

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
June 3, 2008**

On Tuesday, June 3, 2008, the Edgefield County Council held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P. M. in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

Members present

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Manager
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 Councilman Hudson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2008, Edgefield County Council meeting was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, and the May 20, 2008, Called Meeting, was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motions carried unanimously.

Reports

No comments.

Ordinances

Third reading of Ordinance No. 07-08-596 "An Ordinance Providing for the FY 08-09 General Operating Budget, and Establishing Ancillary Budgets for Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Solid Waste Disposal, Victims' Bill of Rights, Emergency Medical Services, Countywide Recreation, and Certain Capital Expenditures."

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 07-08-596. The motion carried unanimously.

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New Business

Recreation request / Town of Johnston

A letter requesting financial assistance for Watson Park in the amount of \$881.00 from the Town of Johnston was taken before the Recreation Commission on May 19th. The \$881.00 was to purchase an air conditioner (\$425); bulbs for score board (\$156); parts & labor to repair scoreboard (\$300).

The Commission recommended \$456.00 (bulbs and labor for scoreboard) to be presented to the County Council for their consideration. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the \$456.00 as recommended by the Recreation Commission. This will be taken from the District III Recreation Account, per Chairman Kneece. Motion carried unanimously.

Agreement / Federal Prison Inmate Labor

The administrator explained that the inmates have worked for the county for approximately three to four years and there has not been an agreement providing for what the county's obligations are and what the federal prison's obligations are. This agreement is identical to the agreement between the Town of Edgefield and the Prison that has been in effect since inmates have been working for the Town. There has never been a formalized agreement with the county.

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the Agreement between Edgefield County and the Federal Prison for inmate labor. Motion carried unanimously.

Shade Tree Home for Girls

There is a project (Shade Tree Home for Girls) being considered to be located on Augusta Road near the soccer complex. The Conservation District was approached for planning assistance in making sure the property would be developed in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Upon inspection the Conservation District found that the two ponds on this property are in dire need of being mowed and they are asking the county for assistance in clearing vegetation from around the two pond sites.

Motion was made by Chairman Kneece, seconded by Councilman Bright, to receive this request as information until more information is obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

Sale of surplus items

The administrator asked council for permission to place on the *Government Deals* website the following items for sale:

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**ITEMS TO BE DECLARED SURPLUS
AND SOLD BY EDGEFIELD COUNTY**

**1. 2001 FORD CROWN VICTORIA (Sheriff's Dept.)
(135,592 miles)**

**2. 1998 FORD CROWN VICTORIA (Sheriff's Dept.)
(130,243 miles)**

**3. 1996 FORD CROWN VICTORIA (Assessor's Office)
(153,146 miles)**

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve declaring the three **FORD CROWN VICTORIA** automobiles as surplus to be placed on the Government Deals website to be sold. Motion carried unanimously. This will be advertised in local papers so the public will know what website to go to in order to have the opportunity to bid.

Bids / Courthouse Painting

Consideration of the following bids for the painting of the courthouse.

		<u>Exterior</u>	<u>Interior</u>
(1)	McCary & Sons Painters	\$22,750	\$10,750
(2)	Associated Contractors	\$15,900	none
(3)	Leon Jamison Painting	\$66,500	\$13,810
(4)	Associated Contractors	none	\$13,900
	White Roofing, Inc.		
(5)	Eddins Electric Co., Inc.	\$28,269	\$4,800
(6)	Davis Painting	\$68,400	\$14,500
(7)	Mustard Seed Painting	\$30,988	\$11,500
(8)	E&D Contracting Services, Inc.	\$67,500	\$14,500
(9)	Kephart Services	\$34,500	\$9,800
	/b/a RCI Services, Inc.		
(10)	Ford Painting	none	none
(11)	Carver Painting Co.	none	none

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to award the bid (exterior and interior) to paint the courthouse to McCary & Sons Painters. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Rick Green with Upper Savannah COG, was recognized by the Chairman to explain the Home Program that Upper Savannah is asking the counties within their region to participate in. This was brought before council previously but died for a lack of a second to the motion.

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“This program is called “Home Consortium” that Ruth LaForge is working on and the reason this is being done is that the state administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG Program) and over the past couple of years they have changed some of the rules. That takes the rural counties and the rural parts of counties out of the ability to apply for housing and rehab grants. The towns can still apply and are still eligible for the grants but the rural areas are not under the current rules. So there are different options being looked at on how to get some housing and rehab monies back into the area as we had in previous times.

Other Council of Governments working with this Home Consortium are: The Waccamaw, The Low Country Council and also the Santee Lynches. So, we started looking into the program.

This program takes participation from as many local governments as possible, so we are asking all the counties and all of the towns to participate in this. If all of the local governments participate and the process gets through and completed, it would bring in a million dollars in money that could be used for housing and rehab for our six-county region. Then, each county or town that participates would be allowed to apply to that fund to get housing & rehab money. Instead of competing around the state for a large pot of money, you have a million dollars for just the six-counties you would be applying to - a smaller area that you would be dealing with and it is a guaranteed pot of money. In the past when you applied at the state level there was no guarantee any money would come to this region at all. If this goes through at least there would be that million dollars to which you could apply.

There are some options being looked at about participation as far as matching and at the beginning it was being considered doing a match program where local government would match 25% in the beginning. That would guarantee that you would have your minimum amount that you could bring into the county. That did not go over well with the counties, so this option is that if you agree to participate that would be over the next three years, you could apply to that pot of money and only when you apply you would have to have the 25% match. If you decide to participate there is no cost at all; only when you have a project do you do the 25% match. This is a way to bring more of the housing rehab funds back to the areas that have sort of disappeared over the past few years.

Three of the six counties have passed resolutions to participate. A committee will be formed to review the applications.”

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to participate in this program. Motion carried unanimously.

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Administrator’s Report

The Merriwether Fire Department has been considering employing some full time, paid firemen for quite sometime. So, yesterday they began. There are three full-time, paid firemen that will be working at that fire department (8-4:30, Monday thru Friday). They will cover fires when most of the volunteers are at work and not able to respond. The firemen are located at the Murrah Road Station. These firemen are also EMT trained and will be available for first responder calls and will also serve as back up for the EMS.

In the recreation program there is a county-wide baseball tournament on-going this week in Johnston – all Edgefield County teams are playing. In two weeks, the park here in Edgefield will be hosting two different all-star tournaments. Teams from the county and Greenwood and Abbeville Counties will participate.

At the completion of the administrator’s report, Chairman Kneece asked how the county was coming along with the smoke-free request from the Recreation Commission for the parks. He stated he had not heard anything about this request.

Mr. Pettigrew stated that at the last recreation meeting the Commission voted to ask the county and the towns to look into a policy of not allowing smoking in the stands. He asked Nick Wates to get some information from other counties – believe Aiken County has adopted a similar policy.

Mr. Kneece stated that he would like to be informed of such things in the future.

No guests.

No comments from the public.

Claims approved:

PAYROLL	4/21/08 thru 5/4/08	
Regular.....		\$222,419.71
PAYROLL	5/5/08 thru 5/18/08	
Regular.....		\$219,716.36
PAYROLL	5/19/08 thru 6/1/08	
Regular.....		\$218,943.69
General Operating.....		\$766,604.25

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No Executive Session

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, July 1, 2008, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council