

None

Comments from public

None

County Administrator's report

Mr. Paradise started his report by telling Council that staff is revisiting the paving of Windy Ridge Road. Staff has been in contact with the property owners along the unpaved portions and have received a good response. County Transportation Committee is open to completing this project.

Mr. Paradise then told Council that County Transportation Committee has forgiven the \$32,000 the County owes them for the Longleaf Culvert Project because they are not allowed to spend funds on other projects for the County they had committed to finishing.

Next Mr. Paradise stated Federal Emergency Management Agency has updated their flood maps. A meeting for local government and community officials of Edgefield County will be held on September 15, 2016 from 10 AM to 11 AM at the Edgefield County Emergency Management Agency meeting room located at 304 Gray St. in Edgefield. He stated an open house for the public to ask questions will be conducted on September 15, 2016 from 4 PM to 7 PM in the Emergency Management Agency meeting room located at 304 Gray St. Edgefield.

Mr. Paradise told Council that staff has instituted several changes at Emergency Management Services. The 12-hour truck will run from 7 AM to 7 PM and an additional 12 hour work day will be scheduled for employees during their short week. He explained this will result in more consistent staffing of the ambulance and reduce overtime expenses.

Mr. Paradise reported that staff is not going to have enough documented property loss in the Brighthop Road area to compete for the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant. He explained that staff has checked other grants and have not been able to find one that would pay for the Phase 1 assessment. Then Mr. Paradise told Council that recently the County had lightning strike the north communications tower. As a result the repeater needed to be replaced, an inspection of the cable, connections, etc. on the tower, and additional grounding. He explained the cost of these repairs is estimated to be \$7,100. This work was authorized as an emergency purchase because of the need to get the emergency communication facilities back up as quickly as possible. Mr. Paradise continued his report by saying Suzy Spurgeon is using this expenditure as the major portion of a 50/50 match in an application for a Local Emergency Management Performance Grant to have a 45-foot communications tower installed at the Emergency Management Agency building. This will provide the Emergency Operations Center an Local Government Radio that will communicate directly with the state tower. The remaining match money will be covered funds spent on the normal operations of the Emergency Management Agency.

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Mr. Paradise stated staff is replacing the HVAC unit at the library building. The unit went out and because it was in the heat of the summer the replacement was authorized as an emergency purchase. He stated staff received 3 bids, Cullum Electric & Mechanical at \$8,449, ALL TEMP at \$7,100, and Mathis Plumbing and Heating at \$18,172. ALL TEMP has been given the authorization to proceed.

Mr. Paradise stated Emergency Management Services has applied for a grant to purchase 3 Stair Pro Chairs at a total cost of \$9,392. If this grant is received it will pay 100% of the costs. He explained these chairs are used to move patients from a multilevel building or confined home. It provides innovative solutions to address a broad array of emergency transport need, while reducing the risk of injury to medic's and enhancing patient care.

Mr. Paradise finished his report by saying Emergency Management Agency was budgeted \$5,000 for the initial phased of a mass notification system. Suzy Spurgeon has applied for a grant using \$3,750 of this money as a match so we can purchased the entire \$15,000 system if the grant is awarded.

Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Campbell started by thanking Bondex for their investment and support in Edgefield County. He went on to say that in the past 6 years approximately 25 million dollars has been invested in Edgefield County by local Industrial Businesses. He stated this created 75 new jobs.

Chairman Campbell then announced a Called County Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 6:00PM in the County Council Chambers. He stated this meeting would be a planning session. He explained the current strategic plan needs to be updated and that this meeting will give staff a chance to determine Council's priorities and where the strategic plan will need to be focused over the next 5 years.

Adjourn

Councilman Ashcraft 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