

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Minutes**  
**January 6, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, January 6, 2009, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

**Members present**

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman  
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman  
Norman Dorn, Councilman  
Regina Blackwell, Councilwoman  
Rodney D. Ashcraft, Councilman

**Others present**

John Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator  
John Byrd, Jr., County Attorney  
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council  
and others as per the list attached

**Others absent**

Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Manager

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and Rev. Jasper Lloyd gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

**Oath of Office**

At this time the Oath of Office was given by Attorney Eleazer Carter to Councilman Norman Dorn. County Attorney John Byrd next administered the oath of office to council members Monroe Kneece and Willie Bright and also two new members, Rodney Ashcraft and Regina Blackwell.

**Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

County Attorney John Byrd conducted the election of chairman and the vice chairman by secret ballot. The vote was unanimous for Monroe Kneece to serve as chairman and by a three-two vote Willie Bright was elected to serve as Vice Chairman. Mr. Kneece and Mr. Bright each thanked council for the opportunity to serve as chairman and vice chairman.

**Approval of January 6, 2009 council agenda.**

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the January 6, 2009 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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Councilman Ashcraft brought to council's attention that approximately four minutes of Mrs. Anderson addressing council at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes were omitted.

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Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the December 2, Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Edgefield County Council, as amended. The December 10, 2008, County Council Called meeting minutes were approved by a motion made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports**

No comments.

### **Ordinances**

#### **Ordinance No. 08-09-604**

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-604, "An Ordinance Amending Edgefield County Ordinance Number 07-08-596, An Ordinance Providing for the FY 08-09 General Operating Budget, to Reduce Revenues and Expenses Provided for in the FY 08-09 Budget." Motion carried unanimously.

Before the motion was made to accept the third reading, Councilman Ashcraft questioned the reduction to \$9,391.30 (extra hours) for the Tax Assessor's office. "Are we sure the office will not need the funds for overtime?" The chairman stated that it wasn't certain the assessor would need all the funds originally requested. Hopefully the work can be done without going into overtime. There had to be cuts some where. They have time from now until 2010 to finish the reassessment so hopefully working on the reassessment with the staff they have now it (reassessment) can be completed.

Councilwoman Blackwell asked how much of the council contingency last year was applied to the general fund last year. The administrator responded that Mrs. Strom was not here but he felt it was somewhere around \$60,000. Traditionally, council uses very little of the contingency. Mrs. Blackwell wanted to know if we were cutting employee pay in the assessor's office. Mr. Pettigrew explained that under the tax assessor we are not cutting employee's pay. The money was budgeted in anticipation of employees working extra hours to start on the reassessment. In talking with the assessor she and the appraisers have mapped out a schedule for doing the reassessment and they are hopeful they can do it without the extra hours from now until June. They expect they will need the extra hours starting in July with the reassessment deadline being December 31, 2010. So, we are not cutting anyone's salary, and as far as council's contingency goes, that would be up to council of how much contingency they feel comfortable with for the remainder of the year. In the past, at times during reassessment, council has budgeted for overtime knowing that it would be necessary.

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The appraisers in the office are on a thirty five hour work week. This money was budgeted to take them to a forty hour work week which would not be over time and that is why it is termed 'extra hours.' In other words, this money was five extra hours for the two appraisers per week. It is anticipated that we would need to do that starting July 1. Nobody knows for sure how quickly reassessment will go and some overtime may be needed in that office. There are 21,000-23,000 parcels that will have to be reassessed.

#### **Ordinance No. 08-09-601**

The third reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-601, "An Ordinance Providing for a Lease and Agreement Between Edgefield County and Western Carolina Aviators, LLC, for Approximately One Acre of Land with Improvements Consisting of a Metal Aircraft Hangar Building Located at the Trenton Airport" was postponed due to the fact there is some paper work that has not been submitted. It was the consensus of council to postpone the third reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-601 until the February meeting.

