

CALLED MEETING
EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
October 25, 2011
6:00 PM
County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held a called meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, October 25, 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, stated the purpose of the meeting, which was the Third reading of Ordinance No. 11-12-648 and asked for a short recess while Mr. Gilbert from the state set up his GIS equipment. Chairman Campbell called the recess to an end and continued the meeting. Chairman Campbell then asked for a motion for a third reading on Ordinance No. 11-12-648, 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. This motion would be for Plan Five (5) which was passed on second reading. This would allow discussion for the rest of the night and if anything needed to be amended it could be amended. Councilwoman Blackwell made a motion. Councilman Ashcraft seconded the motion. At this point in the meeting Council began discussion.

Mr. Wayne Gilbert and Mr. Will Roberts of the Budget and Control Board and the Office of Research and Statistics were with us in this meeting to go over the seven (7) plans for redistricting. Mr. Gilbert stated that instead of drawing additional maps at this meeting we would discuss the ones that were already available and hopefully vote on one. Mr. Gilbert went over all of the statistics for the three (3) latest maps. Our current benchmark for each district is as follows: District one is 54.49% for African American Percentage, District two is 25.90%, District three is 43.73%, District four is 51.17%, and District five is 11.23%. Each minority district must be at least at its current percentage or higher to avoid retrogression. State law requires the County Council to keep standard deviation under 10%. Currently, we are at 4.56% standard deviation.

After Mr. Gilbert finished explaining plan five (5), Councilman Campbell asked if there was any discussion or questions and no one spoke. So Mr. Gilbert went to the next plan (the Compromise Plan). Mr. Gilbert briefly went over the statistics for the Compromise Plan. After Mr. Gilbert finished explaining the Compromise Plan, Councilman Campbell asked if there was any discussion or questions and no one spoke. So Mr. Gilbert went to the final plan (the Dorn/Bright plan). Mr. Gilbert stated that

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Mr. Dorn and Mr. Bright came to his office after the last redistricting meeting and they developed this map. When Mr. Gilbert was done explaining the statistics that went with the final map, Councilman Campbell asked Councilman Dorn and Councilman Bright for comments about this map since they helped develop it. Councilman Dorn spoke first. He stated that this was the first time he was able to have input on a new district map due to all of the input and concerns from the mayors in the towns. He also stated that he was disappointed that the mayors were concerned about whether or not a County Council Member would be in attendance at the Town Council Meetings. He also stated that he didn't want his district to include Addison Street, Main Street, or Buncombe Street because those streets were not previously in his district.

Councilman Bright stated that he prefers this map because he wants to stay out of the town as much as possible.

Chairman Campbell then stated that even though there was no public comment on the agenda he would like to hear any comments from the public.

We heard from two citizens that wanted to speak. First, Nathaniel Jackson expressed that it was wrong for County Council to hold this Called Meeting on a night when the Edgefield County School District was also having a regularly scheduled meeting. He was concerned that some people may have wanted to be at both meetings but were not able due to scheduling. He stated that he reviewed all 3 of the maps that we discussed tonight with Rev. Griffin of the NAACP and other concerned citizens and they would like to ask Council to take into consideration the final plan (the Dorn/Bright plan).

Second we heard from Mayor Ken Durham. He stated that he wanted the Towns to be kept as whole as possible and this was a request from him and the Town Councils. He stated that he was concerned about the representation for the next ten (10) years. He also stated that he does like plan five (5) and the Dorn/Bright plan and would be satisfied if either plan passed.

There were no other comments from the public.

Chairman Campbell then continued discussion about the map proposals. There was brief discussion about the benchmark percentages we currently have and how the last three (3) map proposals percentages compared. Councilman Campbell asked the two state representatives if any of the plans would possibly not pass the Department of Justice criteria. Mr. Will Roberts answered Councilman Campbell's question with an explanation of some of the specifics the Department of Justice would be looking at and in his opinion all of the proposals would pass.

Chairman Campbell asked if there were any more questions or discussion. There was none, so Chairman Campbell stated that he felt that all three of the plans that were discussed at this meeting had their merits and he personally believed that what was passed on second reading would be the best representation and that it would do the best to keep communities of interest intact, and that it accommodates all of the Federal Legislation that has to be put into place. There was more brief discussion between Council members. Chairman Campbell then stated that there was already a motion

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on the floor (from the beginning of the meeting) to pass the plan that received second reading on October 4, 2011 also known as Plan 5. The motion carried out 3-2 with Councilman Dorn and Councilman Bright voting against.

Councilman Dorn made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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