

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

September 6, 2011

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 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

Roger LeDuc, Interim County Administrator

Michael Medlock, County Attorney

Lynn Strom, Finance Director/Assistant Administrator

Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council

and others as per list attached

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by County Attorney Michael Medlock. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited.

Approval of the September 6, 2011 Council Agenda

Before approval of the September 6, 2011 agenda, the chairman asked to add one additional item to the agenda (prior to Number 1 under New Business), that being one appointment to the Edgefield County Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the agenda with the addition of the board appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the August 2, 2011 County Council minutes (regular meeting) was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

The August 8, 2011 Called Meeting minutes of Council and the Johnston Town Council were approved by a motion made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

The motion to approve the August 30, 2011 Called Meeting of Council was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the public

None.

Reports

No comments.

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Old Business

1. Approval of an internet policy for County employees.
Councilman Ashcraft made the motion to approve the new internet policy. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Approval for internet connection at Kneece building.
There was discussion about cost and life expectancy of wireless versus fiber connection. Councilman Ashcraft made the motion to approve EDTS's Fiber Bid from Vendor 1. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Bill White to the Edgefield County Zoning Board of Appeals.
Councilman Dorn made the motion to appoint Bill White to the Edgefield County Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.
2. First reading of Ordinance No. 11-12-646, "An Ordinance Adopting and Enacting a New Code for the County of Edgefield, SC; Providing for the Repeal of Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Providing a Penalty for the Violation Thereof; Providing for the Manner of Amending Such Code; and Providing When Such code and This Ordinance Shall Become Effective."
Randall E. Thompson owns lot 28, 29, and 30 in Mill Creek Plantation and would like to move the cul-de-sac about 90 feet to create more property for his three lots. Beaver Run Court was previously deeded to the County and therefore the County would need to give back this portion of roadway to him. In return he would be required to rebuild the cul-de-sac.
Councilman Dorn made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 11-12-646. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. The motion carried unanimously.
3. First reading of Ordinance No. 11-12-647,"An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Sale of Real Estate Owned by the County of Edgefield Known as a Portion of Beaver Run Court to Randall E. Thompson, II, in Exchange for a Deed from Mr. Thompson as to Neighboring Land."
There was discussion about the impact on Edgefield County. Mr. LeDuc stated there would be no cost to Edgefield County. Also, Edgefield County would see a small increase on the tax role and a small decrease in road maintenance. The County would just be returning the piece of property to the original owner.
Councilman Dorn made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 11-12-647. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Resolution approving Deed of Dedication for Marsh Place right-of-way.

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Councilwoman Blackwell made the motion to approve the resolution approving Deed of Dedication for Marsh Place right-of way. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of approval of RFP for Management Services for the upgrades at the 911 Center. There was discussion about using AT&T for the primary project manager and contract with Mike Day for some of the coordination between the Sheriff's Office and AT&T and the other contractors that will be used. Funding for this project would come from state grant funds, County 911 funds that set aside for such projects and a small portion from the Sheriff's budget. Councilman Dorn made the motion to the upgrades at the 911 Center. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Approval of purchase of inmate meals/oven at the Edgefield County Jail. There was discussion about the savings of the new meal plan and oven. There will be a savings of about \$114,000 per year (depending on how many inmates the Sheriff has). The first year, there will be a one-time purchase of a new oven that will cost a little over \$5,000 and the money to purchase the oven will come from the savings of the cost of meals. Councilman Bright made the motion to approve the purchase of inmate meals/oven at the Edgefield County Jail. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dorn. The motion carried unanimously.
7. Resolution approving Radio Antenna Agreement. There was discussion about the less than superior coverage for radio communication throughout the southern end of the county. Edgefield County will need to look at a more narrow type of banding than we have now. The departments that use radio communication (Sheriff, EMS, Fire Departments, County Hospital, and School District) would like to put an antenna on a water tower on the South end of Highway 25. Grant funding is available for the new antenna. Councilman Dorn made the motion to approve the Radio Antenna Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.
8. Resolution adopting criteria for redistricting 2010 to ensure the maximum public participation. Resolution No. 11-12-338
Councilwoman Blackwell made the motion to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. The motion carried unanimously.
9. First reading of Ordinance No. 11-12- 648 (re-districting).
An ordinance establishing new electoral districts for the election of members of Edgefield County Council pursuant to the United States Census of 2010 and in compliance with Section 4-9-90, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.
Discussion about the re-districting was done by Wayne Gilbert with the Budget and Control Board and the Office of Research and Statistics and he is also a GIS Mapper. Mr. Gilbert presented two maps, one with the prison population divided among all five districts and one with

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the federal prison in district 5 which is represented by Council Ashcraft. A citizen stated that unless the minority population was in the high 50th percentile, then it is not considered an electable district. Mr. Gilbert responded by saying that the only rule is that there is no retrogression. County Council asked Wayne Gilbert to draw up additional plans with the prison populations evenly distributed among the districts and with the minority population higher in district four if possible. These plans will be given to Council at a later date.

Councilwoman Blackwell made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 11-12-648 BY TITLE ONLY. The motion was seconded by Councilman Campbell. The motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of guests

No guests.

Comments from public

None.

County Administrator report

Mr. Leduc spoke briefly about the ambulance re-bid and stated that those bids would be on the October agenda. Second, he stated that the new Re-districting map developed at tonight's meeting would go online as soon as he got it back from Wayne Gilbert. Third, he mentioned the "Info Edgefield" section was available on our website for citizens to send in comments or questions. Lastly, he talked about Animal Control and how they are moving forward in trying to get ideas about what a shelter should look like in Edgefield County if County Council will approve the concept. He also stated that he would be giving some more information to County Council about the animal shelter in October or November.

Comments by County Council Members

None.

Comments by County Council Chair

The chairman stated that two more meetings are coming up one with the School District (no date has been set) and one with the Edgefield County Legislative Delegation (prior to January).

Chairman Campbell stated he believes County Council needs to take the lead on Economic Development since it is a significant part of our future and that Edgefield County needs to focus attention on education, recreation, quality of life, etc. He stated that for Edgefield County to take the lead on this issue County Council along with many key stake holders and citizen input, is going to participate in the development of an Edgefield County Strategic Plan that will involve a steering committee made up of about 25 members which will break into sub-committees. With help from the steering committee and public input, we will be able to put together a plan that we can use to step forward and make progress in this county.

No executive session.

Adjourn

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Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. 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

Genia Blackwell, Vice Chair

Rodney Ashcraft, Council Member

Willie C. Bright, Council Member

Norman Dorn, Council Member

ATTEST

Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council