Councilman Dorn felt that the paperwork submitted leading to the postponement of third reading should have been known to council before the night of the meeting. Councilman Ashcraft stated that he actually found this information when he looked up Plane Fun and also looked up Western Carolina on the internet under the Secretary of State web site. It was stated that the name Western Carolina Aviators belonged to a Cecil Chalker and that is why he (Ashcraft) brought this to council's attention.

Mrs. Linda Anderson and Mr. Dana Linn were on the agenda to speak prior to the third reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-601. Although the third reading was postponed they chose to speak.

#### **Mrs. Anderson**

"I know there has been much controversy over Plane Fun and Western Carolina Aviators, LLC regarding hangar rates. However, Plane Fun believes these rates should be based on expense costs and what local consumers are willing to pay. Ladies and gentlemen, it takes money to run an airport and right now we are barely surviving through hangar rents and personal loans, which on average has been \$2,800 per year with a total of personal loans being \$33,466 in our 14 year time period. There have been no profits associated with the airport except for what the county gains in tax revenue. Our records are readily available to review by any councilperson.

Regarding the rent to be collected from Western Carolina Aviators, LLC, it has been verbally communicated, but there is no provision in this ordinance, to allocate money to support the expenses associated with the airport. The income from this hangar will make it easier for us to meet the expenses. Any realized profit can then be utilized to support the efforts in moving the airport forward.

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According to the Economic Impact Study performed by the Department of Commerce, Division of Aeronautics, the Economic Impact of Edgefield County Aviation includes:

**Direct Economic Impacts:** those associated with on-airport employees, business and tenants - **\$24,000**

**Indirect Economic Impact:** those tied to spending by visitors- **\$6,300**

Other aviation related revenue:

**Taxes paid on buildings we built, purchased and renovated; taxes generated by planes registered in the county and total taxes paid this year (2008) are projected to be \$7,195.**

Ladies and gentlemen, I realize that tonight there may be 5 votes in favor of the upcoming ordinance; however, we have 5 potential customers willing to pay \$165 for each hangar space. The upcoming lease agreement with Western Carolina Aviators, LLC would yield \$3,600 in revenue. It has been verbally communicated that Plane Fun would be able to draw from this account.

Taking that into consideration, it has been estimated that taxes on this building, should it fall under Plane Fun management, would result in \$1,000 to \$1,300 yearly taxes for the county. Considering the rate of \$165, the yield to Plane Fun, after taxes, would be \$4,600 - \$4,900 to be re-invested into the airport.

There is no grant money that helps improve this airport. Other airports, such as the one we have been compared to, receive funds from Federal, County and City programs. This airport is sustained only by its tenants and will continue to do so until further investigation, by someone, uncovers sources of financial assistance.

In conclusion, should this council desire to place this hangar under the management of Plane Fun, our pledge to the Council and Western Carolina Aviators, LLC, is that Plane Fun will guarantee them first refusal rights to include the same fair practices and privileges offered to all hangar renters located at Edgefield County Airport. We further pledge that Western Carolina Aviators, LLC would be charged the going local rate of \$165 per hangar per month for a five-year period.

I appeal to the council that tonight we have an opportunity to move the airport in a positive direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

**Dana Linn**

Comments have been made several times in the past four or five meetings by council that “we are tight” on funds. It bothers me that the county would enter into a contract with

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individuals or a company for less than the going rate which puts it back on the taxpayer. This is not fair to us.

We have an ordinance here that talks about Western Carolina Aviators. This is not a formed corporation as has been stated. This was written back in October. The proper homework was not done to follow up to find out if this existed or not.

**Statement by Councilman Ashcraft:** It seems that Plane Fun has plenty of ready customers that will pay \$165 a month. That would yield \$5,940 a year. That building, according to the assessor, would be taxed at \$1,013. Under Plane Fun that money would come back to the county and the county would again be making something off that building and it would also yield a net of \$4,600 to \$4,900 to be reinvested in the airport, so I understand. We can let Plane Fun manage the airport and the county gets more tax money or we can lend it to Western Aviators and the county doesn't benefit at all. I guess the taxpayers would help subsidize three airplanes.

