

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

December 6, 2011

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

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

Before approval of the December 6, 2011 agenda, the chairman asked to move item number six of New Business to item number one of New Business and then hold the Public Comments Section for the Animal Shelter directly following the new item number one of New Business. Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the agenda with the change of order in the New Business section of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the November 1, 2011 County Council minutes (regular meeting) was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

The motion to approve the November 17, 2011 Called Meeting of Council was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

**Comments from the public**

No comments.

**Reports**

No comments.

**Old Business**

1. Approval of Suggestion/Safety Awards Program.

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Chairman Campbell briefly recapped the program and how it would work for anyone that missed the presentation of the program at the November 1, 2011 meeting. Councilman Dorn asked who would be able to participate and who would determine the actual savings of a suggestion. Mr. LeDuc explained that every employee would be eligible to participate with the exception of the Administrator. After the Administrator approved the suggestion, it would then go before County Council for an actual vote to be taken before an award would be given.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the Suggestion/Safety Awards Program. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Approval of Stand-by Policy.**

Mr. LeDuc gave a brief explanation of which first responders would be available when using the Stand-by Policy and that they would be selected based on a rotation schedule.

Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell, to approve the Stand-by Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Presentation of New Animal Control Shelter**

Chairman Campbell started with the Public Comments about the Animal Control Shelter. The first member of the public to speak was Mary Lou Seymour. She had several concerns about the proposed Animal Control Shelter. Mrs. Seymour stated that she represented several concerned citizens and they believed that what is being presented is not an animal control shelter so much as an “animal impound and kill facility.” She stated that she believed the animals would be held for the required five days and then euthanized. She stated that she does not believe that Edgefield County can build a quality facility for the proposed amount of money which is approximately \$200,000. She stated that a “true animal shelter” would cost upwards of one million dollars. She also stated that the proposed annual budget of \$30,000/yearly with \$5000 provided yearly for a spay/neuter program seemed too low to have a fully functional animal control shelter. She stated that with information that she gathered the proposed budget would only allow approximately \$20.00 per animal and the national average cost per animal is approximately \$60.00. She believes that the animals would lack proper care in a facility with such low costs. She had several concerns about animals being properly checked for medical issues after they came to the animal control shelter. She stated that there may be a better system than posting the lost animal posters at the sheriff’s office. She had concerns that the public wouldn’t know for sure that the animals are being cared for properly. She shared concerns of the SPCA being able to take the adoptable animals and stated that she did not believe that they had the capability. She stated concerns for the facility to be able to operate and follow the current laws, she stated that state law requires a registered vet to administer vaccines and she didn’t think Edgefield County would be able to afford a registered vet. She wanted to be sure that all of the drugs would be able to be accounted for and kept in a lockable cabinet or a similar vessel. She had concerns that if the State changed the requirements for running an animal control shelter and the cost increased; Edgefield County would not be able to come up with the money to do so. She believed that trying to run a low cost animal shelter could lead to liability issues for Edgefield County. She stated that she would like to see Edgefield County wait to build an animal control shelter and implement the spay/neuter program instead.

The second member of the public that spoke was Thomas Moody. He stated that he is delighted that County Council is moving forward with an animal shelter. He does believe that it may cost more than

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what is proposed but he does want to see the Council build an Animal Control Shelter for the animals in Edgefield County.

The third person to speak was Connie Boggs. She stated that she is delighted that County Council is trying to solve the problem of stray animals and hoped to see an advisory board develop to help with the planning process on the animal control shelter. She stated that she would volunteer in the shelter and give her time to help the animals.

The fourth person to speak was Fred Peterson. He stated that Mary Lou did express concerns that he hoped would be looked into further and that he personally believed that Edgefield County needed to try to save all of the animals, not just certain breeds of dogs. He also stated that he would like to see this shelter proceed with a no-kill policy.

The fifth speaker was Tom King. He stated that while he could not speak for all shelters, the SPCA does not put down any certain breed of dogs. They put down dogs that cannot be saved or adopted. He is glad that Edgefield County wants to try and move forward with an animal control shelter.

The last person to speak about the Animal Control Shelter was Linda Anderson. She expressed a need to look into animal control personnel.

Mr. LeDuc responded to all of the public comment by stating that Edgefield County wants what is best for the animals here in Edgefield County and that Edgefield County wants to provide the best services possible in picking up the stray animals. He stated that the number one concern is the welfare of the animals and that if Edgefield County wants to move forward with this, then we need to be sure that everyone involved has the welfare of the animals as their number one concern as well. He stated that we would be working with the SPCA and that in return for their help they would expect certain standards from Edgefield County. He also stated that he personally would not put his name on this project if it was not to be handled with the upmost care for the animals. The SPCA had several things that they wanted from Edgefield County and they are: 1) a spay/neuter program, 2) feral cat policy, 3) they want Edgefield County to start looking into any high volume breeding issues also known as puppy mills, 4) they also want Edgefield County to have a program that encourages the spay/neutering. He also stated that he believes Edgefield County can do a better job than 80% kill rate and 20% return/adoption rate, which is where we are right now using Aiken County. He stated that Edgefield County is open to any suggestions that anyone has and Edgefield County wants to do what is best for the animals of Edgefield County. He stated that Edgefield County would be partially relying on the SPCA and the volunteers, but he believes that we can do a better job for our animals.

Chairman Campbell added that County Council would not be voting on anything at this meeting and that the expressed concerns as well as other issues would be looked further into.

