

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**December 7, 2010**

Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, December 7, 2010 in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, SC.

**Members present**

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

**Others present:**

Alton Brown, County Administrator  
Lynn Strom, Finance/Budget Manager  
Michael S. Medlock, County Attorney  
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council  
and others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by County Attorney Michael Medlock. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**December 7, 2010 Agenda**

Council approved the December 7, 2010 agenda, with one correction. The November 9, 2010 meeting of council was a Called Meeting, not a regular meeting.

**Minutes**

The November 2, 2010 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council were approved by a motion made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

The November 9, 2010 minutes were approved by a motion made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

No comments.

**Old Business**

The third reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-630, "An Ordinance Adding to and Amending Section 152.045 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Create an Exception from Regulation as to Amateur Radio, Citizens Band Radio, or Television Reception Towers, Masts and/or Antennas" was approved by a motion made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

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The third reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-631, “An Ordinance Authorizing (1) the Entering into Execution and Delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement (The “Fee Agreement”) Between Edgefield County, South Carolina (“The County”) and Pac Tell Group, Inc., Acting for Itself or an Affiliate or Other Project Sponsor, (Collectively, the “Company”), Whereby, In Connection with the Expansion of Certain Manufacturing Facilities in the County (The “Project”) the County will Covenant in Such Fee Agreement to Accept Certain Negotiated Fees in Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxes with Respect to the Project; and (2) Other Matters Relating Thereto”, was approved by a motion made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Second reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-633, “An Ordinance To Establish An Identity Theft Prevention Program To Comply With Federal Regulations Relating To Address Discrepancies, Red flags and Identity Theft As Well As South Carolina Act 190, (The Financial Identity Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Act of 2008); and To Provide For Codification, Severability, An Adoption Date, An Effective Date and Other Purposes Allowed By Law” was approved by a motion made by Councilwoman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn.

Councilman Ashcraft asked for discussion, just a “housekeeping question.” “I guess toward the end of Section 12 No. 2, “updates in methods of identify theft”, I just wondered what the frequency of updates, how often are we going to get, I guess the procedures that people use to commit identity theft and is that going just on an as-need on-going basis? O. K. And the same for subsequent No. 3 our methods to prevent – I suppose either we get updated or we just by figuring out how to make it better then the administration will let us know what they have done to make it better.” The administrator stated that it will be as needed or as required due to internal experience or mandated by the state. Councilman Ashcraft thanked him. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

First reading of Ordinance No. 10-11-634, “An Ordinance Amending Section 33.75 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances Regarding the Edgefield County Hospital Board of Trustees by Changing the Number of Hospital Board Members from Eleven to Nine, the Date on Which the County Council Appoints Members to the Hospital Board and Other Changes.”

Before a motion was entertained Dr. B. E. Nicholson representing the Hospital Board addressed council. Dr. Nicholson stated that the hospital board originally seated seven individuals to serve. It expanded to try to get a diversity in the hospital board and we think we reached that but also gotten to a point where eleven members are just too many.

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We would like to cut back There have been a couple of resignations on the board, and we feel going back to nine members would help us operate.

Dr. Nicholson spoke briefly concerning the hospital. “We have had tough times. I have been here since 1964 and our goal is the healthcare of Edgefield County. We got the hospital built, recruited new doctors and we have done well to this point, but I want you all (council) to know as our bosses, we are facing hard times. Our reimbursements are fewer and our ability to recruit new doctors is not good. The new doctors don’t want to work like the old doctors have. We are trying to address this with some things that would improve this situation. I would like to invite you all, after council goes into office to talk more about that. We did have a meeting with Mr. Kneece and Mr. Brown to tell them some of our problems. Right now we have a little money in the bank, how long this will last I do not know. We would like to share at a later date with you our thoughts and concerns but it is for certain that I would love for the rest of my life to have good medical care here in the county and ensure that it will continue. We have some good challenges. Dr. Nicholson thanked council for their time.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 10-11-634 was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

**FY 09-10 annual external audit.**

Laurie Smith, CPA (Elliott, Davis, LLP) gave a report on the FY 09-10 audit for Edgefield County. Ms. Smith stated that Edgefield County was in good shape for the FY 09-10. The county has a very low debt for its size and currently has four months operating reserve. In relation to the budget, revenues barely exceeded our budget but what drove our increase in fund balance was that our actual expenditures were under budget by about 5%. Ms. Smith stated that the County did a very good job controlling expenses so that we did not beat into the fund balance.

Ms. Smith informed council of a new trend that will be in place within the next six years that will enable governments to prepare their own financial statements. This will begin with larger governments working down to smaller ones.

**Closing of Convenience Centers**

A request for council’s consideration to allow the convenience centers to close at 12:00 noon on Friday (Christmas Eve) and re-open for regular hours (3:00-7:00) on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. The motion to honor this request was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright. The motion carried unanimously.