**No Resolutions.**

**New Business**

**Mt. Vintage Infrastructure**

Mr. Dennis Brite addressed council concerning the lot that he and his wife bought at Mt. Vintage (Eutaw Springs) in April 2006. He stated that he was assured by the developers that the infrastructure to the new section of Mt. Vintage would be completed within a few months and certainly prior to the construction of his home. Since 2006 until the present I was told on several occasions it was only a matter of time before the infrastructure would be completed. My home is almost completed but I cannot obtain a CO until the infrastructure is done.

There is a county ordinance that stipulates that a developer must either post a performance bond for the infrastructure and development improvements or, have the infrastructure completed and in place prior to the sale of any lots.

I am asking council to find a way to make him (Mr. Rainsford) finish the infrastructure now and my definition of "now" is twenty one days with a paved road. Otherwise, severe penalties for legal and financial should ensue very promptly. I would like to believe that council would wish to be part of the solution and not part of the problem by allowing the constant delays of this infrastructure.

Chairman Kneece asked Mr. Rainsford what efforts he could put forth without the council going to any leverage if he is willing to take care of these problems.

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### **Bettis Rainsford**

Mr. Rainsford stated that many of the things that Mr. Brite said are quite frankly very much in error. With the economy as it is at the present, being able to obtain the proper funds has not been easy. I have spent about all of the last six months using all of the resources at my command trying to bring capital together to complete this, and to date I have not been successful in doing so. However, I do believe we will be successful in getting the road paved in the spring of this year. As far as any compliance with any laws at all times we met with Howard Gibson, the Building Official, and Wayne Adams, at no time did anyone ask us to do anything that we did not do.

As Mr. Rainsford was explaining the tax revenue that Mt. Vintage brings in to the county, Chairman Kneece stated to Mr. Rainsford that is not the point. The point is that these people were promised that when their homes were ready to be occupied the infrastructure would be there. That is what they want. Mr. Kneece asked Mr. Rainsford what it would take to get the newly constructed homes to the stage the owners can move in. Mr. Rainsford replied that it would take about \$25,000 and two weeks. We will do all we can to make that schedule work. Mr. Kneece wanted to know if he could promise the work could be done within two weeks. He will do his very best. This would include water and sewer, not the paving.

Chairman Kneece told Mr. Rainsford that he has put the council on the spot and that he (Kneece) will check with Mr. Brite in two weeks to see if anything has been done. After that I will get back with you. We have worked together for quite a few years and a promise is a promise. Hopefully you will live up to it. Mr. Kneece also said that no other buildings go in there without the necessary bonds, paper work, etc.

### **Rehab of Emergency Tower Sites**

Mike Casey, EMA Director, informed council that several things had come about since the last council meeting. First, as council knows, we now have an operating tornado warning system for the three towns. Mayor Durham (Edgefield) led the way on this. Existing sirens that the towns had bought themselves and paid the costs to fix them so they would blow for two minutes in the event of a tornado warning. The sirens are effective in the immediate corporate limits and just in the fringe area. At that time there was some discussion with the mayors, general public and myself that it would be good if this could be done throughout the county – but it will take quite a few dollars.

Since that time, the new **NOAH** Weather Service Grant has come out within just the last five days. We, being Edgefield County, would be competitive with the rest of the nation for this grant. Saluda County got \$200,000 last year for this same system. I will be using this one as a guide. What would council's pleasure be on a 100% reimbursable grant with part of the money actually funding this project up front. The rest of the money council would have to put forward like you have done in the past on FEMA and Homeland

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Security grants. This is a time-sensitive grant and if we want to go forward with it we will have to begin immediately in order to get it in for review. There is no guarantee that we will get the grant but there is no cost to the county to submit it. Hopefully we can have sirens in the Merriwether, Mt. Vintage, County Line areas for sure. Other population centers we will go out and do a survey – that is part of the project. Does council want me to pursue this?