Mr. LeDuc then added that with the way the shelter is planned to be built it would be easy to add on at a later date if more room was needed and that he believed in the future several other counties would use our shelter, similar to how we use Aiken County's shelter.

Councilwoman Blackwell address the concern of Mary Lou Seymour's about the drugs being kept accounted for and in a locked container. She asked Mr. LeDuc how Edgefield County would insure that this would not become an issue. Mr. LeDuc explained that in the middle of the shelter there would be a room that would be locked and an additional lockable cabinet could be purchased to store the drugs. Mr. LeDuc said that the Animal Control Shelter would be presented again in January for a vote, giving Council and the public time to think more about the animal control shelter. Councilman Ashcraft stated that he appreciated the questions, comments, and concerns from everyone and that he would like to meet especially with Mrs. Seymour to be sure that her questions did not go unanswered.

2. Consideration of Appointments to Library Board.

**Nona Kelsey, 505 McQueen St., Johnston.....Reappointment**

**Rosanne Price, 64 Moprior Rd., North Augusta.....Reappointment**

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**Jean Covar, 215 Wells Rd., Edgefield.....New Appointment**

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the appointments to the Library Board. Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.

3. Consideration of Board Members for Upper Savannah COG Economic Development Board.  
**Please appoint TWO business representatives.**

**Patricia (Patty) Bouchillion.....Trantech**  
**Tonja Hutcherson.....Wells Fargo**  
**Rebecca Smith.....Urban Outfitters**

Due to Rebecca Smith stating that she would not be available for all meetings, Chairman Campbell suggested Patricia Bouchillion and Tonja Hutcherson be appointed.

**Please appoint ONE individual representing labor.**  
**Glenn Herlong.....SCE&G**

Due to Glenn Herlong being the only option in the second category, Chairman Campbell suggested Mr. Herlong be appointed.

Motion was made by Chairman Campbell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the appointments to the Upper Savannah COG Economic Development Board. Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.

4. Resolution approving Quit-claim deed for Timberland Lane.  
Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Campbell, to approve the resolution approving the Quit-claim deed for Timberland Lane. Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.
5. Approval of Radio Antenna Bid.  
Mr. LeDuc suggested the low bid of \$21,739 and stated that grant funding will be used to pay for the project.  
Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the Radio Antenna Bid. Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.
6. Approval of E-911 proposal.  
Mr. LeDuc suggested we give the contractual agreement to AT&T.  
Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the E-911 proposal. Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.
7. Consideration of 2012 holiday schedule.  
Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft, to approve the 2012 holiday schedule. Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.

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8. Funding of Intergovernmental Meeting

Councilman Dorn made a motion to get \$2000 out of the contingency to give the employees a Christmas Bonus instead of funding the Intergovernmental Meeting. Councilman Bright seconded this motion. Assistant Administrator/Financial Director, Lynn Strom, stated that Edgefield County employees get a \$75.00 Christmas Bonus. Councilman Dorn withdrew his motion and Councilman Bright withdrew his second to that motion.

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the funding of the Intergovernmental Meeting (\$1000). Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.

9. Resolution of appointment to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority Board

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

Motion was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the Resolution of appointment to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority Board. Motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent

**Recognition of guests**

No guests.

**Comments from public**

None.

**County Administrator report**

Mr. Leduc spoke briefly about the Inclement Weather Policy. He stated that this is just policy that everyone can follow and everyone will know how to respond to any inclement weather we may run into. He stated that he met with County Transportation Committee and said that they are doing a tremendous job using the money that Edgefield County to improve some of the roads in Edgefield County. The analysis on the Clerks salaries Edgefield County receives a little bit lower than some of the other counties that are nearby and several of the Clerks will be receiving a pay increase on January 1, 2012. Mr. LeDuc briefly recapped the lack of addressing in the County and stated that the Sheriff's Office will be enforcing this ordinance starting January 1, 2012. He stated that there have been a few instances when emergency responders had a hard time finding locations due to the lack of addressing and this caused their response time to be slower than what would be ideal. Mr. LeDuc stated that Edgefield County is working with the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority to try to provide water and sewer in the Merriwether Area. He stated that Edgefield County would be responsible for funding the Presidential Primary. There is some money that is available from the State but it would not cover the entire cost. He wanted to remind everyone that we would be holding a strategic plan meeting on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers and the topics to be discussed are Quality of Life and Education. He also stated that Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the

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Council Chambers there would be a second strategic plan meeting and the topics to be discussed are Infrastructure and Economic Development. He finished by stating that the Edgefield County Employees are having a food drive and the Lighthouse Fellowship Food Bank would be receiving our donation on Friday, December 16, 2011.

**Comments by County Council Members**

None.

**Comments by County Council Chair**

The chairman stated that he would like to remind Council that there is a called County Council Meeting with the Edgefield County School District on December 13, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the School District Office.

Chairman Campbell stated he believes the Strategic Plan is going very well and he encouraged the Council to attend as many of these meetings as they can. He told everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and then asked for a motion to adjourn.

**No executive session.**

**Adjourn**

Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. The motion carried unanimously with Councilwoman Blackwell absent.

Notice of this meeting was provided to Edgefielddaily.com, The Citizen News, and The Edgefield Advertiser.

**Edgefield County Council**

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Dean Campbell, Chair

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Genia Blackwell, Vice Chair

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Rodney Ashcraft, Council Member

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Willie C. Bright, Council Member

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Norman Dorn, Council Member

**ATTEST**

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Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council