

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

November 1, 2011

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, November 1, 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 November 1, 2011 Council Agenda

Motion for approval of the November 1, 2011 Council agenda was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October 4, 2011 County Council Minutes (Regular Meeting) of Council was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

The October 25, 2011 County Council Minutes (Called Meeting) were approved by a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the public

None.

Reports

No comments.

Old Business

1. Third 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."

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Councilman Dorn asked if there were new codes being added to the Ordinance No. 11-12-646. Mr. LeDuc answered his question by stating that there are no new codes and that we would be reassembling the standing codes.

Councilman Ashcraft made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 11-12-646. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Third 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." The Administrator had no comments. County Council had no comments. Councilwoman Blackwell made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 11-12-647. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Consideration of appointment to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority Board

Lynn Strom.....Finance Director/Assistant Administrator

Councilman Dorn asked if another person could serve on this board other than the Administrator or the Assistant Administrator. Councilman Campbell stated yes, but every other person on this particular board is either an Administrator or an Assistant Administrator. Councilman Dorn stated that he thought someone else other than an Administrator or an Assistant Administrator should have a chance at opportunities such as these. Councilman Campbell asked Councilman Dorn if he had any suggestions. Councilman Dorn did not.

Councilwoman Blackwell made the motion to appoint Lynn Strom. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. The motion carried out 4-1 with Councilman Dorn voting against.

2. Mr. LeDuc then gave a presentation of a Suggestion/Safety Awards Program. This program would reward employees for implemented suggestions that save Edgefield County money. There would also be a reward for safety suggestions that may help keep our workers compensation costs down by reducing claims. This will be considered on the December agenda for formal approval.
3. Laurie Smith, CPA (Elliott, Davis, LLP) was then introduced by Chairman Campbell to give a presentation of the annual external audit for Fiscal Year 10-11. She commented that there were no major findings or comments in the audit. She did state that we originally anticipated using \$548,761 from the reserves and we only used \$245,609 from the reserves. Mrs. Smith also commented that Edgefield County got a very good review and that we were in good financial health. Council had a few comments and questions about the audit process. Councilman Dorn made the motion to accept the audit. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Mr. LeDuc then gave a presentation of a Stand-by Policy. This program would provide EMS personnel for non-county events. This policy would help the County keep costs down by not

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supplying an ambulance to non-county related events. Mr. LeDuc suggested that this may even be better than supplying an ambulance because in some events an ambulance may have to leave to go to an emergency call; With this program the EMS personnel would be there at all times and would not have to leave in the event of an emergency off site. This will be considered on the December agenda for formal approval.

5. Presidential Preference Primary Resolution.

There was brief discussion between Councilman Dorn and County Attorney Michael Medlock stating that in years past the State has paid for this and now they are mandating that the counties pay for it. Mr. Medlock explained to Councilman Dorn that if nothing comes of this lawsuit, Edgefield County will be responsible for paying for the primaries in January 2012. Mr. Medlock also stated that if this passed we would be joining in name only to show support of the lawsuit and it would cost Edgefield County nothing. Councilman Ashcraft stated that "to say it's an unfunded mandate is a little misleading. It's unfunded at first, the counties will be reimbursed." He stated that the State would examine the expenditures to the County and would be reimbursed as long as funds were being spent appropriately.

Councilman Bright made the motion to support the lawsuit asking the SC Supreme Court to hold that there is no legal authority for the SC Election to Commission to mandate that the counties hold and fund a 2012 Presidential preference primary in January 2012. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The motion carried out 4-1 with Councilman Ashcraft voting against.

Recognition of guests

No guests.

Comments from public

Roy Blackwell of EdgefieldDaily.com asked a brief question about the Stand-By Policy and what would the education level requirements be for the EMS Personnel to be used in the Stand-By Policy. Mr. LeDuc responded and said that Jewel Plaxco would be at the next meeting and she would be able to answer that question then.

County Administrator report

Mr. Leduc spoke briefly about the status of the E-911 Center and stated that he hoped it would've been on the agenda tonight but at next month's meeting they should have more information. So far it looks like the cost for the E-911 Center would be a little over \$400,000 including new radios. We would be spending about \$285,000 and the rest of the money would come from State and other grant money. He stated that the road assessment is complete and Edgefield County maintains 230 miles of road with 177 miles of that being dirt. In December we will be presenting to the County Transportation Committee a plan of action for them to be looking at over the next few years as far as widening the one lane bridges and possibly paving the dirt roads. They are also going to try and determine some long term solutions for maintenance of the roads in Edgefield County. Mr. LeDuc reminded Council that another Strategic Planning Session will be held on November 10, 2011 at Merriwether Middle School from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. He also stated there would be another meeting on November 15, 2011 at JET Middle School from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Mr. LeDuc spoke briefly about the retirement benefits and said that some

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changes were going to be needed at the State level and that some changes will be affecting the County. Starting January 1, 2012 the employees will have to pay more for their health insurance and the County will have to pay 4.5% more. Mr. LeDuc informed Council that the Administration Office has purchased a scanner for about \$400 and we are starting to scan our documents to start archiving our records. If this works well, then we will get scanners for several other departments. This will also make it possible to add documents to the website in the future. Mr. LeDuc spoke about an Inclement Weather Policy that will be presented at the December meeting. Currently we do not have one documented, so we are going to hopefully pass this at the December meeting.

Comments by County Council Members

Councilman Bright gave the other Council members a document from Upper Savannah and he wanted to reiterate that Council look over this information.

Councilman Dorn stated that he wants a copy of the tape of the October 25, 2011 Re-Districting meeting. Mr. LeDuc told him that we had ordered a machine to copy the tapes onto CDs and that we would get him a copy as soon as possible.

Comments by County Council Chair

The chairman stated that two more Strategic Planning Meetings are coming up, one on November 10, 2011 at Merriwether Middle School and one on November 15, 2011 at JET Middle School both starting at 6:00PM. He encouraged everyone to come out and participate. He reminded everyone that there will be a Called Meeting on November 17, 2011 in the Council Chamber starting at 6:00 PM with the Edgefield County Legislative Delegation. He also stated that we still need to meet with the Edgefield County School Board and he would let us know when a date had been set.

Adjourn

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.

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ATTEST

Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council