Secondly, I know there is discussion going on as to where to rebuild offices that were destroyed in the fire and there has been discussion that Emergency Management would have an office and an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in that new building. There is a 75-25 grant available both for the Emergency Operations Center construction and mitigation funds available to reinforce the office and EOC portion of the building if we go in this new building. The actual grant dollars that we would be competing for is on a nationwide/state level. First phase is due February 6<sup>th</sup>. If we get the money and there is no building, the money is gone.

Mitigation funds you build to code, you reinforce to a higher level, like the Miami Dade specifications for hurricane strengthening. That is where they pick up the difference. The EOC they come in and actually do bricks and sticks – the whole nine yards. That is the second grant that is available.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan that Upper Savannah did several years ago is up for renewal – for an update. At that time we were told it would cost the county \$30,000 to do it. Now, we have an e-mail stating that they are working on a grant. If so, we will be able to have our mitigation plan updated, courtesy of Upper Savannah.

Finally, as council knows, the north tower (emergency communications tower) we have had problems with – tilting. It is built on the old county landfill and that is settling. Spent about \$10,000 a year ago. A year ago, I received a letter from John Riley concerning the tower. Mr. Riley did work for the county and towns for years and years. He worked on the tower to get it back in proper alignment and he stated then that we had about 18 months on that tower. The tower is 25 years old – it has a life span of 20 years. It is overloaded with two-way radio equipment, etc. Just don't know how long we have on the tower, we could lose it this spring or summer when a bad storm comes – just don't know. Mike read Riley's letter describing the bad shape that the tower is in. It can take up to a year or longer to get clearance from the FAA and other legal hurdles you have to go through to move a tower. Mike stated he would like to build a larger tower to support what is already on there and taller to increase our communications coverage. He has \$32,000 left on a grant that expires March 31, 2009 that has to be spent. Since we are not ready to put a new tower up I am buying transmitter buildings, generators and other items that will go to support the operation of the tower.

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Mike stated he will apply for a grant of \$250,000, roughly. They will advance some of the money on purchase on that particular grant, but some they will not. There is a time period for construction. Council must be aware also that we have a tower that is on its last legs and if we cannot find a grant for that then we will be looking at purchasing the tower for 100% of the cost. I haven't found a grant as yet except for bits and pieces of dollars that will buy a tower. Mike indicated that he would like to go with at least a 385 ft. to 400 ft. tower. He feels it would cost in the ballpark of \$150,000 to \$250,000.

There also has been discussion of where to locate the tower – Star Rd. county property or find a place around where the tower is presently located. Mike said that it turns out there is a little section on the back of the present location that is roughly the same elevation and he believes it can be erected on there. There is about ten to twelve acres in that particular area. Earlier it had been stated maybe erecting a free standing but that would be three to four times as expensive and may not be able to get the height we would like. John Riley stated in his letter that the best location for a new tower would be in the area of the present one. Mike feels that the land on Star Road (by EMS) is just too valuable and too critical for the county for future growth to put a tower there.

There was discussion to use reserve funds for the tower as this is reimbursable money. The administrator stated, as he understands it, is that the county would only “front” the money if we are awarded the grant, so only a matter of cash flow. We do, as the chairman stated, have sufficient reserves that the county has built up that we could front the money until reimbursement from the grant. Mike said he understood it would not be in all one lump sum because he asked specifically about that. He was told that some money will be advanced. Some of these grants will also allow what you pay salary, workmen's comp, insurance, other in-kind services that you pay for, you can use those as part of your local match like on the mitigation and EOC. If you get six individuals working so many hours at such and such dollar value for their labor per hour (such as county employees) that goes as part of your local match rather than hard dollars. Those are in-kind matches.

The EOC part, the county has insurance claim money to build a new building, including EMA & EOC. The new building has to be constructed to county code and then he (Mike) can get mitigation funds to re-enforce the roof or re-enforce the windows above code.

Motion was made by Chairman Kneece to apply for the grant and fund from the reserve funds and refund to that account, and if we do not get the grant the reserve funds will not have to be used. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Board Appointments (Hospital Board)** The Edgefield County Hospital Board of Trustees requested to council the reappointment of Henry Kowalewski, Jack Tiller, and Virginia Weaver, to another three year term each to the hospital board (Jan. 2009 thru Jan. 2012). The motion for reappointment to a three year term was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously. All three agreed to serve another term.

