

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 5, 2010

The Edgefield County Council held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, January 5, 2010, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

Members present

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

Others present

Barbara R. Stark, Interim County Administrator
Michael S. Medlock, County Attorney
Lynn Strom, Finance Director
Donna Lybrand (sitting in for Clerk to Council)
and others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and Richard Martin gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell, to approve the January 5, 2010 Council Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Councilman Askcraft asked for the floor to announce the resignation of Dan Bertholdt's from the Tax Board of Appeals.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

County Attorney Michael Medlock conducted the election of chairman and vice chairman for 2010. Monroe Kneece was elected chairman and Willie Bright was elected vice chairman.

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Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the December 1, 2009 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council. Motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell, to approve the December 9, 2009 Minutes of the Called Meeting of Council. Motion carried unanimously.

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Reports

No comments.

No ordinances.

New Business

Mike Reed, Building Official, addressed council concerning building permit re-inspection fees. Mr. Reed requested that council pass an ordinance to charge a re-inspection fee to all construction permit inspections and mobile home setup related inspections. The only re-inspection fee at the present is a \$5.00 re-inspection fee on Fuel Gas permit inspections and a \$5.00 re-inspection fee on mechanical permit inspections. There are no re-inspection fees on any of the other permit inspections performed, such as residential building, commercial building, plumbing, electrical, fire safety or energy conservation. In trying to help the property owners and contractors at some point they are beginning to abuse the situation and Mr. Reed feels that increasing the re-inspection fees will at least pay for the department's expense and hopefully will help the ones involved be more efficient. Council received this request as information and Mr. Reed will write an ordinance to charge re-inspection fees. The ordinance will have to have three readings by council approving the increase of re-inspection fees.

Hospital Board appointments

The Edgefield County Hospital Board requested council to consider the following re-appointments to the Hospital Board. Each stated they are willing to serve another term. The terms expire January 9, 2010 and the new terms will expire January 9, 2013.

Tim Williams, Tom Nidiffer, Alva Lewis, Dr. B. E. Nicholson, Christopher Yonce, Dr. Sharon Keesley

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to appoint the above individuals to serve a third term on the Hospital Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Title change (VA office)

Mr. Rikard first informed council of the monetary benefits that come into the county for veterans and then addressed council concerning the change of the title of Clerk II to Administrative Assistant for his employee (Faye Vaughn). There are VA offices in several counties that have administrative assistants filling in for the VA officer from time to time. Mrs. Vaughn, as well as Mr. Rikard, is nationally certified, State certified, American Legion certified and she just finished a course that enables them to connect to the regional office to look at claim files. This is very helpful to the veterans.

A motion to table this request to obtain more information and bring back to the next meeting was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Tax appeal presentation

Mr. Bill Gilchrist, Edgefield County Auditor, informed council that the Milliken Company in Johnston has filed and completed a real estate appeal with the State Department of Revenue. The lost tax revenue for county operations for this tax year that we are in now will be \$19,136.00.

Animal welfare presentation

Councilman Ashcraft stated that he serves on the board for *All Gods Creatures*. He stated that at the present they are working under the state law but they feel there should be more specific laws within the county for the welfare of animals and would like for council to consider passing an ordinance for the proper care of animals. Mrs. Denise Holcomb with *All Gods Creature* also spoke on this request made by Councilman Ashcraft.

Old Business

The consideration of the following bids for the floor covering at the Assessor's office:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Tile/cove installation</u>	<u>Moving furn./ equip.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fogel's	\$3,295.45	\$750.00	\$4,045.45
McWaters, Inc.	\$2,846.14	\$526.00	\$3,372.14
Carpet Warehouse	\$4,290.40	\$500.00	\$4,790.40

The motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell, to approve the bid submitted by McWaters in the amount of \$3,372,14. The motion carried unanimously.

HVAC Sheriff's Office

Mike Reed stated that the grant the county was waiting for to pay for the replacement of units on top of the jail has not been received as of yet. Upper Savannah will let the county know if and when the grants are to be released. If for any reason the grant does not transpire the moisture problem at the jail still has to be addressed.

Neighborhood Center repairs

Mike stated he is still waiting on estimates on repairs and the clean-up outside of the building. Will bring to council as soon as information is received.

Northside Park restroom facility

Chris Harmon addressed council concerning the restroom facility that is being considered at Northside. He spoke on the procedure which included the first step of having the soil tested. Chairman Kneece did state that the county would have to go out for bids. Mr. Harmon is owner of Carolina Septic and he would like the opportunity to bid.

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Council did approve a motion made by Councilman Dorn at the December 2009 council meeting to approve \$2,000 to Alternative Septic Systems for soil testing and preliminary engineering. Councilman Dorn stated that he will withdraw his motion approving the \$2,000 because this should be advertised to give others an opportunity to place a bid.

Mr. Dorn moved to reconsider the Council's December vote approving an initial deposit of \$2,000 required for a soil test and preliminary engineering with Alternative Septic Systems regarding the Northside Park restroom facility. Councilman Dorn stated that he voted with the majority on this matter.

Chairman Kneece noted the above recommendation and that Mr. Dorn did vote with the majority at the December 2009 meeting and it is appropriate for him to move to reconsider. Mr. Kneece asked for a second to Mr. Dorn's motion. The second was made by Councilman Bright. Mr. Kneece asked for any discussion to reconsider but there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman's Dorn original motion to approve an initial deposit of \$2,000 required for a soil test and preliminary engineering with Alternative Septic Systems regarding the Northside Park restroom facility was then before the Council. Motion died for lack of a second.

At this time, Councilman Dorn asked to go on record regarding the recording of council meetings by the Clerk to Council is the official recording and should be obtained through the Clerk to Council should the public request one.

Planning Commission/Tax Board of Appeals appointment

Councilman Ashcraft made the motion to accept Dan Bertholdt's resignation letter from the Tax Board of Appeals and appoint Art Biggs to the Tax Board of Appeals, filling the vacancy created with Mr. Bertholdt's resignation. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Don Rupert signed in to speak but had left the meeting before he was recognized by the chairman.

No comments from the public.

No executive session.

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Claims approved as follows:

Christmas Bonuses.....\$11,325.00

Regular 11/30/09 thru 12/13/09

PAYROLL.....\$243,037.50

Regular 12/14/09 thru 12/27/09

PAYROLL.....\$222,655.47

General Operating.....\$1,035,655.43

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2010, in the County Council Chambers.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark
Interim County Administrator

Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman

Genia Blackwell, Councilwoman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