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**Bids / Northside Park Pavilion**

	<u>Building</u>	<u>Concrete</u>
Hoover Buildings	\$ 6,450	\$4,080
Kenneth Bledsoe Custom	10,900	4,800
Rowland Const. Co., LLC	13,500	2,500
SITEC, LLC	13,500	4,200
Churchich Recreation & Design	29,942	5,280
Brian Hall Builders	17,523	3,532
Hewston Const	8,170	2,900
Fincher Const., LLC	8,500	3,925
Ken Arthur & Asso., Inc.	12,303	3,600

Mr. Kneece introduced the consideration of bids on the North Side Pavilion. Mr. Kneece stated that the high bid was about \$29,000 and the low bid was about \$6,450. Mr. Kneece asked council if he should read all of the bids or should we just take the low bid. Mr. Bright and Mr. Dorn said to take the low bid. At that point Mr. Reed stated some facts regarding the different bids. Mr. Kneece asked for a motion at which time Mr. Dorn made the appropriate motion. Mr. Bright seconded the motion at which time Mr. Kneece asked for those who were all in favor and Mr. Ashcraft called for discussion. Mr. Ashcraft asked Mr. Reed a question regarding the structure. Once Mr. Ashcraft was satisfied Mr. Kneece called for a vote at which time Mr. Kneece, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Dorn voted to approve the motion and Mr. Ashcraft opposed. At that point Mr. Kneece said, "May I ask you a question?" to Mr. Ashcraft. Mr. Ashcraft said "Yes Sir." Mr. Kneece said, "You approved the thing and then you turn around and you got the question part and then you approved the question and now you voted against it." Mr. Ashcraft said, "Right, well" at which time Mr. Kneece stated that he just wanted Mr. Ashcraft to explain his actions. Mr. Ashcraft stated that he did not recall making the motion or seconding the motion. He continued on to explain that the park area in North Side is sparsely populated and that Merriwether, which is very populated, is grossly ignored by Edgefield County. He went on to explain (regarding recreation investments) that the county could invest in recreation on church property in Merriwether, which he would be against and that there is property on school grounds that might be able to be used for recreation. He also explained that North Augusta sees Merriwether as an important part of the community and has and will invest millions of dollars into that community and our county has failed to invest even thousands. Mr. Kneece stated that the money that has been approved was Mr. Dorn's money for his district. Mr. Ashcraft stated that he understood that the vote would pass but that he wanted to offer his no vote in protest. Mr. Kneece stated that he was sorry that he even mentioned it. Mr. Dorn spoke up and voiced his opinion on the North Side Park.

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Motion to accept the low bid of \$6,450 submitted by Hoover Buildings, was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried with Councilman Ashcraft opposing. This does not include concrete.

**Additional parking / Kneece Building**

Mike Reed addressed council concerning additional parking (15-20 spaces) for the newly renovated Calliham Building (Kneece Building). Mr. Reed asked that these spaces be next to the impound lot on the old railroad bed for additional parking for the employees of the Kneece building. This would be used when renovations are done to the rest of the building. There is money for this project, and Mr. Reed has met with CTC concerning the paving. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn to approve the additional parking.

**No guests.**

**Comments from the public.**

Art Biggs wished Mr. Kneece well and thanked him for his many years of service to the county.

Betty Butler (former councilwoman) apologized for not being able to attend the drop-in and also congratulated Mr. Kneece on his years of service and she stated she enjoyed the years she and he had served the county together.

Councilman Ashcraft also apologized for not attending the drop-in held that was held for him (Mr. Kneece) prior the council meeting. Mr. Ashcraft stated that he did appreciate what Mr. Kneece had done and that they had not always voted together but agreed to disagree sometimes and even agreed sometimes. Thank you, Mr. Kneece.

Councilman Dorn congratulated Mr. Kneece on the fact that the time he (Dorn) had served with him (Kneece) he did not muddy the water, vote from left to right and opinionated. You were under a very open and strict type of council you were always in control of the council and their behavior as its going on but what I see coming on in 2011 I don't know if I will be making all of the meetings or not.

**Remarks / County Administrator**

Nobody in this room will miss you more that I will. I have no comments.

Mr. Kneece had a few comments. 'I have enjoyed the twenty years I have put in. I might not have done everything to suit everybody but I think I did everything

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what I thought was right. I know there were a lot of things that might not have been to everybody's taste.

As Mr. Kneece was asking for a motion to adjourn, Councilman Bright asked for the floor. At this time Councilman Bright, on behalf of council and the citizens of Edgefield County, presented Mr. Kneece with a shadow box that contained a US Flag and a State Flag (both flown over the courthouse) and a plaque and a small gavel.

There being no further business, the consensus of council was to adjourn. The next regular meeting of council scheduled for January 4, 2011.

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C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

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Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

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Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman

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Regenia Blackwell, Councilwoman

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Norman Dorn, Councilman

**ATTEST**

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Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council