The Hospital Board requested that Dr. Sam Hair and Mr. Richard Bohn be appointed the Board to fill the vacancies created by the resignations of Mr. Tim Padgett and Mrs. Edna Daniels. These are also three year terms, January 2009 thru January 2012. The motion to appoint Dr. Hair and Mr. Bohn was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously. Both agreed to fill these vacancies.

**Planning Commission)**

The Planning Commission terms of James (Fab) Burt, Tracey Freeman, Nadine Horne, Rodney Ingle, and Roger Timpson expired November 2008. They all agreed to serve another two term on the Planning Commission, so at the request of the Commission to the County Council that these individuals be reappointed for another term, a motion was made by Councilwoman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, for the reappointment of these individuals to the Planning Commission. Motion carried with Councilwoman Blackwell **recused** from voting.

**Council Board Appointments (made by Chairman)**

**Council Liaison and Committee Assignments**  
**January 1, 2009 thru December 31, 2010**

Administrative	Kneece and Blackwell
Finance	Kneece and Blackwell
Roads & Bridges	Dorn and Ashcraft
Recreation	Bright and Kitchens
Economic Dev.	Kneece and Bright
Buildings & Grounds	all councilmen
Three Rivers Solid Waste	Kneece and Pettigrew
Tri County Solid Waste	Kneece & Bright (Pettigrew, alt.)
GLEAMS	Bright
Hospital Board	Blackwell
Planning Commission	Ashcraft
Fire Board	Ashcraft
Transportation Com.	Bright
Piedmont Tech. College	Dorn
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	Dorn
Senior Citizens	Ashcraft

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**Mr. Kitchens may serve on the Recreation Commission through June 30, 2009. At that time, council can re-appoint him, if he agrees, to serve another two year term.**

**No Old Business.**

**Administrator's Report**

Mrs. Gladys Sligh with the Census Bureau addressed council at its meeting in December. She was in Edgefield recruiting census workers. Mr. Pettigrew stated that he had spoken with her today and she is still seeking workers for Edgefield County. The application period has been extended through the month of February. She will be at Edgefield Town Hall on Mondays, 10:30 a.m. throughout January and February and she will be at Piedmont Tech on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. If anyone knows of anyone looking for a temporary job working for the US Census Bureau we have the telephone number and or go on the web site, US Census.com. Please spread the word.

Mr. Pettigrew informed council that he had received a letter from Central Electric Co-operative and they are planning a new transmission line down in the southern part of Edgefield County that would connect to their existing sub-station that is off of Murrah Road. Anyone that lives in that area would be interested in this. They will hold a workshop on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:30 at Sweetwater Baptist Church. The public is invited, and the Co-op is contacting all of the property owners of record in the proposed area. They are doing a new line in North Augusta and also here in Edgefield County at the sub-station off Murrah Road.

On our recreation department, basketball practice started last week for the county youth basketball league. The games will begin in about two weeks.

The next meeting of the Edgefield Alliance will be Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30 a.m., Piedmont Tech. Special guest speaker will be Edgefield County CEO, Mrs. Pat Robinson.

**Guests.**

**Mr. Wayne Myrick** signed to address council but declined. He had some issues but he had spoken with Councilman Ashcraft to discuss the issue with him in the following week and may bring them up at the next meeting.

**Mrs. Linda Anderson**

Mrs. Anderson stated that she and Mr. Anderson met with Bradley Neal who is with the Marine Special Operations School. This is in conjunction with the training that will be held here in the Sumter National Forest. After the Marine Corps learned of the airport here they asked to use the airport during the training. The dates are April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be in the evening hours –bringing troops in and out – training

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special forces.

Also, Linda brought to the attention of council members a brochure she handed to them concerning Jamail Larkins. He started at a very young age flying – co-piloted his first flight with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Program. He has made quite an advancement in the aviation field and today he is an FAA Ambassador and Space Education. He, along with his sponsors, visits high schools and middle schools doing presentations to encourage young people to get involved with programs that will be coming up for jobs that will be opening in the aviation field: engineering, mechanics, etc.

**Comments from the public.**

**Mr. Mark Dupont** asked to speak, although he did not sign-up to speak. He was unaware of some of the comments that were going to be made and he asked for a few minutes to address these comments that were made about the Western Carolina Aviators, LLC.

“There are a number of people here who are new on council and people in the audience who are not aware of the situation of the Edgefield County Airport. I would like to go through that briefly because allegations have been made that we are taking something from the county. In fact, we have given something to the county. We built a hangar, at no expense to them, and we have operated it and improved it over the 25 years of our lease. I believe, if you went out there, you would clearly agree it is the best building out there (airport). Some of the other buildings that are being built by Plane Fun are somewhat less sturdier than ours. After 25 years of occupancy our hangar is as good as it ever was.

At the termination of our lease that building becomes the property of Edgefield County. Having been tenants, in my case for more than 18 years, and John’s more than 20, long before Plane Fun arrived on the field, we had hoped to negotiate some sort of a reasonable arrangement to continue to occupy our hangar. Reasonable, being something consistent with the facilities that are available and with the prices that are charged at other airports in the area. For five years I paid \$50 for occupying a hangar on a grass field without any services, without any lights, without so much as a bathroom. That is equivalent to what we have at the Edgefield County Airport. When we had the first reading that was my understanding of what was going to be read and they said “no”, \$100 a month. We asked to have that reduced or to have the term of the lease reduced to one year and that was not approved.

We have negotiated up until this point trying to decide whether to continue to occupy the hangar at \$100 a month, which based on the comments from the people here would seem incredibly cheap, except I am currently occupying hangars at Aiken Airport where you can get a hangar for \$120 a month on a paved, lighted airport with a million dollar FBO facility that come and push my plane into the hangar. They fuel my plane in the hangar.

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This is a considerable difference to what we are getting at the EC Airport. Again, Edgefield County has spent nothing on our hangar at the airport. When Plane Fun got their lease and negotiated we specifically had our one acre lease, which we paid the county \$1.00 to occupy, excluded from their lease. Within a very short period of time after Plane Fun came on the field they were threatening John Moore with “one day you will be renting from me- we are going to get those hangars and you will paying rent to me.” They view our hangar as a cash cow. Let’s don’t make any mistake of that. We, at a \$100 a month, we have proposed to keep our lease separate from theirs so that money could go to the EC Council to do with as they please. We are not trying to take anything from you. We are trying to give the money to the council. Whether you give that to Plane Fun or not, it is entirely your business.

Then they come in with a counter proposal at the eleventh hour which we were unaware of saying they can rent it for \$165 a month. They are in fact getting greater than \$42,000 a year in annual income based on their own admission to mow the field at the airport and telling you they are losing money. I can’t say whether or not they are. It seems extraordinary that for about 20 times a year they mow that it costs them about \$42,000 a year. Also, recognize they are a business. They negotiated a lease with Edgefield County to make a profit; built buildings and leasing them. They make a profit. We are just individuals occupying a hangar that we built for the benefit of Edgefield County and for our own use. We would like to continue to occupy the hangar but it has to be for a reasonable rate. If Edgefield County thinks they can get a higher rate for their own benefit, then it is certainly your asset to do with as you please. Giving them the hangar and allowing them to take the rent purely in their own pockets with no investment on their part is just handing over a cash cow for something we built.

In terms of the Western Carolina LLC error, that was an error on our part. When all of this began, we had planned to have our three names on a lease with Edgefield County and it wasn’t until the lease was read the first time that we found out we needed to establish an LLC that Edgefield County preferred to negotiate with one entity rather than with the three of us. We said fine, we will negotiate it. No big deal, my attorney said it takes 20 minutes and a \$110 filing fee. Over the last three readings we have been trying to negotiate the term of the lease and the dollar amount of the lease. We reached this point and we thought this was the third reading. It wasn’t until we found out today that you wanted to have the paperwork in place for the LLC prior to this third reading. I contacted my attorney, we filed the paperwork and we selected at our own choice Western Carolina LLC. It was our error. We did not realize that one previously existed. It is an easy change. We can change it to 6J6 Hangar LLC. The name is irrelevant to us. We are only establishing the LLC because Edgefield County asked for it. The previous speaker spoke about grants for many different things. Plane Fun says they are losing money, taking money out of their own pocket. I know for a fact there are airport grants available around the country to support private airports. They negotiated a lease to

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maintain the airport because Edgefield County chose not to do anything to maintain the airport. They elected not to do that. It was previously maintained by the SC Aeronautics Commission prior to Plane Fun coming in. They negotiated a lease and that is their business how they get money to maintain the airport. But one thing that Edgefield County Council might consider is whether Edgefield County wants to keep an airport or not. Normally an FBO (Fixed Base Operator) is what Plane Fun is. They would sell fuel, rent hangars, that is how they pay their expenses. In fact, they generally pay the county for their ability to operate the airport. The county would also help to maintain the airport and they might get funds from the state or other places. If Edgefield County Council chooses not to give any money to maintain the airport perhaps Plane Fun could at least seek some airport grants.

As far as we are concerned, we would like to continue to occupy the hangar. John Moore is one of the largest small business men in the county and he has been there for more than 20 years and he lives less than a mile off the end of the runway. I have a hangar at the Aiken Airport right now and I have already made the decision that this might not turn out very well so I have already occupied one there but I would like to continue to occupy the hangar at Edgefield County as well because there are two airplanes in there that are in a club arrangement that I am part of so I would like to keep those there.

Councilman Ashcraft stated he understood that he (Dupont) built the hangar, but he (Ashcraft) had seen a couple of leases that would consider that untrue. There were three gentlemen prior to you more than 25 years ago that built it and you guys bought them out. Do you have any objection saying how much you bought them out for, each of you? Mr. Dupont stated that his understanding was that the hangar was built on the order of \$20,000. I paid \$6,000 for my third. I don't know what the other gentlemen paid. My portion for a five year lease that is now being asked would be \$6,000. Mr. Ashcraft asked the other two participants of the hangar what they paid. Mr. Murphy said he paid \$5,500; Mr. Moore, would have to look. Ashcraft stated he thought Mr. Moore at the airport had said he paid \$10,000.

As the "discussion" continued between Councilman Ashcraft and Mr. Dupont the chairman stated that the discussion was completely off from the consideration of the ordinance. If further facts would like to be presented to council at the next meeting that will be fine and Councilman Ashcraft was in agreement with that.

**Mrs. Pat Robinson**, Hospital CEO, welcomed Mrs. Blackwell as the council representative to the Hospital Board, and stated she looks forward to working with her (Blackwell).

**Claims approved as follows:**

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Minutes**  
**January 6, 2009**

A.	<b>PAYROLL:</b>	12/1/08 thru 12/14/08	
	Regular.....		\$235,010.74
	<b>Christmas gift.....</b>		\$11,775.00
	<b>Poll Workers.....</b>		\$600.00
	<b>PAYROLL:</b>	12/15/08 thru 12/28/08	
	Regular.....		\$226,630.78
B.	<b>General Operating.....</b>		\$937,863.02

**Executive Session**

The chairman asked for a motion to go in executive session pursuant to Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) of the SC Code of Laws 1976, as amended, concerning a proposed contractual arrangement, and pursuant to Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) of the SC Code of Laws 1976, as amended, concerning a personnel matter, and returning to regular session at the discretion of the chairman. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to convene in executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Returning to regular session, the chairman stated they discussed the possibilities of the Calliham building and we decided not to enter in to another deal with it and we are through with it and do I hear a motion that we go ahead and start proceedings on a building, getting some plans on a building. Motion made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously. Kneece: We will start working on getting some building lined up.

The personnel issue is postponed until a later date.

There being no further business, the motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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 Norman Dorn, Councilman

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 C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

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 Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman

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 Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

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 Regina Blackwell, Councilwoman